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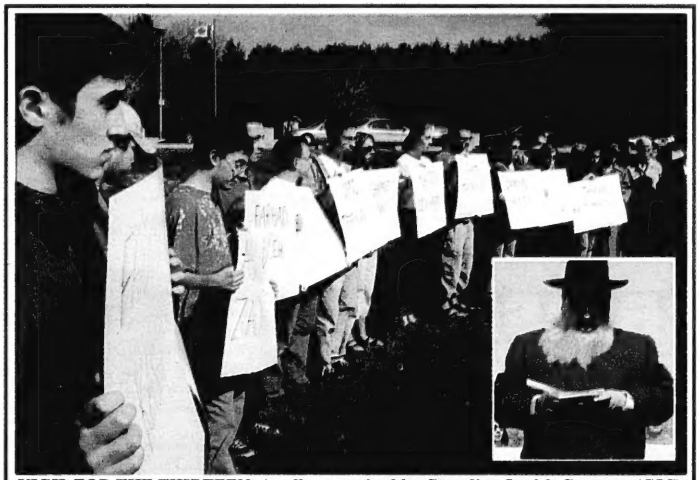

VIGIL FOR THE THIRTEEN: A rally, organized by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) Ontario Region and UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto, was held Sunday at Earl Bales Park in Toronto on behalf of the 13 Iranian Jews whose trial on charges of espionage recommenced behind closed doors. Rabbi Amram Assayag, Chief Rabbi, Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario addressed nearly 300 people. Thirteen members of Young Judea each held a sign on which was written the name of an accused. *See story on page 32.* ***[Ron Csillag photos]***

Recalling her trial

By DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

In 1995, when I opened a letter informing me that David Irving was suing me for libel for calling him a Holocaust denier, I had precisely the same reaction that I had 20 years earlier when I first heard that there were people who denied the Holocaust. I laughed.

Why, I wondered, take this seriously? Holocaust deniers reminded me of flat-earth theorists. The idea was preposterous.

Irving's charges seemed equally preposterous. He had repeatedly denied the Holocaust. At the trial of Ernst Zundel, in Toronto, he said there was no "Reich policy to kill the Jews" and "no documents whatsoever show that a Holocaust had ever happened."

In Germany, Irving declared the Holocaust a "blood lie [which] has been pronounced on the German people." In 1991, he dropped mention of the Holocaust from his new edition of Hitler's biography because "if something didn't happen then you don't even dignify it with a footnote."

That same year he declared it his goal to "sink the Battleship Auschwitz."

Given this record how could he claim that I libelled him by calling him a denier? This was, I presumed, a nuisance lawsuit, full of sound and fury but signifying nothing.

A couple of lawyers' letters, I naively assumed, and all would be resolved. But Irving was doing this in England where the laws favour the plaintiff. I had to prove the truth of what I said. He did not have to prove the falsehood.

Irving talks not only about what has been done to Jews, but what will be done to them.

Continued on page 32

Stanley Cup coach going to Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Dallas Stars may be in the middle of the NHL playoffs right now, but it's a trip to Israel this summer that's got head coach Ken Hitchcock really excited. Well, a chance at a second Stanley Cup may still be his number one concern, but a summertime trip to Israel would be a perfect way to end a hectic season and playoff run.

In August, Hitchcock will team up with the coaching staff of the Roger Neilson Hockey Camp for a week of hockey instruction at the Canada Centre skating rink in Metulla. Joining him on the ice will be his two step-sons, Noah and Alex, while his wife, Nancy Bruce, who is Jewish, and their daughter Emily will also make the trip.

Ken Hitchcock

This will be the first-ever visit to the Holy Land for the Hitchcocks. The boys, in particular, are excited about the trip, with the two of them "hammering away on the Internet" doing research about the country, Hitchcock said.

Even in the NHL coaching and playing ranks, Israel and the Metulla hockey school are becoming more widely known. Hitchcock learned of the camp from Neilson two years ago.

"I talked to Roger about it and he said what a great experience it was," Hitchcock said. "It was always in the back of my mind."

About two months ago he contacted Marshall Starkman, one of the co-founders of the camp, and volunteered his services.

Continued on page 50

Greater Toronto Area

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Barak may seek 'framework' referendum — please see page 31

Feature

Film to document life of baseball giant

By MARK SMITH
Special to The CJN

NEW YORK — He was a Jew of epic proportions – 6-foot-4, powerful, handsome, courageous.

There was something biblical about his performance, like Samson battling the Philistines. Now, trade the jawbone of an ass for a baseball bat and you get Hank Greenberg, perhaps the most unsung hero of America's national pastime and a symbol of hope for a generation of Jews still fresh off the boats.

Hank Greenberg stood at 6-foot-4

The new, acclaimed documentary, *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* – written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Aviva Kempner – was screened at the Montreal Jewish film festival. And, for the first time in more than 50 years, Greenberg's remarkable achievements will be pitched back into the limelight.

The newspapers dubbed him "Hammerin' Hank," but to millions of Jews, the sad-eyed first baseman for the Detroit Tigers was "Hankus Pankus," the "Moses of baseball," the "Messiah."

Greenberg was born into an Orthodox family on New Year's Day, 1911. He was the product of a classic immigrant childhood – Yiddish-speaking parents and crowded Bronx tenements. Like every other Jewish kid, he was supposed to be a lawyer or a doctor. He signed a baseball deal because a scout promised Greenberg's Romanian father his boy would go to Princeton.

His career on the field was sensational. Greenberg spent 13 seasons with the Detroit Tigers, catapulting them to two World Series victories. He was twice named Most Valuable Player and was later named to the Hall of Fame. When he struck out, he looked goofy. But his home runs were majestic.

In 1937, he drove in 183 runs, one shy of Lou Gehrig's record. A year later, his 58 home runs were second to the 60 hit by Babe Ruth in 1927 – a record not broken until 1961. He was without question the greatest Jewish hitter of all time.

But *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* is more than a baseball movie. As Kempner's profoundly moving film shows, Greenberg used baseball to battle bigotry, and it was his achievements in the face of ignorance, anti-Semitic slurs and outright hatred that won him the love of almost every Jew in North America.

It may have been a first in 1996 when Toronto Blue Jays slugger Shawn Green turned around at home plate to wish two other Jews – Brewers catcher Jesse Levis and umpire Al Clark – a Happy Rosh Hashanah. But in the 1930s, a Jewish ball player was exotic, freakish, an anomaly.

Greenberg was a rookie Tiger in 1933 when Jo-Jo White, a teammate, kept staring at him. "Where's your horns?" White asked in apparent innocence.

Greenberg wrought his magic in the hometown of two of America's most notorious anti-Semites. The hate-literature of auto magnate Henry Ford and the radio rantings of Father Charles Coughlan made Detroit a hotbed of anti-Semitism in the '30s.

Everywhere he went, the stands and dugouts were filled with ethnic baiting. Until Jackie Robinson came along, no player endured so much abuse with so much dignity.

"It was a constant thing," Greenberg says in the film. "There was always some leather lung yelling at me. It was a spur to make me do better. I could never fall asleep on the field, because as soon as you struck out, you weren't only a bum, you were a Jewish bum."

During one game, he even had pork chops thrown at him. At the 1935 and 1945 World Series – both between the Tigers and the Cubs – slurs from the Chicago bench grew so voluminous, umpires had to intervene and order the Cubs to desist.

Fellow Hall of Famer Ted Williams, who attended the cinematic debut of Kempner's documentary at Manhattan's Film Forum in January, recalled another afternoon in New York when the Yankees players were going after Greenberg with particularly nasty enthusiasm. After the game, Greenberg followed the Yankees to their clubhouse. According to Williams, he stood before the rival team and said: "I heard what was said out there today. Whoever said it, if you got a gut in your body you'll stand up." Williams added: "You know who stood up? Nobody."

This was classic Greenberg. Every time he confronted anti-Semitism, he counteracted the popular notion that Jews were sinister, alien, conspiratorial and weak.

He was one of the few white ball players to welcome Jackie Robinson, whose rookie year, 1947, was Greenberg's last. More than any other player, Greenberg knew what it was like to be a target. After one collision at first base between the veteran Tiger and the first black major leaguer, Hammerin' Hank whispered into Robinson's ear. Asked later what Greenberg had told him, Robinson said: "He gave me a few words of encouragement." Rarely have few words meant so much.

Some versions of baseball folklore have it that other teams didn't want to see a Jew break Babe Ruth's great home run record, so they walked him or threw pitches that could never be home runs.

Greenberg refused to feel sorry for himself. "I wasn't bitter at all," he says in the film. "Fifty-eight, that's not a bad year."

Continued on page 20

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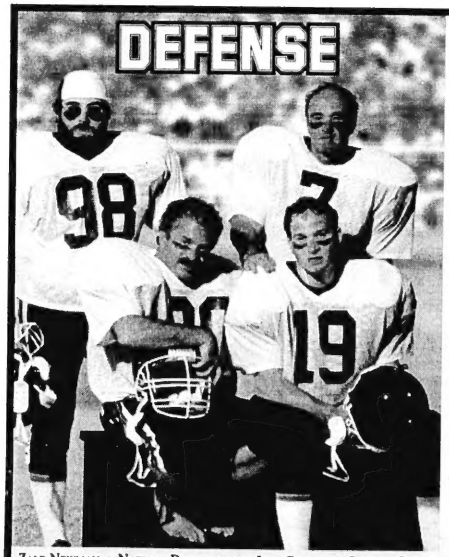

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Poverty, affordable housing on conference agenda

TORONTO — A day-long conference on May 8 will examine affordable housing and poverty in Toronto's Jewish community.

The conference is being organized by the Kehilla Residential Programme, UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto and other agencies.

Studies have shown that an inability to access affordable housing is a key predictor of homelessness, according to the Kehilla Residential Programme, which says it has witnessed an increasing problem in the Jewish community, and a sense of despair at five to 10-year-long waiting lists.

Recent studies show that 45 percent of renters are paying more than 30 percent of income on rent, while nearly a quarter of all tenants pay more than half of their incomes on rent, the program says.

It notes that close to 40 percent of Jewish households are unable to afford average rents in Toronto to within 30 percent of their incomes.

The problem is greatest for the most vulnerable members of the Jewish community: children who live in poverty (over 3,600 under age 18, not including York Region); victims of domestic violence who receive support from Jewish Family & Child Service and who are forced to stay at risk because they have no other place to go (about 430 cases); as well as the elderly on fixed incomes, and the disabled.

The Kehilla Residential Programme views the lack of affordable housing as a threat to Jewish continuity: "After paying for housing, there is little remaining to maintain a Jewish lifestyle. The problem of maintaining a Jewish lifestyle is even greater for middle-class families who are not likely to be eligible for the program subsidies and financial supplements available to lower income families."

Continued on page 5

THE INGATHERING OF THE EXILES: The flag that flutters in the breeze (inset) should remind us this Yom Ha'atzmaut of one of Israel's main purposes: the rescue and ingathering of Jewish exiles. One such rescue happened nine years ago as Jews from Ethiopia came home to Israel.

[Photos courtesy of Keren Hayesod]

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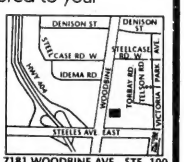

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Greater Toronto Area

A grand, bold moment

From the editor's desk

Virtually hidden away, indistinct from most of the modest dwellings surrounding it on Rothschild Boulevard in the heart of Tel Aviv, is the home of the city's first mayor, Meir Dizengoff. He and his wife Zina lived there for a number of years, entertaining dignitaries, friends, musicians and artists, fostering, through their generosity and encouragement, the development of a burgeoning, indigenous art in the young pioneering community. After his wife's death, in her name, Dizingoff donated the home to the city to become the official Tel Aviv museum.

On the afternoon of Friday May 14, 1948 (the fifth day of Iyar, 5708) shortly before 4 p.m, in a race against both the sun's casual descent into the western sky and the frenzied, hateful mobilizations into war of the surrounding countries, David Ben-Gurion stood in the main hall of Meir and Zina Dizengoff's former home and proclaimed the birth of the state of Israel. The photo inset into this column captures that grand, daring and audacious moment forever, a moment that shocked most of the world.

The West was generally unprepared and, one might add, even disbelieving of the bold re-entry by the Jews into the flow of modern history.

The Arabs of the neighbouring states were contemptuous of the Jews, as were their co-religionists who shared the mandatory borders with the Jews of the Yishuv. They were delighted at the opportunity to staunch that flow at the beginning of its hopeful new course. (It is now a forgotten footnote of history that in the days before 1948, the Arabs within the British mandatory rule were not known as Palestinians. Palestinian was the term reserved for the Jews.)

Even among the Jews of the world, there were skeptics and worse.

No one today born after May 1948 and especially after November 1938, can imagine how that moment seemed to turn the world upside down, setting it at last aright, bringing it out of darkness into light, out of endless night into awakening dawn.

For a few brief moments on that Friday afternoon the tears of Jews were shed in celebration, not in sorrow.

But only hours later, enemy planes buzzed overhead, and the guns blazed yet again in the hills and valleys of Eretz Yisrael.

Jewish freedom and sovereignty would be won, not by the assurances of world opinion, the pleasure of the super-powers or the sufferance of moderate Arabs, of whom, at the time, there were none, but by the right of Jews to return to their ancestral homeland, by force of arms and ultimately by the sacrifice of more than 6,000 lives of those who fought to ensure the newly proclaimed Jewish state would not be stillborn.

Fifty-two years later, the figure 6,000 has increased threefold to nearly 18,000.

Though no longer fighting for its survival in the same way, the state is still vying for security of place and position in the region. It has signed treaties of peace with two of its neighbours, is in the midst of difficult and frustrating negotiations with the Palestinian Arabs and hopeful of negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

There are indeed strategic and tactical security dangers lurking for the Jewish state within the region, but the situation is far less precarious today than it was 52 years ago. Israel today is a remarkably dynamic, exciting, endearing, irritating, achieving, industrious, flourishing democracy, still the only democracy in the region.

Perhaps that is why so many of us seem to have either forgotten or simply stored farther back in the "filing cabinet" of our emotions the feeling of grandeur and daring of that bold moment that shocked most of the world on May 14, 1948.

But we should remind ourselves.

And we should certainly attempt to convey that feeling to our children.

The 48-hour period that commences this year after sundown on May 8 and ends at sundown on May 10 – Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut – are the perfect occasions for doing so.

In that moment 52 years ago, history changed. As time unfolds, so too will the certainty of this truth.

"It was a day brought about by God; let us rejoice in it and celebrate it."

–MBD

SEE JN

AN ARCHIVAL REMINDER FOR YOM HA'ATZMAUT: Members of Tunisia's Keren Kayemet *gdud* (battalion) are pictured here with a gigantic JNF blue box. They worked to promote Zionism and raise funds for Eretz Israel between 1937-1942.

[WZPS photo courtesy of the JNF]

Conference to examine affordable housing, poverty in community

Continued from page 3

Studies have consistently shown that one in six Jews in Toronto lives at or below the poverty line.

The Kehilla program, founded in 1982, has over 3,000 families and individuals on its waiting lists for housing and only 260 units to offer in the Jewish community.

It says a community-wide plan is needed to respond to the issues. Several speakers will address the gathering. The keynote address will come from Anne Golden, chair of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force.

The Kehilla Residential Programme developed four non-profit housing projects in Toronto between 1982 and 1995, and currently manages 360 units in four buildings. Its latest initiative, 2 Neptune Dr., is a 120-unit building for seniors, developed with the Baycrest Centre. It is expected to open in early 2001. For information on the conference, to take place at the North York Memorial Community Hall (5110 Yonge St.), dial 416-932-1212.

Yiddishland Café project brings music literature to community

TORONTO — The Workmen's Circle Yiddishland Café recently mounted an evening of song and music, recalling many aspects of Yiddish life, past and present.

The Yiddishland Café project was born several years ago as part of the cultural activities of the Workmen's Circle. Its mandate is to bring samples of Yiddish music and literature to the community, featuring local artists.

The recent evening's program consisted of well-known Yiddish songs, new and old. The performers included Miriam Eskin, Lenka Lichtenberg and Michael Mandel, and musicians Nina Shapilsky, Sasha Luminsky and Martin van de Ven.

The committee for Yiddish of UJA FEDERATION, which provided seed money for the project in its first year, has invited community organizations, synagogues, clubs and other institutions in Toronto to plan at least one program this year in honour of Yiddish, in Yiddish or English.

CORRECTION

In our Passover literary supplement (April 19), the name of the author of the poem *Here is the Bread of Misery* was spelled incorrectly. The author's name is Stephen Schecter. We regret the error.

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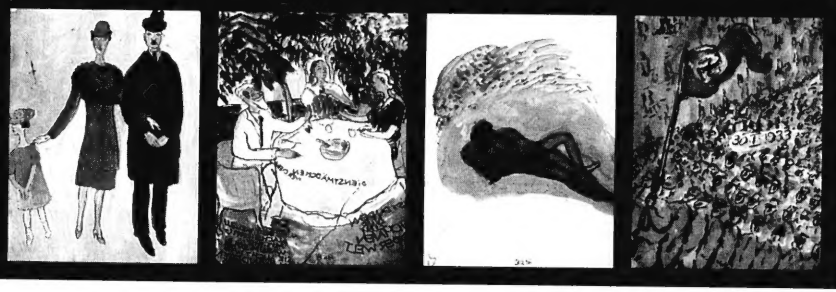
"TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT. IT'S MY WHOLE LIFE."
As Nazi aggression escalated, the Berlin-born Jewish artist Charlotte Salomon sensed the end was near. She wrapped over 800 of her paintings in brown paper and handed them to a friend with these words.
– Charlotte died in Auschwitz at the age of 26.



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All the works in this exhibition are on loan from the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam, © Charlotte Salomon Foundation.
This exhibition was organized by the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

Applebaum was a leader in artistic community

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Louis Applebaum, prolific composer, arts maven and all-round cultural guru, died in Toronto April 20 following a long bout with cancer. He was 82.

Obituary

Applebaum was a kind of patriarch in the arts community, having played a leading role in the creation of a national arts infrastructure.

He wrote some 250 scores for the National Film Board, music for dozens of plays at the Stratford Festival, several fanfares, and earned an Academy Award nomination for his score for the 1945 Hollywood movie *The Story of G.I. Joe*.

His last major work was *Erewhon*, his only opera, co-written with Mavor Moore. It premiered in Victoria in February and was scheduled to air on CBC Radio 2 on April 29.

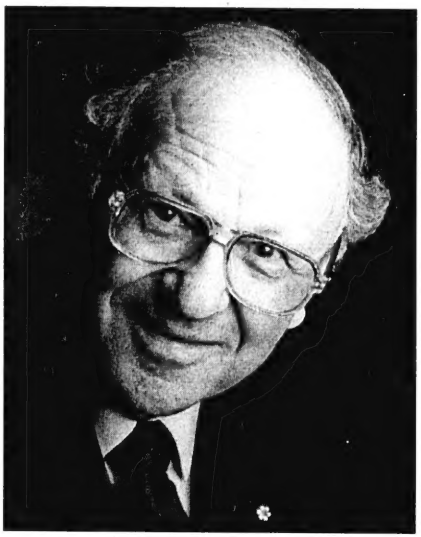
He was also a major force in the administration of the arts, having headed the Ontario Arts Council from 1971 to 1980. In 1979, he was appointed by then Prime Minister Joe Clark to co-chair a federal review of Canadian cultural policy. The Applebaum-Hébert Commission spent more than two years studying the arts and its funding. Some of its recommendations were implemented by the government of Brian Mulroney.

His earlier inquiries into arts funding resulted in the creation of the National Arts Centre Orchestra. He later chaired, for three years, the centre's music, opera and ballet committee.

Along the way, he wrote symphonies, hundreds of scores for television and film, and music for ballet.

Born in Toronto to Polish immigrants – his father, a tailor, founded the Bell Cloak Company, a coat maker – Applebaum began studying music at age 10 and composition five years later. He studied music at the University of Toronto and in New York. Beginning around this time – the early 1940s – until 1960, he penned scores for the National Film Board, where he served as musical director for a period.

Applebaum was a longtime member of Toronto's Temple Sinai. He wrote two choral pieces for the temple, *The Last Words of David* and *Life is a Journey*. The latter was performed by the Elmer Iseler Singers at the St. Lawrence Centre on the occasion of Applebaum's 80th birthday.



Louis Applebaum

A modest man, Applebaum serviced notice that he did not want a eulogy at his funeral. He said that *Life is a Journey* was an adequate summation of his life.

His request was honored at his funeral. His friend, Ben Steinberg, the temple's composer-in-residence and retired director of music, sang the 121st Psalm and the K'El Maleh Rachamim.

"He had an intense love of music and Judaism," Steinberg recalled for *The CJN*. "Music was his life, and he loved being part of his people."

When Steinberg founded the Jewish Music Society of Toronto more than a dozen years ago, Applebaum immediately agreed to serve on its committee, Steinberg said.

Applebaum was also involved in jurying the temple's annual Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award, given to a promising young Jewish artist.

"He was a Companion of the Order of Canada, but I and so many others in the shul mostly just knew him as 'Lou,' " remarked Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Temple Sinai's spiritual leader. "He was humble and always had time for everyone.

"He was the essence of being a mentsch."

Applebaum's record of accomplishments is dizzying.

In 1951, he founded the Canadian League of Composers with a handful of members to advance the interests and wellbeing of music writers.

He joined the Stratford Festival as founding head of its music wing in 1955 and wrote dozens of incidental scores, including the ones which summon patrons to their seats, and another signalling the start of the play. His fanfares included one for Expo '67 and two for royal tours of Canada.

He also wrote music for various CBC series and specials, including *The National Dream* in 1973.

Applebaum received a Juno Award for special achievement in 1995. He was awarded honorary degrees from York University and the University of Windsor.

He leaves his wife of 59 years, Janet (née Hershoff); son David, 55; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sister Ruth Nusyna of Toronto; and two nieces.

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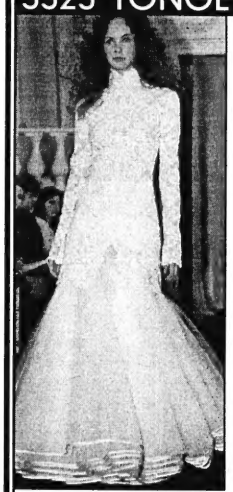

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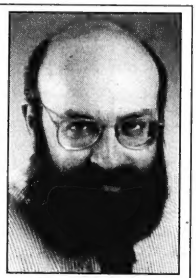
Prof. Fox is the guest speaker for the Moshe J. Weisfeld Annual Memorial Lectures



Prof. Fox holds the Allen M. Glick Chair in Judaic and Biblical Studies at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts

בית צדק

Religion, ethnic background on 2001 census

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Statistics Canada will ask Canadians about their religion and ethnic background on the 2001 census.

The agency confirmed last week that both questions will be on next year's headcount, as Canadian Jewish Congress had requested.

In January, Jewish community leaders wrote to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, cabinet members and MPs, asking that the questions on religion and ethnic origins be retained on next year's census because they provide communal planners with invaluable data.

Omitting the questions would have constituted "a serious error," Congress president Moshe Ronen and United Israel Appeal Federations Canada president David Goldstein wrote.

Ronen was pleased that Ottawa will keep both questions, and stressed that respondents should not shy away from answering them.

"There's no obligation to answer them if people feel they are intrusive or personal, but they are such an important tool in community planning," Ronen said.

The question on religion will ask simply: "What is this person's religion?" Only one denomination may be specified.

The question on ethnic background will ask: "To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestor's belong?" Respondents are allowed to list up to four ethnic backgrounds, Jewish being one.

Statistics Canada has considered "Jewish" to be both religion and ethnicity for decades. No other ethnicity or religion falls into both definitions.

Censuses in years ending with one have asked about religion and ethnic background since 1901. Headcounts in years ending with six – so-called mini-censuses – inquire about ethnicity only.

The 1991 census found 318,000 Canadians who said their religion was Jewish, while 368,000 listed Jewish as among their ethnic origins.

In 1996, 351,000 respondents claimed to have Jewish ethnicity.

But communal planners rely on neither tally. They use a mix of both, derived by experts at McGill University in Montreal. The blend uses several variables, and excludes only those who claimed Jewish ethnic origins but professed another religion.

The final number – the official one – was 356,315 Jews in Canada as of 1991.

The numbers have traditionally provided community planners with a treasure trove of data on family status, income, education levels, languages spoken, mobility, and levels of assimilation.

In the past, Jewish academics have clashed on the meaning of the numbers, with some arguing that the presence of more "ethnic" Jews than "religious" ones reflects rising rates of assimilation.

WHAT'S COOKING: USDS parents' association recently held a culinary extravaganza at the Beth Tikvah Synagogue featuring a cooking demonstration by the chef of the Windsor Arms Hotel. [Dominique Grunberger photo]

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Editorials and Letters

Veiled transparently

The recent libel suit against Deborah Lipstadt by David Irving proved that although some individuals can be quite clever in their efforts to disparage and attack Jews, the transparency of the veil they put before the public is apparent for all to see and eventually falls away in any event, exposing the truer face of what was barely hidden.

Two weeks ago, on April 24, Easter Monday, the *Globe and Mail* published an article by John Lloyd entitled "Slaying the ghosts of Jewry's past;" in it the author argues that "today's anti-Semites...feed off behaviour by the state of Israel itself." The author cites an incident presently before Israel's Supreme Court of alleged discrimination against an Arab family as typical of the Israeli "behaviour" that feeds anti-Semitism. This behaviour, the author suggests, is endemic to Israel because it is endemic to Zionism and Zionism, after all, is at the very core of Israel's essence.

Logically, substantively and morally, Lloyd's argument is specious. In essence, he blames the victim for being victimized; he blames the person who is hated rather than the hater; he blames the sufferer of the disparagement rather than the disparager himself. History, both recent and ancient, has proven the absurdity of such an argument.

Then we see the veil.

Lloyd cavalierly throws out misleading statements as if they were truth: "In the present Labour government...there is an understanding that the state can no longer justify itself on the old basis." By "old basis" he clearly means Israel as a haven for Jews and for the ingathering of Jewish exiles. But no one in the government, despite the liberal tendencies of the Supreme Court of Yossi Beilin, whom Lloyd trumpets as being representative, has suggested this or anything like this.

And then he lets the veil drop.

Lloyd repeatedly and mischievously sets up a false, invidious dichotomy between Zionism and democracy: "nor can the Zionist cause take precedence over the demands of equal access and justice." Despite Lloyd's effort to create the contrary impression, there is no cleavage between Zionism and the demands of equal access and justice. Israel's societal imperfections are increasingly finding their repair in the legislative and judicial systems that are the cornerstones of its democracy in the same manner as societal imperfections do in all democracies around the world.

And finally, we see his truer face.

"Israel's need is to supersede its Zionist destiny" if it wishes to "deprive the anti-Semites of part of their platform." In other words, the author is effectively saying Israel must cease to be a state for the Jews if it wishes to mollify the haters of Jews.

Lloyd's sanctimony is grating; his arguments are unconvincing; his methods deceiving. What was the *Globe and Mail* thinking?

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Teffilin, Omed Teffilin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

Dry Bones
IT'S ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY AGAIN!
THE IDEA OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE OF ISRAEL SEEMS LESS MIRACULOUS EACH YEAR!
AND THAT FACT IS THE MIRACLE OF OUR AGE.
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Must Israeli Symphony play Wagner?

Recently, the Israel Symphony Orchestra decided to include music by the 19th-century German composer Richard Wagner in its repertoire. "The time is ripe to distinguish between art and ideology," said the director general of the orchestra, Ehud Gross, in justifying the decision.

But of course art is very intertwined with ideology, as anyone who has paid any attention to the various "culture wars" that have wracked societies from Communist Russia to present-day North America can attest to.

This is particularly true for Wagner, who made no secret of his deep and extremely virulent anti-Semitism, and in 1869 even published a polemic, *Jewishness in Music*, setting forth his views. Marc A. Weiner, in his book *Richard Wagner and the Anti-Semitic Imagination* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995), demonstrates that anti-Semitism is at the very core of Wagner's operas — music as well as librettos.

For Wagner, Jews were the equivalent of deadly vermin. He was among the first of the so-called "modern," racial anti-Semites, those who in the 19th century created the ideological climate for that depersonalisation of Jews that would lead to Hitler's attempt to "cleanse" Europe of Jews, as if they were a disease upon the body politic.

Wagner was not just someone whose music Hitler found appealing; he was a precursor of Nazism. Is it really necessary for an orchestra in a Jewish state founded to a large extent by those who escaped such horrors to pay homage to someone like him?

Henry Srebrnik
Calgary

* * *

A Birthright feeling

As a member of the first Canadian group to travel to Israel on the Birthright program, I would like to share a personal feeling.

I heard the stories of the Land of Israel as a child but I will never forget the opportunity given to me to see some of the actual sites. For example Masada left me with a feeling that I can't seem to explain. But I can say this: Masada will not fall again. The faith and beliefs of the Jewish people get stronger every day.

I left a part of myself in Israel that I know I will reclaim. I will go back when the time is right and again reclaim what is mine there. A little part of myself. It will not be hard to find it; it will be waiting for me when I get there.

Ashley D. Risen
Richmond Hill, Ont.

* * *

Honouring Righteous Diplomats

Earlier this month, on April 3, a ceremony was held in the General Assembly hall of the UN in New York, to mark the opening of a new exhibit entitled Visas for Life: The Righteous Diplomats. The Visas for Life Foundation has identified, to date, more than 65 diplomats from 22 countries who, at great personal risk, rescued tens of thousands of Jews and other refugees from certain death during the Holocaust. A documentary for the History Channel, called *Diplomats of the Damned*, is currently being made.

Congregation Beth-El in the Town of Mount Royal is honoured to have been invited to host the exhibit's Canadian première as it soon begins a world tour of 25 cities. The pride we feel as participants in this educational and inspirational enterprise is somewhat eclipsed by the pitiful record of official Canadian government indifference during those years of inhumanity, darkness and tragedy.

The story of these righteous diplomats needs to be told. Coming from the most diverse backgrounds (China, Germany, Japan, the Holy See, Turkey, Poland, Brazil, Hungary, Italy, the United States, International Committee of the Red Cross, Portugal, Bulgaria, Argentina, El Salvador, Czechoslovakia), they often suffered severe consequences for their acts of great moral courage.

The conspicuous absence of Canada from this virtual honour roll of nations is a most sad and telling commentary.

Rabbi Irvin Brandwein
Mount Royal, Que.

* * *

Stories of Baghdad life

I would like to draw the attention of those *CJN* readers who do not read Yiddish, to the fact that in the Yiddish Corner (CJN, April 6, 2000), the English title of Avner Meiri's book from which the story was taken is *Waters of Babylon*.

This is a slim volume of wonderful short stories of life in Baghdad around 50 years ago. Naim Katan, who was the head of writing and publishing for Canada Council wrote an introduction to this book.

The book can be purchased directly from the author. His address is 124 Mullholland Dr., Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7T9 or phone 905-771-0250.

Miriam D. Beckerman
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Three Machal flyers remembered

By EDDY KAPLANSKY
Special to The CJN

In the War of Independence, almost 70 percent of the aircrew of the Israel Air Force was made up of overseas volunteers. Since most of them were from English speaking countries, English was the de-facto operational language of the IAF well into 1949.

In stark contrast with their 185 Israeli counterparts, most of the 416 Machal flyers had acquired considerable combat experience during World War II. Without them, the nascent IAF would not have been able to utilize its B-17 heavy bombers, its large transport planes or most of its fighter aircraft, as few Israelis were then qualified to fly such advanced planes.

Israelis were a minority in their own air force, because the Royal Air Force (RAF) did not accept Eretz Israelis for aircrew training until 1943 – almost four years into the war. Only about 25 Eretz Israelis had qualified as RAF pilots by the time the war ended, and fewer still had acquired other aircrew trades.

Thanks largely to the participation of the Machal flyers, the IAF was able to achieve mastery of the skies over Israel and accomplish the vital clandestine airlift of armaments and fighter planes from what was then Czechoslovakia.

Three late comrades-in-arms – two of whom were not Jewish – contributed much to the remarkable achievements of the IAF. Clifford Denzel "Denny" Wilson, "Red" Sturrey and Gordon Levett never boasted about their exploits, nor did they exaggerate their accomplishments. Their steadfast devotion to the cause was an inspiring example to their fellow Machalniks.

Denny, who was 79 when he died in Vancouver, was a native of Hamilton, Ont. One of 15 non-Jewish pilots from Canada to serve in the IAF during the War of Independence, he was with 101 Squadron, the IAF's only fighter squadron. Flying Mark IX Spitfires, Denny was especially active during Operation Horev – Dec. 22, 1948 to Jan. 7, 1949. He downed two Egyptian fighter planes on Dec. 31, 1948.

During World War II, Denny had served as a Spitfire pilot in the RCAF's 411 Squadron, which was part of the Second Tactical Air Force in Europe. He was credited with notable successes in raids on important enemy ground targets and with downing several enemy aircraft. The people of his home town proudly followed his exploits in the *Hamilton Spectator.*

When he returned home in the spring of 1949, the *Hamilton Spectator* carried a feature article on its front page with the headline: "Denny Wilson comes home from Israel." He was so popular in his city, he was mobilized to address fund-raising meetings for Israel. At one point, he was on a fund-raising tour with Allan Bronfman of the distilling conglomerate, Seagram and Sons.

Denny proved to be an effective and eloquent speaker. He was so involved in raising funds that he had little time to look for a permanent job. His personal charm and persuasive skills must have impressed Bronfman. When Seagram acquired Thomas Adams Distillers, Denny became its vice-president of marketing.

He remained a loyal and outspoken supporter of Israel throughout his life. His fellow 101 Squadron fighter pilots, among them, President Ezer Weizman, and indeed all IAF veterans who knew him, will fondly remember Denny not only as a skilled pilot, but as a warm and witty person with an ever-ready smile.

Benjamin "Red" Sturrey was 86 when he died in St. Paul, Minn., on Dec 4, 1999, not long after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. A native of Winnipeg, Ben was brought up in a traditional Jewish home and took a keen interest in Jewish studies. His family and friends were sure that he'd become a rabbi. But he turned down a grant that would have allowed him to study at Yeshiva University, to fight in the War of Independence.

Ben was promptly assigned to the IAF's Air Transport Command (ATC) when he arrived in Israel in May 1948. He participated in every phase of ATC's activities, mainly as a navigator on C-46 aircraft. He was deeply involved in the crucial Operation Balak airlift from Czechoslovakia, and in the Operation Dust airlift to Ruchama. He flew bombing raids during the Yoav and Hiram campaigns in October and during Operation Horev.

Gordon Levett
Red Sturrey
Denny Wilson

Ben was also on the crew of a C-46 piloted by Ted Applebaum and Blackie Bradshaw. They flew to Nieksic in the former Yugoslavia, in a plane bearing a freshly painted red star to conceal its identity. They returned with a Spitfire that had been damaged in landing. A week later, they shepherded two more Spitfires from Nieksic.

Ben and his fellow crew members had a dangerously close call on March 17, 1949, when their C-46 crashed and burned just after taking off from Avraham air-strip near present-day Eilat. After the crash, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated as a sort of second birthday by the four flyers.

Following his IAF discharge in late 1949, Ben flew with Alaska Airlines on the Operation Magic Carpet airlift from Aden that brought thousands of Yemenite Jews to Israel.

He acquired his air-navigation skills in the RCAF, and went on to fly 35 bombing missions with a Halifax squadron based in England. Most of the raids were against targets in the heavily protected Ruhr valley – which was commonly known as "Flak Alley" – a place where countless Allied bombers failed to return.

Those of us who had the good fortune to fly with "Red" remember him as a very competent navigator, who kept his cool under fire or in dangerous situations. His self-confidence and good humour was an inspiration to his fellow crew-members.

Gordon Robert Levett was born in London's working class Fulham district in 1921. He died on Jan. 4, 2000 in West Chiltington, England, after a bout with cancer.

Gordon was a staunch individualist with atheist and socialist views, who readily supported causes he considered just. He was greatly disturbed by the British Labour government's refusal to admit Holocaust survivors to Palestine after the war. A supporter of the UN Partition Plan for Palestine, he was appalled when Britain tried to foil its implementation. Although he wasn't Jewish, the ex-RAF pilot volunteered to serve the Zionist cause in April 1948.

Gordon proved to be one of the IAF's most versatile pilots, being equally adept at the controls of a C-46, then the world's largest twin-engine cargo aircraft, or in the cockpit of a fighter airplane engaged in a dog-fight. He was with ATC flying C-46 aircraft between Czechoslovakia and Israel until August 1948 when the Czechs forced an end to the vital airlift. For the next two months, Gordon actively participated in the airlift to Ruchama.

During the Yoav and Hiram campaigns, he flew bombing raids with "bomb-chuckers" in the crew. As the C-46 was strictly a cargo airplane, every C-46 crew included bomb-chuckers who manually heaved the bombs out of the airplane.

In November, he requested a transfer to 101 Squadron, after deciding that it was time he became a fighter pilot, his unfulfilled ambition of the Second World War. Gordon was soon checked-out on every aircraft type in the squadron; the Czech-built Me-109, the P-51 Mustang and the Spitfire. He was ready for action by the time Operation Horev began, downing two Egyptian fighter aircraft on Dec. 28.

In January 1949, Gordon was appointed commanding officer of 106 Squadron. He left the IAF in the summer of 1949 after the absorption of 106 into 103 Squadron.

Gordon joined the RAF in January 1939. He began as a trainee-mechanic. In July 1941, he got his wings and the rank of pilot officer. After completing a flying-instructors course he was sent to an air training base in Canada to train pilots in the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm. After repeated requests for transfer to an operational squadron, he was posted to another base in Canada for a Dakota (DC-3) conversion course in 1944. He returned to Britain a few days after VE-Day.

There, he joined a Dakota squadron departing to the Far East. He flew one of the Dakotas on its 8,000-mile ferry-flight to India, but by the time he reached India, Japan had surrendered.

Gordon's remaining year in the RAF was not a happy one, because his socialist ideas and concern for the underdog conflicted with the views of his fellow officers.

His story is beautifully told in his autobiography *Flying Under Two Flags*, which was also published in Hebrew under the title *Goy Shel Shabbat*. It includes a foreword by Ezer Weizman, in which he wrote: "Although not Jewish, he [Gordon] believed with all his heart in the right of the Jewish people, particularly after the Holocaust, to a land of their own."

IAF members who knew Gordon will fondly remember him as a man of principle and a fine person. He was a real mentsch.

Eddy Kaplansky was an RCAF pilot in World War II. In 1947, he was a crew member on the Northland for the entirety of the ship's Aliyah Bet role. From June 1948 to September 1949 he served as a pilot in the IAF's Nos. 1, 103 and 106 squadrons and 35 Flight. He has been closely associated with the IAF Historical Branch since 1987. His e-mail address is: kaplansk@bezeqint.net

The modern airforce that the efforts of early "Machalnik" pilots helped build.

Opinions

Being elderly in Israel

Readers of this column know that I have a special relationship to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Some years ago, a chair was established there bearing my name, and over these last decades, I have followed the steady progress that Israel's youngest university has made.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The latest edition of *BGU Now*, the university's well-illustrated magazine-like publication has this to say about a new program.

"BGU's new master's program in gerontology is the first of its kind in Israel. The program is beginning with the first-year class of about 50 students and offers three separate tracks. The first, a research track, requires a thesis and leads to a degree in gerontology. The second, designed for clinicians who will work in institutions on specific projects, leads to a degree in geriatrics and offers an option for additional course work instead of a thesis. The third is business oriented, focusing on the organization and management of facilities for the elderly."

The head of the new program, Prof. Sara Carmel, recalls an experience she had while teaching a geriatric course to medical students, one that strengthened her developing interest in the problems of aging. The course included visits to social clubs and geriatric wards to interview the elderly about their life histories. At the beginning of the course, Carmel surveyed the students about their negative and positive stereotypes of the elderly. The negatives, she observed, included that old people smell, don't keep themselves clean, have trouble understanding and communicating, and talk too much. The positive stereotypes were fewer: Old people have interesting life histories, are grateful, and are more experienced.

One would expect that at the end of the professor's courses, the students would have changed their attitudes. But that was not the case. Even trained caregivers, she observes, are victims of stereotypes about the aged. The older the care provider is, the more he or she sees elderly persons in a stereotypical way.

That, of course, is not something unique to Israel. It is part of most industrial cultures. In fact, the more "primitive" the society, the better the elders are considered and the more lovingly are they treated. To be sure, we generally respect our elders, and raising funds for their well-being is an acknowledged priority of our communities, though on an individual level, things are different.

This is an area that is uncomfortable to deal with, but it is high time for us to face it — not only in Israel, but right here at home, where agisms and negative stereotypes about the elderly flourish without serious objections.

Who stood at Sinai

Several times in the past decade we have been privileged to hear Danny Siegel, poet, *koch-leffel* and tzedakah mayven. His constant themes have been the overriding responsibility of Jews for each other, and the need to recognize that all Jews stood at Sinai.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

By the time this column is published, the seders will be concluded for this year, but we can reflect on how we fulfilled the mitzvah of inviting *all* who are hungry, *all* who are in need.

Hunger we can understand. Jews are a generous people with their gifts.

The need to be accepted – as one among the Jews who stood at Sinai – is a bit harder to comprehend.

Danny Siegel has written at length about the need to remember what kinds of Jews gathered in homes on the eve of the exodus, and 50 days later stood at the foot of the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments.

Who were these Jews? Here are some from Siegel's list and some he overlooked.

They were rich Jews, and poor Jews. They were Jews from Africa and Jews from the Baltic states. Jews from Moscow and Jews from Khazakstan. Jews from Minsk and Pinsk, and Jews from Jo-burg and Zimbabwe.

They were Jews who had a PhD and Jews who could barely read the aleph-bet. They were deaf Jews and blind Jews, lame Jews and athletic high-jumpers. Baseball stars and football players. Transvestite Jews were there.

Jews from the Atlas mountains and Jews from Berlin.

They were Jews with *mazel* and luckless Jews who never would succeed. The Israeli mafia was there. Transgendered Jews were there. The hasidim and haredim were there, and so was Tommy Lapid and Meretz and the settlers from Hebron.

Jews with AIDS were there. Orthodox, Reform and Conservative Jews were there. Converts of the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis were there. Secular humanist Jews were there. United Jewish People's Order Jews were there and so were Republicans and Democrats from the United States.

They were Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Canadian Alliance Jews, and eastern and western Jews from Canada – Jews from Victoria and St. John's and Montreal.

Hip Jews and dorky Jews. Jews with pimples and Jews from Hollywood.

Hackers and the electronically challenged.

Gay Jews and Lesbian Jews were there. The rabbis imagined the whole people of Israel, present and future, to be standing there in fear and high anticipation. And everybody got the message in a way they could understand.

This is such an overpowering midrash on the verses describing the entire nation gathered to hear the divine voice that every year I get chills just thinking about it.

There were no outcasts that day, nobody that you wouldn't want to sit next to in shul or in a bus, nobody that you would turn your face away from if they were in need.

Nobody that you would shun because their lifestyle was different, or they played music in their synagogue, or they wore 18th-century costumes of the Polish nobility, or covered their heads with elaborate wigs and snoods, or wore a minimum of clothing. Nobody who wasn't accepted as she or he came to the mountain, with all these differences and more that I can't think of.

The holiday for reminding us of this moment is actually not Passover, but Shavuot. So we still have a chance to rearrange our thinking about who should, and shouldn't be included. I was struck, then, by a full page advertisement published by Agudat Israel in the *New York Times* just before Passover, denouncing the recognition of gay couples.

If this judgment had been made, there would have been empty spaces at the foot of Sinai. If we start painting out all the people we don't want there, the crowd would diminish pretty quickly. Until there would be fewer and fewer, and pretty soon the divine voice would boom out over an empty desert.

And there would be no one to hear it.

Weizman's legal problem not uncommon

Arguably, two of the most powerful people in Israeli political/legal circles are Eliyakim Rubinstein and Edna Arbel. Who are these people, you ask? You've never heard of them?

Bruce Elman in Edmonton

In Israel, these individuals are household names, but outside of the state, they are largely unknown. Rubinstein is the attorney general and Arbel is state attorney and, at present, they have President Ezer Weizman, and former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu under criminal investigation. Depending upon the results of these investigations, the careers of these men may be ruined or, in the case of Netanyahu – beyond reclamation.

Among other responsibilities, the attorney general is the head of public prosecutions. The attorney general is responsible for ensuring the maintenance of the rule of law and the integrity of the public interest. As a result of the high degree of professionalism and staunch political neutrality exhibited by those who have held the office over the years, the attorney general is held in high esteem by members of the general public as well as by the political and legal establishment.

Rubinstein is the latest in a long line of very independent attorneys general whose ranks have included Haim Cohn, Meir Shamgar, Aharon Barak, and Yitzchak Zamir – all of whom went on to serve on the Supreme Court of Israel.

The state attorney is the chief litigator for the state in all matters of a criminal, civil and administrative nature. Essentially, Arbel is the chief prosecutor and works closely with the police during their investigations.

These days, Rubinstein and Arbel spend most of their time deciding which political figures to indict and prosecute. As I write this column, Rubinstein and Arbel are scrutinizing the police report into allegations of tax evasion, bribe-taking, fraud, and breach of trust which have been levelled against Weizman.

The report found that, between 1987 and 1993, Weizman – a member of the Knesset, cabinet minister and president – illegally received gifts totalling approximately $455,000 from French millionaire industrialist Edouard Seroussi. Weizman disclosed none of these gifts to the state comptroller even though he had been required to do so.

The police report found no evidence of bribe-taking. The limitation period had expired on the charge of tax evasion. Similarly, even though there was evidence to support the charges of fraud and breach of trust, the time limitation on those charges had elapsed. The police recommended that no criminal charges be brought against the president.

Rubinstein and Arbel will now decide whether to accept the police recommendation. This was hardly a ringing endorsement of the president's integrity. Politicians of all political stripes are now calling for his resignation. It no longer seems to be matter of whether Weizman will leave the presidency, but rather when he will do so.

This case is extremely sad, but sadly not uncommon. Witness the six-year jail sentence on charges of bribery and corruption handed down to former Shas party leader Aryeh Deri. Presently, Likud Knesset member and former justice minister Tzachi Hanegbi will be prosecuted on charges of fraud and breach of trust. Unfortunately, there is more.

Earlier this year, the State Comptroller, Justice Eliezer Goldberg, turned over his report and supporting evidence on election finance violations to Rubinstein and Arbel.

The report cited massive election finance violations. Prime Minister Ehud Barak's party (One Israel) was singled out for the most scathing criticism in Goldberg's report. He then fined One Israel 13.8 million shekels, about $4.6 million (Cdn), for these violations. Other parties were fined as well, but those fines were minuscule in comparison that of One Israel.

Immediately upon receiving the report, Rubinstein and Arbel ordered a police investigation into the matter. Although five parties will be investigated, clearly attention will focus on Barak and whether he was involved in his party's violations of the Election Finance Law.

Israel is a democracy and the rule of law is one of the central values in any democratic society. It is premised upon the principle that the rulers or governors of a society are really the servants of the true sovereign – the people. Consequently, the governors cannot be above the law, but rather must be subject to the ordinary law of the land.

The widespread instances of unethical conduct by Israeli political leaders constitutes a clear breach of the rule of law and extends an unfortunate, but persistent pattern of behaviour which demonstrates a total disregard and disrespect for the people of Israel. This must stop.

The Kirshner File

Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt

The veil has made an astonishing comeback in Egypt, where women have fought hard for the right to unveil themselves, wear modern apparel and join the modern world. But "taking the veil" has become quite fashionable in recent years, and its reappearance coincides with the re-emergence of an Islamic revival movement and its radical offshoot, Islamic fundamentalism.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Walk down any street in, say, Cairo or Luxor, and you will see a sea of women covered from head to toe in enveloping black robes and veils. Women in western garb are on the defensive these days, and virtually the only ones who do not bother with veils are Christians, Jews (there are still a few left) and thoroughly westernized Muslims.

This was not the case on my first visit to Egypt in 1975, when veils were usually the preserve of the rural class and the urban poor. But with each of my subsequent visits – the last one having been in 1999 – the veil has become increasingly commonplace.

I harp on the veil because it is such a quintessential symbol of Islam, the religion that commands the allegiance of most Egyptians. Islamism, in and of itself, signifies a return to tradition and a reaction against Western culture and values. But when Islamism, a relatively benign form of religiosity, mutates into a political phenomenon known as Islamic fundamentalism, there is ample reason to be concerned. Islamic fundamentalism is ethnocentric, extreme, intolerant and all too often violent. And in Egypt, a key western ally and the first Arab state to make peace with Israel, militant Islam is in full cry.

From 1992 until quite recently, an Islamic fundamentalist rebellion brewed in Egypt, claiming the lives of scores of foreign travellers, government officials, writers and journalists. Responding to its brazen challenge, the authorities launched a concerted campaign against the militants, some of whom were trained and tested in Afghanistan during its struggle against a Soviet occupying army.

The crackdown, the overriding objective of which is to forestall the rise of an Islamic state governed by the Shari'a, or Islamic law, appears to have worked. In 1997, the year zealots gunned down 62 tourists in cold blood in the Valley of the Kings, the leadership of the Islamic Group, one of the main Islamic organizations at war with the government, agreed to a ceasefire. Several months ago, one of the leaders of Jihad, another Islamic group that has tried to overthrow the pro-Western regime of President Hosni Mubarak, urged his followers to lay down their arms and pursue their goals through peaceful means.

As Mary Anne Weaver observes in *A Portrait of Egypt: A Journey Through the World of Militant Islam* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), the current Islamic revival in Egypt began after its defeat in the Six Day War. But the underlying reason why it has largely supplanted Arab nationalism as a unifying force is the squalid poverty afflicting millions of Egyptians. "People are suffering," she quotes Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, an Islamic fundamentalist leader, as saying. An associate of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi terrorist, Rahman was the mastermind of the World Trade Centre bombing in Manhattan, and is now in prison in the United States.

And as Weaver – a staff writer for *The New Yorker* who has lived in Egypt – suggests, Islamic fundamentalism also owes its appeal to rampant corruption in the state bureaucracy, the rapprochement with Israel, the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the rise of a nouveau riche consumer society whose excesses mock the underachievements of the have-not populace. In 1977, this underclass ran amok in "bread riots," caused by a sharp and unconscionable cut in food subsidies.

But as important as these factors are in explaining the growth of Islamic fundamentalism, it is necessary to look back even farther.

Islamic revivalism in Egypt was born in the late 1920s, writes Weaver in this sober, knowing book. A schoolteacher, Hassan al-Banna, founded the Muslim Brotherhood to protest British colonial rule in Egypt. He was inspired in part by Rashid Rida, an Islamic reformer of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During World War II, al-Banna was imprisoned for having contacted Nazi agents, but this taint did not deter two future presidents, Gamal Abdel Nasser and Anwar al-Sadat, from joining the Muslim Brotherhood.

Hosni Mubarak

When the first Arab-Israeli war broke out, it dispatched a company of commandos to fight on the Palestinian side. As its strength and influence widened, the monarchy panicked. Al-Banna was murdered, and thousands of his acolytes were banished to concentration camps in the Western Desert.

The Muslim Brotherhood regained its edge by siding with Nasser's republican Free Officers movement, whose objective was to depose King Farouk. However, the honeymoon was brief. The Muslim Brotherhood continued to agitate for an Islamic state, and when it was implicated in an attempt on Nasser's life, it was suppressed and outlawed, a ban yet to be lifted. (Indeed, Mubarak's government recently arrested 20 of its senior members after they tried to take over the Engineers' Union.)

Nasser's unlikely successor, Sadat, cultivated the Muslim Brotherhood so as to broaden his power base. Weaver claims that it became the strongest, best-organized political force outside his own well-oiled machine. Sadat, who also repressed the Muslim Brotherhood when it suited his purposes, feared the Nasserist left far more than Islamists.

The Muslim Brotherhood gained respectability by advocating a moderate brand of reform, by establishing a rival social/welfare network, and by gaining control of trade unions, student bodies and professional syndicates. But its success was tempered by the flow of some of its headstrong youthful members to radical organizations, notably the Islamic Group and Jihad (which assassinated Sadat in 1981).

By Weaver's estimate, the militant Islamic movement, though quiescent now, consists today of some 44 groups. Having attracted adherents from all social classes, it has infiltrated every major institution in Egypt: the clergy, public schools, universities, the armed forces and the foreign service.

In her view, some of the fiercest battles pitting Islamists against the government have unfolded in schools, particularly in Upper Egypt. She claims that the Islamists have basically seized control of the educational system, denigrating secularism, altering texts and playing inflammatory cassettes of "popular" sheikhs in classrooms. And, she adds, they have convinced the government to ban films deemed un-Islamic, and almost succeeded in reversing a ban on female circumcision.

Surveying the situation, Weaver comments, "One cannot escape the impression that the old multicultural, cosmopolitan, secular Egypt is slipping away."

Rightly or wrongly, Weaver blames Mubarak for the drift. Like his predecessors, he has veered between suppressing and coddling Islamists. But although he has been ruthless in confronting militant Islam, he has continued to condone Islamist influence. Weaver also ascribes its popularity to Mubarak's refusal to open the political arena completely and his constant infringement of human rights.

She is critical of the United States as well, claiming that Washington's "astonishing lack of balance in its dealings with Israel and the Arab world" has fortified the appeal of Islamic fundamentalists and their fellow travellers.

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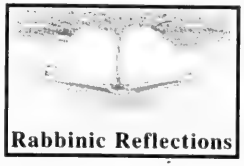
Jewish Life

Breaking the cycle

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS



Rabbinic Reflections

Just because everyone else is rotten does not mean we should be rotten too.

In the famous verse of "love your neighbour as yourself," we usually leave out the first half of the verse. The first half says, "Do not take revenge and do not bear a grudge against your neighbour, rather, love your neighbour as yourself, I am God."

The Talmud understands the revenge and the grudge being spoken of here as being related to the love your neighbour. Even when you are doing kindness, do not bear a grudge.

For example, if I go to my neighbour and the following conversation takes place:

Moishe: Chaim, can I borrow your shovel to work on my garden?

Chaim: No.

Next day, Chaim says: Moishe, can I borrow your hedge clippers to trim my hedge?

Moishe: Chaim, if you wouldn't let me borrow the shovel yesterday, then you don't get to borrow my hedge clippers today.

That is no good – that is revenge. Bearing a grudge would be the following:

Moishe: Chaim, can I borrow your shovel to work on my garden?

Chaim: No.

Next day, Chaim says: Moishe, can I borrow your hedge clippers to trim my hedge?

Moishe: Chaim, I am not rotten like you. Even though you are rotten and didn't give me the shovel yesterday, I am a nice guy, so you can borrow my hedge clippers today.

That is bearing a grudge.

Look at the beautiful standard the Torah creates – my kindness has nothing to do with the way you treat me. Just because you are rotten doesn't mean you will drag me down there with you. My kindness derives from the mitzvah and not from your standard.

Obviously, the normal revenge is forbidden. I cannot harm you, act against you, damage you in any way because of how you have treated me. I cannot be rotten to you. But who says I have to be nice to you?

Maybe, if you have been rotten to me you have lost the right to my kindness. I could just do nothing – nothing rotten, but nothing good either.

Therefore, the Torah says that when it comes to kindness, I must be kind to you, go out of my way to help you, ignoring the fact that you have been rotten to me in the past.

Now this is a very difficult level to reach – to treat all people with kindness regardless of how they have treated me. That is what the Torah demands. The Torah does not say "love your neighbour like yourself but only if he deserves it and is kind to you."

Could it be, that maybe, if I treat you well and with kindness, even though you have been rotten in the past, that you will see that the cycle of ill feeling can be broken? The only question is who will get there first and take the first step to break the cycle?

IMAGES THAT STIR YOM HA'ATZMAUT THOUGHTS: This montage of images may help to focus our thoughts for Yom Ha'atzmaut. From left, the old and the young "standing guard", the flags in the birthday cake, an Independence Day parade in 1951 and Palmach jeeps open the Road of Valour in Dec. 1948. David Ben-Gurion can be seen in the background.

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Jewish Life

Israel: from sorrow to joy

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

On the 5th of Iyar (May 10 this year), Israel will celebrate its 52nd year of independence. Even if you can't make it to Jerusalem for the official celebrations, you can still join in the party thanks to the World Wide Web.

But before the Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities begin, Israel observes Yom Hazikaron, the day dedicated to the memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. At 11 a.m. on May 9, sirens throughout the country will wail to proclaim two minutes of silence for the country's fallen soldiers and for the civilians who have become victims of terror. The Orthodox Union provides a very good Yom Hazikaron page with links to appropriate readings for the day **[http://www.ou.org/yerushalayim/yomhazikaron/]**.

One of the most impressive sites is the official Israeli government area dedicated to fallen soldiers **[http://www.izkor.mod.gov.il/izkor12.htm]**.

There are photographs and biographies of the soldiers and the location of every known grave. The site is entirely in Hebrew, but even if you don't speak the language, it is a moving experience just to click through the endless names and photographs of the people who gave their lives for the country.

As the sun sets on Yom Hazikaron, the mood in Israel shifts from sorrow to joy as Yom Ha'atzmaut begins. Why not start the day with a rousing rendition of *Hatikvah*? You can listen to five versions of *Hatikvah* at the Israeli-Jewish Yiddish-Hebrew-Folk-Cultural Music Midi Free Library **[http://members.aol.com/israelmidi/index.html#FOLK]**.

While you're listening, you can read a fascinating article about Israel's national anthem **[http://merlion.singnet.com.sg/~ruthlee/tqvhmain.htm]**. There's quite a bit of debate about the origins of the melody. Some trace it to *The Moldau* by Czech composer Bedrich Smetana (1824-1884). If you have the time and a fast connection, download Smetana's work and compare for yourself **[http://artists.mp3s.com/artists/15/the_virtual_philharmonic_orchestra.html]**.

Israel's Foreign Affairs site has an explanation of some of the country's other national symbols, such as its flag and the menorah. In addition, you can read the full English text of Israel's Declaration of Independence. Or if you prefer, you can hear David Ben-Gurion read some of it to you in the original Hebrew **[http://www.israel-mfa.gov.il/mfa/go.asp?MFAH00k90]**.

The first five decades of the state have been miraculous, but Rabbi Noah Weinberg suggests that instead of finding its own moral path, Israel has fallen in love with Western consumerism **[http://aish.com/holidays/Israel_Independence_Day/holiday_page.asp]**.

Rabbi Weinberg argues that Israel has forgotten how to play a leadership role of "tikkun olam" – fixing the world – and that it is time to re-examine the reason for its existence.

For more thoughts about the religious role of the Jewish state, you can listen to 613.org **[http://www.613.org/independence.html]**. There, you'll hear lectures from such speakers as Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, and Rabbi Berel Wein, with a story about the last night of the British Mandate.

Birthdays are also a time to celebrate, so make sure you point your kids toward Dr. Nurit Reshef's 100 Years of Zionism/Israel's 50th Anniversary Web page **[http://www.bus.ualberta.ca/yreshef/zionism/zionism.html]**. The Edmonton educator's site both amuses and entertains, with plenty of Java-based games – everything from assembling the map of Israel on your screen to a Cities of Israel wordsearch game and a quiz about the leaders of Israel.

For still more Yom Ha'atzmaut links, take a look at Maven **[http://www.maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=129]** and the Virtual Jerusalem site **[http://www.vjholidays.com/independence]**.

And if you can't make it to Israel this year, you can still look in on the festivities. Aish HaTorah Yeshiva has installed a live camera focussed on the Western Wall **[http://www.thewall.org/]**. The camera refreshes every minute so you can follow the ebb and flow of the crowd at the Kotel. Watch long enough and who knows who you might run into.

Have a very happy Yom Ha'atzmaut.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@home.com].

Guide covers Judaism

***Essential Judaism, A Complete Guide to Beliefs, Customs, and Rituals*, by George Robinson (Simon & Schuster Inc.)**

This book has a strange history. Its author, a 46-year-old freelance film critic and radio journalist, became immersed in Jewish life about a decade ago after many years of unconcern. He joined a Reform congregation in the Washington Heights section of New York City and eventually became its president.

Books
Bernard Baskin

When he began to teach and lecture about Judaism he couldn't find a comprehensive introductory guide. Innumerable books were available, but they tended to be specialized, partisan or lacking in historical or theological perspective. Few offered hands-on practical information about how to recite familiar prayers, perform necessary mitzvot or share in everyday practices.

So he sat down and wrote the book he couldn't find. The result is impressive. *Essential Judaism* runs to 650 pages and covers a rich spectrum of topics: prayer and ritual, the holidays and life cycle, and a list of the 613 mitzvot that are found in the Torah. There are brief entries on the Jewish emphasis on ethics and justice, the origin and practice of the dietary laws, the place of sexuality in the Jewish tradition and an introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, with a brief survey of each book.

The Talmud is not overlooked. There are examples of how the Mishnah and Gemarah interpret biblical texts – as well as an outline of the scope of rabbinic material, including the Midrash.

Especially noteworthy are lucid, concise essays on Jewish philosophers and theologians from Philo and Maimonides to Rosenzweig, Buber, Heschel and Levinas – with excerpts from their writings.

A section titled *How Judaism Got Where It Is Today*, deals with such subjects as the Enlightenment, Zionism, anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and feminism. In a commendable non-partisan manner, Robinson outlines the history and major teachings of Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist Judaism.

In a recent interview, the author commented on his return to Judaism after many years of apathy and indifference. "I was anything but atypical. I'm one ripple in what is turning into a real wave," he said.

"My greatest ambition for this book is that it contributes to people coming back to their Jewish heritage," he added.

In the book's introduction he writes, "If one person who reads this book chooses to follow my path back to Judaism and experiences the joy, serenity, intellectual challenge, and emotional satisfaction that I have received in the decade since I walked into that synagogue, then my labour has been worth it."

What this work does not deal with is Jewish art, music or literature. The author is quick to admit that his already giant volume couldn't include everything.

There is an up-to-date 20-page bibliography, a time line of major events in Jewish history, statistics on Jewish populations around the world and an appendix on How Do I Know It's Kosher – An Orthodox Union Kosher Primer.

Essential Judaism should be welcomed by all those seeking a comprehensive, authoritative compendium on Judaism. I have read it with admiration and recommend it for home and congregational libraries.

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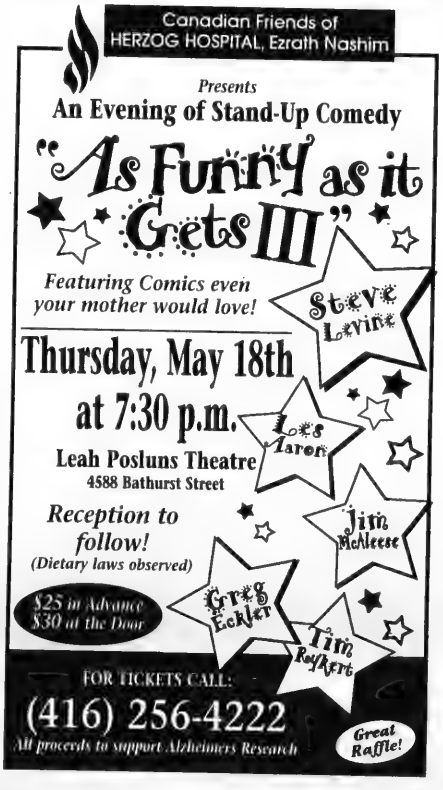

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Jewish Life

Kedma North American Conference an "I am Canadian" experience

By MOSHE LEHRER
Special to The CJN

"Canadia (that's not a typo) couldn't make it, but Montreal's here," one geographically challenged American screamed out, marking our arrival at Brandeis University.

The trip there had been somewhat uneventful, aside from an accidental 157 kilometre detour around Sherbrooke due to a missed exit, but we made pretty good time, considering.

Guest voice

On the last weekend of March 2000, Brandeis University, with its over 60 percent Jewish population, and BOO (Brandeis Orthodox Organization) hosted the first annual KEDMA North American conference, welcoming some 250 students from all over the United States as well as six "Igloo dwelling ambassadors from the ice-covered, moose infested state of Canada."

KEDMA, the international network of observant students, is the Orthodox partner of Hillel, and supports observant students on campus through a variety of inclusive educational and social action programs.

Over the course of the weekend, the students celebrated Shabbat together, learned Torah, planned future programs and showed the unity, strength and leadership of today's Jewish student population.

The conference also coincided with the Shabbat across North America program which had Jews across America celebrating Shabbat (hence the name) together. It was uplifting to know that as we said the kiddush, Jews all across this great landmass of ours were joining along, united.

During the dinner, I realized that the six Canadians were dominating the room. It didn't matter that there were 250 patriotic Americans in the hall, Montreal was running the scene.

We started the singing, we started the dancing – "You guys must be from Y.U." (Yeshiva University) one student remarked as we got into a heated chassidic niggun.

The song goes something like this: NAI NAI DA-NAI…NAIIIIIIIIII, NAI NAI NAI DA-NAI NAIIIIIII (repeat).

"No," we replied. "We're not from Y.U. We're from Canada."

"Oh, you mean Canadia."

I realized then and there that Canadians and Americans are different (and I'm not commenting on their inability to comprehend that Canada is not, in fact, tucked away somewhere near Mexico).

We should be proud. Maybe it's our Inuit upbringing, or our "seal blubber" diet, but something makes Canadian students more outgoing, more active, more proud to bask in their Judaism.

I'm basing this observation not only on this conference, but also on every experience I have ever had with Americans, which I admit may be somewhat limited.

The conference continued with great lectures by scholars, including Rabbi Yosef and Dr. Rivkah Blau, as well as a meditation seminar led by Barry Bender, KEDMA's U.S. director (Jewish Meditation's Motto: Don't just sit there…Do nothing).

After Shabbat we were treated to the music of Moshe Shur and guitarist C. Lanzbomm, the Jewish Carlos Santana.

Jews were bouncing up and down to the 45-minute jam sessions of such Carlebachian Jewish staples as *Dovid Melech Yisrael* and *Ki Va Moed*.

Students who care deeply about the Jewish people

Finally there was some spirit being shown amongst the Americans.

We have a theory about this – Brandeis is supposed to be a dry campus (Motto: Jews but no booze) but it's possible that some Americans may have moistened the campus somewhat, if for one night only.

I may have exaggerated slightly. The truth is that over the course of the conference, I saw 250 Jewish students who care deeply about the Jewish people.

Canadians and American Jewish students may have VERY different ways of showing their pride – but they both do. I saw tomorrow's leaders dancing there that night

Picture this: Over 200 Jews bouncing to Jewish music.

Now zoom out: Thousands of Jews dancing together on other campuses across the country.

Zoom out just a bit more: Some 13 million Jews worldwide, dancing together. United as one Nation. The future looks bright.

Moshe Lehrer is a second-year commerce student at Concordia University. For more information on KEDMA programs in North America and Israel, please visit www.kedma.org.il.

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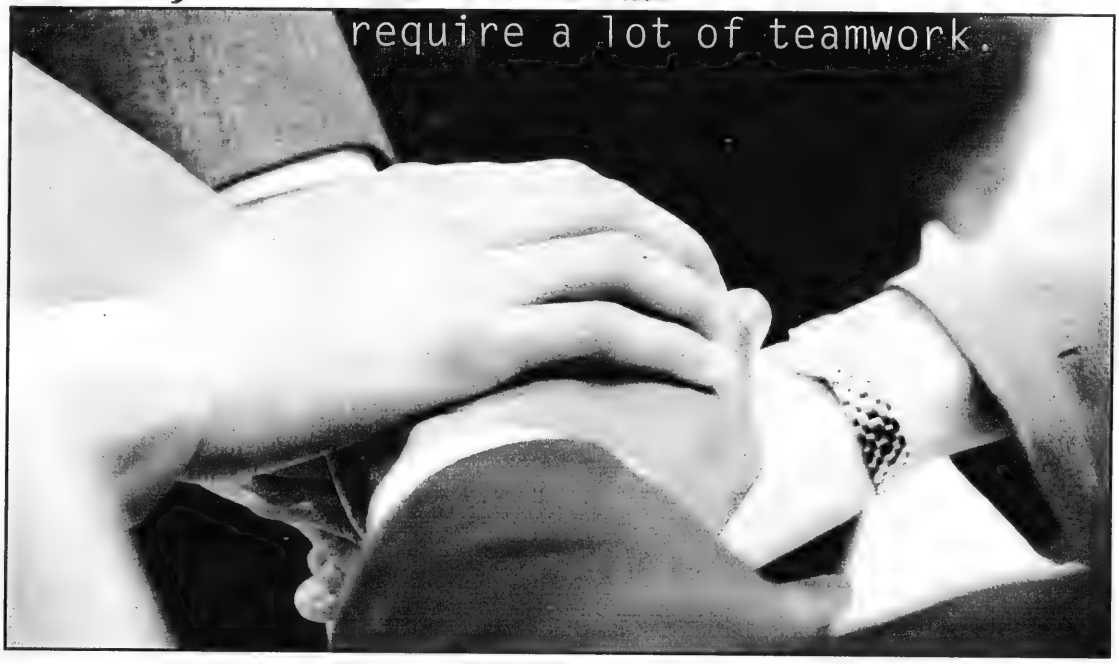

As Jews, the value of working together is ingrained in our history. In fact, it's among the most important sources of our survival.

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Rabbinical student wins leadership award

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Although Jill Borodin isn't sure exactly what she'll do when she finishes rabbinical school in 2001, she has no doubt that entering the program at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) was the right decision for her.

The 28-year-old Toronto native decided as a high school student at University of Toronto Schools that she wanted to work within the Jewish community, but it wasn't until she was completing her bachelor's degree in Middle East and Jewish Studies at McGill University that the thought of entering the rabbinate even occurred to her.

Jill Borodin

"I realized it was the perfect fit," she said in an interview at her parents' home, while visiting from New York for Passover.

Next year, Borodin will become the fourth Canadian woman to be ordained at JTS since the Conservative institution began ordaining women in the mid-1980s. She is working on a master's degree in Jewish education concurrently.

But it's her extracurricular involvements that stood out most when she applied for a scholarship recognizing leadership and commitment to community.

"She's very accomplished. We feel she shows a great deal of promise for the future," said Adi Neuberger, a member of the award committee for the annual Stephen Cooper memorial scholarship given at Beth Tzedec Congregation by the Cooper family. Cooper died in 1988 at age 18. Borodin received the award last week.

In addition to her JTS studies, Borodin teaches youngsters in a Jewish after-school program, teaches Hebrew language and prayer to adults, is involved in helping coordinate a homeless shelter at a synagogue, and participates in a pluralism project with rabbinical students of other denominations at CLAL – The National Jewish Centre for Learning and Leadership.

She took a one-year hiatus from her studies last year to spend time in Romania serving its Jewish community as part of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Jewish Service Corps, then volunteered on several projects in Toronto. She has also served as a rabbinic intern at a New Jersey congregation.

Finding time to pursue all her interests is a problem, she admits. "I really love what I do. I've succeeded in finding work that I've grown from, and that I find meaningful, so that drives me."

The product of what she describes as an observant Reform household, Borodin received her early Jewish education at Holy Blossom Temple, where her parents, Allan, a computer science professor, and Judy, a kindergarten teacher, are still members.

Her family is "very proud" of Jill, Judy said.

Borodin became more observant at age 16. When she is in town, she attends services at either the Narayever Congregation or at Beth Tzedec, where she co-taught a Talmud course with Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl last year.

"I love teaching," said Borodin. "I also know, for me, how much Judaism has provided an important framework for understanding the world and the meaning of life. I really love sharing this and helping people become empowered through becoming more comfortable and knowledgeable in their tradition."

Although she's interested in working with a congregation, at least in the short term, Borodin sees herself working in the realm of Jewish education on a long-term basis.

Borodin said the six-year rabbinic program, which is being extended over seven years in her case, doesn't feel like a long time. "It's very exciting. I love it. I love what I study. I love my community. I love the struggle to try and make sense of this and how to fit it into our life, the tension between being committed to the tradition and to a modern understanding of what the tradition means today."

Her experience in Romania taught Borodin how lucky she is to live in North America. Despite the cultural differences, Borodin felt she had much in common with the Romanian Jewish community of 12,000, because of the Jewish aspect.

"It made me more sensitive to how many groups we don't explicitly welcome into our Jewish community. We cater very much to the upper middle class. We don't always forget [about others], but there are many Jews in poverty and many who are much more disenfranchised."

She realizes now the importance of addressing both material and spiritual needs.

"I guess what I want to do is help people fall in love with their Judaism."

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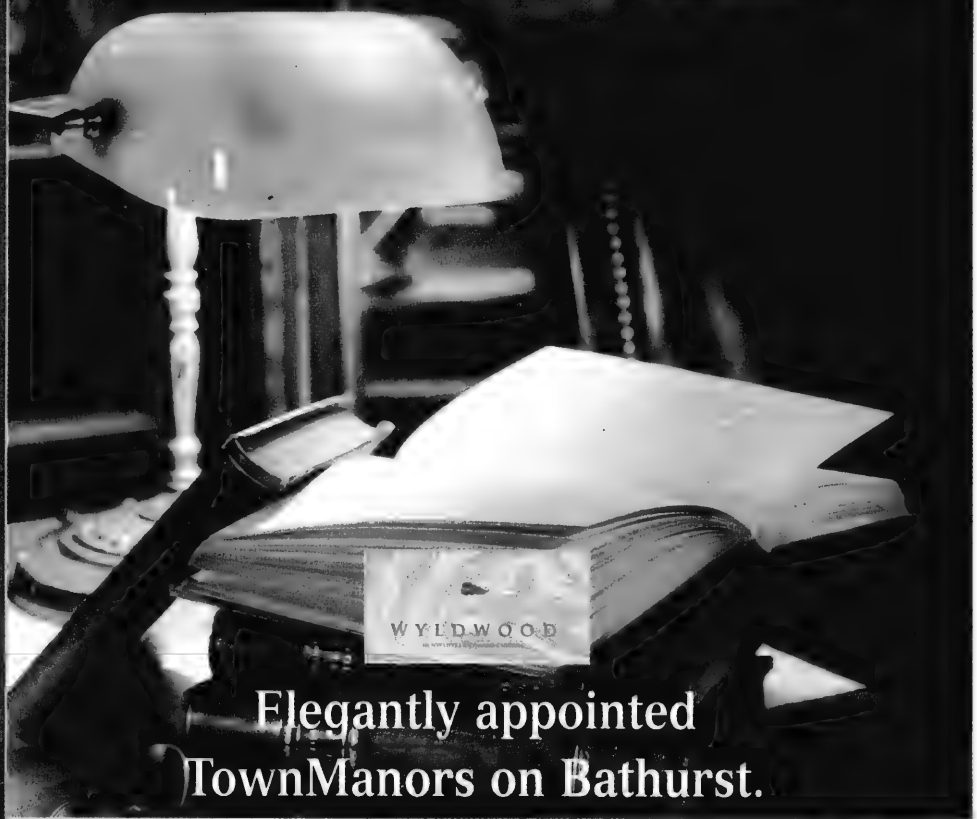

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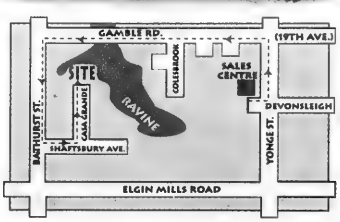

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Girls dance 'as never before' in competition

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Three Jewish girls were among the only group of Canadian ballet students to take part in the finals of a new international dance competition.

Sarah Clark, 12, Rachel Lieberman, 14, and Leia Saltzman, 13, along with nine fellow students from the Academy of Ballet & Jazz, took part in the Youth Grand Prix USA, held at New York's Tribeca Performing Arts Center, in early April. Their teacher, Nadia Veselova Tencer, founder and artistic director of their school, was a judge at the event.

It was very exciting to compete with the best ballet schools, said Veselova Tencer. Among the other schools were the American Ballet Theater, Boston Ballet, Kirov Ballet and San Francisco Ballet.

The three girls, all at the intermediate/advanced level in ballet, competed in four dances each. They brought back a bronze award for *Carmen*, a six-person classical contemporary ballet choreographed by Veselova Tencer.

From left, Leia Saltzman, Sarah Clark (holding award), ballet teacher Nadia Veselova Tencer and Rachel Lieberman pose at the barre. [Frances Kraft photo]

"They all danced as I never saw them dance before," she said. "They were really on a high."

The girls aspire to dancing careers and dance about 15 hours a week, juggling schoolwork and other extracurricular activities. Clark, a Grade 7 student, takes art and piano lessons, and is preparing for her bat mitzvah.

Lieberman, a Grade 9 student, also studies piano; and home-schooled eighth-grader Saltzman (daughter of Adath Israel Congregation's Rabbi Steven Saltzman) studies piano and voice as well. The two girls spent time in New York last summer studying at the Joffrey Ballet School.

"They have to be very focused and disciplined [in dance], and they apply that to school," said Margie Lieberman, Rachel's mother.

Leia's mother Shula Saltzman, who teaches modern dance at the Academy, kids that Leia started dancing before she was born.

In fact, the girls have all been taking dance lessons since age three or four.

"There's a lot of people who are very talented, and you have to work very hard to be what you want to be," said Leia, who enjoys dance as a way of expressing herself. "Everything [else] just disappears."

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Mothers respond to Matti Baranovski killing

Pair creates anti-violence stationery

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The November beating death of North York teen Matti Baranovski hit Maya Gold hard.

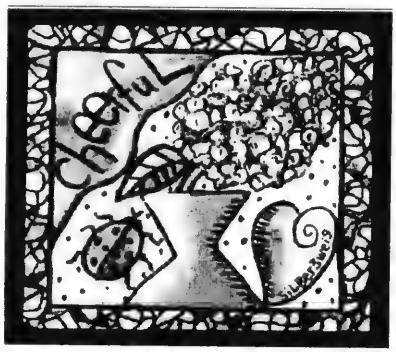
"Nothing in my life has affected me the way this murder did," Gold said.

Previous to Baranovski's death, Gold and business partner Sandra Silberzweig spoke about the frightening subject of youth violence. They were particularly concerned about a recent rash of school shootings across North America.

"We would be saying how scared we are for our children," she said.

But it was Baranovski's murder that profoundly impacted Gold. She said the murder touched her for a few reasons – she and Baranovski both come from Russian backgrounds and as the mother of two young children, she felt a mother's anguish.

"I was devastated from a mother's point of view," she said.



***Cheerful* by Sandra Silberzweig from The Whimzy Line of stationery.**

***Keep Achieving* by Sandra Silberzweig from The Whimzy Line of stationery.**

Also, for Gold, the killing happened very close to home. She was raised in the Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue area, close to G. Ross Lord Park where 15-year-old Baranovski was killed.

"I grew up in this area – he was killed in a park where I used to play," she said.

When Gold approached Baranovski's aunt and said she wanted to help the cause of violence prevention, the woman directed her to a non-profit charitable organization called L.O.V.E. (Leave Out ViolencE).

Gold and Silberzweig had designed a new line of gift and stationery products for Gold's firm, artz-axentz.com, an art and home accessories company. After finding out about L.O.V.E., they decided that part of the proceeds from this new line would be donated to the organization.

L.O.V.E. runs programs for teens who have been touched by violence, either having witnessed, been victim to, or perpetrated violence. After being trained, these teens educate others in the community about violence prevention.

Gold and Silberzweig's new line of stationery, called The Whimzy Line for its "whimsy nature," is bold and cheerful with bright hues of pinks and purples and uplifting messages such as "achieve success and balance" or "keep dreaming".

A sticker on the back of each product reads: "Our youth are the future. Let's break the cycle of violence and teach them LOVE."

Although the pair have not yet finalized the amount they will be donating to L.O.V.E., Gold estimates it will be between five and 10 percent of profits.

For September, Gold plans on taking the company's line of mini prints, personal journals and cards to as many Toronto-area schools as possible for use in fund-raisers.

Gold hopes that by getting her products into schools, L.O.V.E. will also make contacts and will be allowed to give presentations and hand out brochures to students.

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Feature

American Jews kvelled at Greenberg's success

Continued from page 2

The opening strains of the film's soundtrack – a Yiddish version of *Take Me Out To The Ballpark* – show how central baseball has been to the Jewish experience in America. But it's love that makes Kempner's creation so extraordinary.

Her documentary is a rich patchwork of archival footage, interviews with fans – among them, actor Walter Matthau – sportscasters and Greenberg's family. When these people remember Greenberg, it is clear they are reflecting on something that far transcends his athletic performance.

Harvard law professor, Alan Dershowitz, says: "He was what they said we could never be."

To Matthau, Greenberg was proof that a young Jew from New York didn't have to become a cutter or salesman in the Garment District. "He was part of my dreams. I wanted to be Hank Greenberg, I suppose, and I couldn't be Hank Greenberg. So I kvelled instead."

Michigan Senator Carl Levin says in the film: "Greenberg validated that this was the land of opportunity. Look, we could even play baseball!"

Rabbi Max Tichtin says: "I had this Captain Marvel – Hank Greenberg – on my shoulder. He was my big brother, my cousin, my mishpochah. He fought my battles in his absence. If a kid's bigger than you are, that's okay; if you're a Jewish kid, you've got Hank Greenberg on your side."

Greenberg wasn't the first Jewish ballplayer. But he was the first to keep his name. Michael Silverman became Baker. Rosenblum became Bennett. Cooney, Ewing, Kane and Corey were all Cohens in the off-season. Greenberg, however, was Greenberg.

Kempner said: "At the height of domestic anti-Semitism and the Nazis overrunning Europe, here was a Jewish ball player so good and so powerful. Two months after Hank nearly broke Ruth's record, Kristallnacht happened in Germany."

Years later, Greenberg said: "By 1938, if I, as a Jew, hit a home run, I felt I was hitting one against Hitler."

Kempner discovered Greenberg through her father, Harold, who left Lithuania for Pittsburgh in 1925 and later settled in Detroit. To Harold Kempner, baseball was a ritual of American assimilation and Greenberg was its symbol.

In September 1934, Greenberg considered not playing a crucial game during the league championship because it fell on Rosh Hashanah. Greenberg, and later a gaggle of Tiger fans, consulted a local rabbi, who found a convenient Talmudic interpretation, allowing Greenberg to play. The front-page headline of the *Detroit Free Press* read: "Talmud Clears Greenberg for Holiday Play."

Greenberg hit two home runs in that game for a 2-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox. The next day, the newspapers saluted him in Hebrew letters across its front page: "And so to you, Mr. Greenberg, Tiger fans say, "Leshano tovo tikosayvu!" Henry Ford and Father Coughlan must have choked on their coffee that morning.

Tigers manager Mickey Cochran warned his players: "Fellas, lock yourselves in your rooms tonight, because the Jews in Detroit are going crazy."

Hank Greenberg, however, did not play on Yom Kippur that year. Kempner's father was in Detroit's Shaarey Zedek synagogue when Greenberg walked in. His presence there moved the congregants to a standing ovation as four rabbis prayed.

"Six-feet-four!" recalls another fan in the documentary. "My God, nobody had ever seen a Jew that big. Everybody was 5-foot-5, 5-foot-6."

And so each year, while breaking the fast at Yom Kippur, Kempner listened to her immigrant father recount the story. "I thought Hank Greenberg was part of the Kol Nidre liturgy," said Kempner, now 53.

Kempner's father died in 1976 and Greenberg died of cancer 10 years later, the day before the opening of her first film, *The Partisans of Vilna*, a documentary about Jewish resistance to the Nazis in the Lithuanian capital.

For Kempner, documenting the life of a Jewish baseball player and chronicling Jewish partisans are not that far apart. "With *Partisans*," she said, "I tried to figure out the unanswered question, Why didn't Jews resist?, which was totally wrong. It should have been: How could they resist? With Hank Greenberg, I wanted to counter another stereotype – that Jewish men were nebbishes. There was another image, and for my ethnic background it was Hank."

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg was 13 years in the making. But for Kempner, it was a labour of love. A life-sized image of Hankus Pankus hangs in her home in Washington D.C. And what she has created is a beautiful valentine to the hero who lit up her father's life.

"Many a night, I'd turn down the lights," she said. "I'd look at Hank and say, I'm going to do it. Then I'd pray to my dad. I know he's up in heaven now, kvelling with Greenberg, saying, " 'You know, Hank, we got your story told.' "

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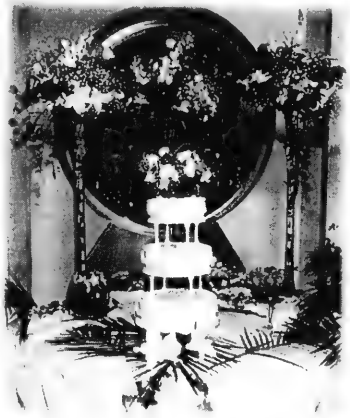

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CJ Food

Candy is dandy....

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

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CREAM CHEESE FUDGE

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Dash salt
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1 tbsp. vanilla

Using a mixer, beat the cream cheese until soft and then gradually add the powdered sugar and mix well. Add chocolate, salt, nuts and vanilla. Mix well. Pour the mixture into a buttered 8-inch pan. Chill several hours and cut into small squares. Makes 20 to 24 pieces.

DARK CHOCOLATE MINT FUDGE

6 oz. bittersweet (not unsweetened) or semisweet chocolate chopped
¼ cup marshmallow creme
1½ oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped
½ tsp. peppermint extract
1½ cups sugar
¾ cup sweetened condensed milk
½ cup water
½ cup whipping cream
¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter, cut into pieces

Line a 9x5-inch loaf pan with foil, overlapping sides. Place first 4 ingredients in metal bowl and set aside. Mix sugar, milk, water, cream and butter in heavy 3-qt. saucepan. Stir over medium-low heat until the sugar dissolves. Brush down sugar crystals from sides of pan using pastry brush dipped into water. Increase heat to high; bring to rolling boil. Reduce heat to medium-high; stir slowly with wooden spoon until clip-on candy thermometer registers 232. (about 9 minutes). Pour the boiling mixture over ingredients in bowl; do not scrape the pan. Stir the mixture in the bowl vigorously with wooden spoon until chocolate melts and fudge thickens slightly, about 2 minutes (mixture should still be very soft and glossy). Immediately pour fudge into prepared pan; smooth top with rubber spatula. Refrigerate fudge until firm enough to cut, about 2 hours. Lift fudge from pan, using foil as aid. Fold down foil sides. Trim ends of fudge. Cut into 24 pieces. (Can be made 1 week ahead. Chill in airtight container. Serve at room temperature.) Makes 2 dozen pieces.

CARMEL FUDGE

2 cups white granulated sugar
1½ cups heavy whipping cream
1½ cups dark Karo syrup
1 cup butter
1 tsp. vanilla
5 squares semisweet chocolate
2 cups chopped nuts (we prefer walnuts)

Butter a 9X13 cake pan and set aside. In large, heavy pan melt together the sugar, cream, Karo syrup and butter. Bring this mixture to a boil and boil until it reaches exactly 250 degrees on a candy thermome-

Continued on page 23

BAGELS

Bagels are Jewish
Always have been
Created in the Pale of Settlement
Long ago

When brought here, shunned by others
From an alien culture —
controversial too: not knowing
what they were missing

But Jewish bakers prepared them
Daily. Sundays, simchahs
Plain and traditional poppy seed
to spread with cream cheese and lox

Soon adding raisins, cinnamon, sesame,
all the extra tastes of the new world
Still shunned by others: not knowing
what they were missing

Then came the '80s
Even regulars discovered them now
Shaped liked donuts but much more,
nutrition, flavour, sophistication a
history brings; unique delicacy,
symbol of a culture

Suddenly others had to have bagels
too
Realizing what they had missed, reaching
for baggles, bugles or other misnomers

Even poor copies baked by beginners
in obscure places with odd-sounding
brands
— Happy Bagel, All American, Sunshine
Questioning their dignity with ham and
mayo
to go. Magen Davids nowhere to be seen

Now bagels adopted by most
Often believing them their own
Breakfast without may not be complete
Researchers study, laud discovery
of the remote genuine source

A shop in Carmel CA once proudly proclaimed
"Pizza made by real Italians"
What about "Bagels made by real Jews"
Let's share

by Daniel M. Fine

CJ Food

...but fudge is divine

Continued from page 22

ter. Take this mixture off the stove and add the chocolate and vanilla. Stirs until the chocolate is melted and then add the nuts. Pour this mixture into the buttered 9x13 cake pan. Cool in the refrigerator. This candy needs to be kept in the refrigerator as it gets too soft at room temperature.

WHITE CHOCOLATE FUDGE

1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened
4 cups powdered sugar
1½ tsp. vanilla
12 oz. white chocolate, melted
1½ cups pecans (or walnuts or macadamia nuts)

Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla in large mixing bowl at medium speed with electric mixer until well blended. Gradually add chocolate; mix well. Stir in nuts. Spread in greased 8-inch square pan. Chill several hours.

Note: you can use ¼ cup nuts and ¼ cup dried apricots or other dried fruit.

CREAMY KAHLUA FUDGE

1½ cup granulated sugar
1 7-oz. jar marshmallow creme
⅔ cup evaporated milk
¼ cup butter
¼ cup Kahlua
¼ tsp. salt
2 cups semi-sweet chocolate pieces
1 cup milk chocolate pieces
½ cup chopped nuts
1 tsp. vanilla

Line 8-in. square baking pan with foil. In 2-qt. saucepan, combine sugar, marshmallow creme, milk, butter, Kahlua and salt. Bring to a rapid boil, stirring constantly for 5 min. Remove from heat; add all the chocolate. Stir until melted. Add the nuts and vanilla and mix well. Turn into pan. Refrigerate until firm. Cut in squares. Makes approximately 2 to 3 lbs.

AMAZING FUDGE (VANILLA)

2 sticks (½ cup each) butter
¼ tsp. salt
2-lb. package confectioner's sugar, sifted
1 tbsp. vanilla
Scant ¼ cup canned milk or real cream

In a large saucepan melt the butter over lowest heat. Stir in salt and slightly less than ½ of the package of sugar. Stir until very smooth (some butter will still be on top.) Still over lowest heat, stir in milk and vanilla until smooth. Stir in remaining sugar and stir for 5 minutes, still over lowest heat. Turn into greased 9x13 pan. When firm, cut into small squares. Makes 3 lbs. of fudge.

PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

4 cups granulated sugar
1 cup milk
¼ cup light corn syrup
Pinch salt
1 pint (16-oz.) peanut butter (creamy or crunchy)
1 tsp. vanilla

Combine the sugar, milk, corn syrup and salt in heavy saucepan. Bring to a boil and boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Add the peanut butter and mix well. Bring to a boil and boil 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Add vanilla and beat until stiff and spread into buttered 9x9 pan. Cool and cut into squares. Makes about 1 lb.

FAST CHOCOLATE PECAN FUDGE

½ cup butter or margarine
¾ cup cocoa
4 cups confectioners' sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
⅔ cup evaporated milk
1 cup pecan pieces

Line square pan, 8x8x2 inches, with foil; set aside. In medium microwave-proof bowl, microwave butter on high (full power) 1 to 1½ minutes or until melted. Add cocoa; stir until smooth. Stir in confectioners' sugar and vanilla; blend well (mixture will be dry and crumbly). Stir in evaporated milk.

Microwave on high 1 minute; stir. Microwave an additional minute or until mixture is hot. Beat with wooden spoon until smooth; add pecan pieces. Pour into prepared pan. Cover; chill until firm. Cut into small squares. Store covered in refrigerator. Makes about 4 dozen squares.

More great food ideas can be found at www.cjnews.com/food/

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Panel #1 — From an Academic Point of View
When: Monday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Temple Sinai Congregation (210 Wilson Ave.)

The panelists are:
- **Prof. Debra Britzman** (York University School of Education and Social & Political Thought)
- **Prof. Ernie Lightman** (Economist/School of Social Work, University of Toronto)
- **Rabbi Dow Marmur** (Senior Rabbi from Holy Blossom Temple)
- **Prof. Arthur Ripstein** (Philosopher, University of Toronto Law School)

Moderator: **Nicole Rabba** (Sociologist, York University)

Panel #2 — From a Street Level Point of View
When: Monday, May 15th at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Shaarei Shomayim Congregation (470 Glencairn Ave.)

The panelists are:
- **Ron Cooper** (Formerly Homeless)
- **Steven Gray** (Lawyer, Armel, Gray)
- **John Stackhouse** (Journalist, Globe and Mail)
- **Gordon Wolfe** (Executive Director, Jewish Family & Child Service)

Moderator: **Peter Silverman** (CityTV)

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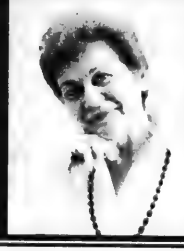
What's New

By Miriam Herman



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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 8, is deadline for May 18 issue and Monday, May 15, is deadline for May 25. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Sunday, May 7

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL

Israel Day festival celebrating Israel's 52nd birthday, sponsored by Canadian Zionist Federation at Mel Lastman Square, begins at 11 a.m. Opening ceremonies at 12:30 p.m. with **Mayor Mel Lastman**, **Meir Romem**, consul general of Israel, and other dignitaries. Attractions include a stage show, children's village, Israeli marketplace, kosher food, live auction, exhibits.

JEWISH FOLK CHOIR

Toronto Jewish Folk Choir celebrates its 75th anniversary and 1,000 years of Yiddish in its spring concert, 3 p.m. at Temple Sinai. Special guests include Trio Lyra, actor **Paul Soles** and composer/conductor **Ben Steinberg**. **Esther Ghan Firestone** conducts with **Lina Zemelman** at the piano. 489-7681 or 444-2332.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT EVENT

A day full of music, dancing, food, arts and crafts and tons of fun, all with a Jewish flavour, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Place in the Bathurst Jewish Centre. 636-1880, ext. 456.

JEWISH HEALING SERVICE

Toronto Jewish Healing Project Jewish Service for Healing led by **Rabbi Paul Golomb** and massage therapist **Mary Rykov** for everyone wishing to pray for physical, emotional and spiritual healing, 3-4 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building. **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**, 944-3359.

KULTUR GESELSCHAFT

At the Kultur Geselschaft meeting, **Simcha Simchovitch** speaks on The Yiddish Culture in the New Millennium, 8 p.m., Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W.

ROAD SHOW

Hadassah-WIZO Road Show, noon to 4 p.m. at Yonge-Eglinton Centre. Verbal evaluation of antiques and collectibles (limited to 4 items) – silver, paintings, jewelry, porcelain. Sponsored by B'not Aviva chapter. Proceeds to Youth Aliyah. **Ginette** 494-6176.

JEWISH GRANDPARENT

Rachael Turkienicz speaks on The Jewish Grandparent – A Parent Once Removed, 8 p.m., at Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave. 229-2600.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Congregation Habonim features scientist/newspaper columnist **Nick Emhecht** discussing Why Do We Sleep – Why Do We Dream, 10 a.m. Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave.

KESHET SHALOM

Keshet Shalom, Toronto's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Congregation, annual general meeting at noon at Bloor Jewish Community Centre. Dairy potluck. Rainbow Line 925-1408.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Random Passage by **Bernice Morgan** is discussed by the Older Women's Network, North York chapter Feminist Book Discussion Group, 2 p.m. Barbara Frum Library.

PIZZA BOWL

Bowling, pizza and drinks for singles ages 27-39 at Newtonbrook Bowling Lanes, sponsored by Sephardic Educational Centre. **Yaël** 905-669-7652, ext. 225.

GIANT GARAGE SALE

From Nostalgic to Eclectic – treasures, bric-à-brac, new and used clothing, kids' stuff, books, bake sale, run by Lomed branch, National Council of Jewish Women, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. 633-5100.

Continued on page 25

What else is New FOR SENIORS

Buying a suite at Two Neptune Drive is a great way for children to show an aging parent they care.

This extraordinary senior's residence is close to the many facilities at Baycrest Centre, and offers a community of well-appointed, spacious suites ranging in size from 1 bedroom to 2 bedrooms and a den. Each suite is specially designed with numerous features to enhance the lives of independently-minded seniors – things like easy-to-reach power outlets, wider doorways, larger bathrooms and more accessible kitchen cabinets. There's 24-hour emergency response and the option of additional support services if that ever becomes important. Truly, the time is now to give your parents the best of senior's living in the heart of the Jewish Community. But hurry, Two Neptune Drive is already over 60% sold out.

Call **(416) 932-2560** for more information, or to book a Free Seminar called: *"Your parent's health and where they live"*. **Next seminar date is May 24th.**

Now, turn the page!

What's New

Continued from page 24

Monday, May 8

ON BEING JEWISH
Johnathan Perlman's Symposium on Being Jewish deals with Education, Rabbis and the Future. Facilitated by **Henry Alkin**, 8 p.m. Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE
Prof. Adele Reinhartz series continues with Women in Their Fathers' Houses: The Daughters of Lot and Jephthah, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. 635-5340

BEGGARS IN THE STREET
Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee and Na Me Res (The Native Men's Residence) panel discussion asking Should We Give the Beggar in the Street a Coin? with **Rabbi Dow Marmur, Prof. Ernie Lightman, Prof. Arthur Ripstein, Prof. Debra Britzman** and moderator **Nicole Rabba**, 7:30 p.m, Temple Sinai. Ve'ahavta 964-7698.

YOM HAZIKARON
Erev Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) service featuring Jewish war veterans and guest speakers, 7 p.m. at Lodzer Congregation, 12 Heaton St.

Tuesday, May 9

DR. FILDERMAN LODGE BB
Dr. Filderman lodge, B'nai Brith, presents musician **Vladimir Radian** in a program of English, Yiddish, Hebrew and Romanian songs, 6:30 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St.

Wednesday, May 10

LUNCH AND BOOK REVIEW
LAF – Lively After Fifty, Jewish Women International lunch12:30 p.m. followed by a book review of *Welcome to the World Baby Girl* by **Fannie Flagg**. Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. Rooms A and B. Reserve **Lucy Alt** 667-8474.

RUG HOOKING
Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles features Traditional Rug Hooking with **Sheila Klugessheid** 8 p.m., Lodzer Holocaust Centre, 14 Heaton St. 402-7189.

Thursday, May 11

AN EVENING OF SONG
The annual gathering of Toronto Reform children's choirs, Erev Shira – An Evening of Song, is held at Temple Sinai this year at 7 p.m., co-ordinated by **Cantor Donna Faye Dower.**

WOMEN AS WITNESSES
Beth Tikvah Sisterhood's Jewish Women in the Next Millennium series continues with Women As Witnesses with **Rabbi Adina Lewittes**, 8 p.m., at Beth Tikvah.

BIBLE STUDY, JEWISH LIFE
Prof. Eric Lawee, York University, discusses Bible Study and Jewish Life, 8 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

And What Else Is New

HEART HEALTHY EATING
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation invites all 40ish Plus Jewish singles to a traditional Shabbat lunch featuring a gourmet meal with wine, on Saturday, May 13, following morning services (approximately 12:30 p.m.). Vegetarian option available. Guest speaker **Lisa Swimmer** speaks about Heart Healthy Eating in the New Millennium. Prepaid reservations required. 789-3213.

JEWISH HUMOUR
Join YUJJIES (Young Urban Jew, 20 and 30 something). Sunday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. at Indigo Café, 2300 Yonge St. for a lecture on What's Jewish About Jewish Humour? by **Rabbi Eli Garfinkel.** Sponsored by Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, the action committee for Jewish continuity of UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto and the Les and Minda Feldman Family Foundation. 485-7007 ext. 222.

STUDY LUNCHEON
At the Beth Tzedec Congregation Shabbat study luncheon Saturday, May 13, following services, **Prof. Everett Fox** of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., author of *Give Us a King! Samuel, Saul and David*, speaks on The Dual Image of David. Reservations (paid), by Tuesday, May 9. 781-3511.

ABOUT CLONING
Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast program, Cloning: You'd Better Believe It! with **Dr. Allen Gardner** Service 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30, lecture at 10.

SUMMER CLASSES
The Jewish Discovery Centre (near Yonge and Steeles) offers classes and events throughout the summer. Seminars: Torah and Science, Jewish Business Ethics, Child Educational Development. Classes: Chassidic Philosophy, Talmud, Introductory Yiddish, Laws and Customs, Mashiach topics, Hebrew. Starts May 15. Register 937-5373.

JEWISH SONG AND MUSIC
An Evening of Jewish Song and Music featuring **Dave Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner** of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, Saturday, May 13, 8 p.m., Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 789-5502. A tribute concert in honour of the memory of Izzie Fine.

COFFEE, TEA AND TORAH
For singles of all ages – Socialize, have choice of coffees, enjoy Torah tidbits with **Rebbitzen Loretta Tanenbaum**, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m., May 10, 17, 24, 31 at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 781-3514, ext. 34.

ANNUAL GALA DINNER
Shaarei Tefillah Congregation annual gala dinner Wednesday, June 28, reception 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:30 p.m. Draw, total cash prizes $10,000 and many other prizes. Early Bird draw, trip to Israel (May 28) For tickets, **Sharon** at shul office 787-1631 or **Richard Wine** 633-6889.

ZAREINU CYCLING EVENT
Zareinu Educational Centre's 3rd annual 100k/50k Cycling Event Sunday, June 18, begins in Kleinberg and ends at Earl Bales Park. Free Louis Garneau Cycling Jerseys awarded to first 200 riders who register and fulfil minimum pledge requirement. Pre-register **Shaindy** 661-1800.

JF&CS GROUPS
Jewish Family & Child Service groups. Register. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Divorce Education Program for Parents and Children, 3 sessions, begins May 23; Eating Disorder Group for Parents and Teens, begins May 9; Adult Children Losing a Parent, begins June 7; Separation and Divorce Group, begins May 24.

FOR SENIORS

Yom Hashoah Holocaust Commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and Jewish Resistance, Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. 4266 Bathurst St. (B'nai Brith Building). **Ella Krylov,** pianist/singer; **Roman Aizenshtat**, pianist/singer; candle-lighting ceremony, poetry in Yiddish Holocaust songs by **Dora Posluns**.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club Israel trip May 28-June 14, all inclusive; *Vaudeville*, King's Wharf Theatre June 14; *Second Time Around*, Gryphon Theatre, July 14; *Damn Yankees* Drayton Festival Theatre, Aug. 22. **Lena**7875-5773.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. May 11, Yom Ha'atzmaut party 7:30 p.m.; May 18, Israeli comedy movie; May 25, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday dances May 7, 21; Casino Rama, May 18, 31; Thousand Islands trip June 11-15; *Vaudeville*, King's Wharf Theatre June 14; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23; Fitness Mondays 9:30 a.m.; Ballroom dancing Tuesdays 10 a.m. 395-7881.

LZA Seniors Mother's Day luncheon May 10, 11:30 a.m. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. and Senior's Cultural Club Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

PAL Seniors trip to Imax Theatre to see *Island of the Sharks*, Thursday afternoon, May 18. 633-6885.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Spring Dance – Put a spring in your step and dance to the golden oldies, Sunday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.

Hearing Aid Checkup with **Barry Katz** Tuesday, May 9, 12:15 p.m. Book appointment ext. 131

Therapeutic Touch with **Florence Baum**, Tuesday, May 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, **Joan** ext. 126

Promoting a Healthy Home Environment with **Danita Aziza**, founder of Healthy Home Services Inc., and **Cheryl Shour**, founder of C & C Environmental Systems, Thursday, May 11, 1:15-2:30 p.m.

The City in History with **Sid Soban**, 5 sessions, Tuesdays 10-11:30 a.m., May 9-June 6. **Bookie Kwart** ext. 116.

Reiki. Treatments 7 sessions, Wednesdays 1-3 p.m., May 10 to June 21. **Joan** ext. 126.

Brain Aerobics, Thursdays 9:30-10:30 a.m., May 11, 18, 25. **Joan.**

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo. May 9, Yom Hazikaron; May 10, Yom Ha'atzmaut dance party; May 16, political lecture; May 23 sing-along, **Itzchak Argaman**. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie,*The Full Monty*, Sunday, May 7, 2:30 p.m.

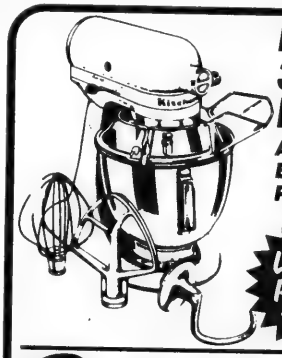
BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Books & Bagels features Winnipeg writer **Ed Kleiman** reading from his book of stories, *The World Beaters* Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m.

Seniors Club: Thursday, May 4, 2 p.m., Introduction to Tai Chi Chih with **Nancy Vermond**; Thursday, May 11, 2 p.m., concert, Yiddish, Hebrew, international songs by singer, flautist **Bluma Schonbrun**.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 36



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On Campus

Université du Québec à Montréal ends TAV program

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) has ended its agreement with the Torah and Vocational Institute (TAV) after one year.

UQAM declared that TAV has failed to require that students take enough French and that the segregation of students along religious, ethnic and gender lines is not in the spirit of the university's mission.

The decision was made by the UQAM senate after the professors' union filed grievances in February that too many of the courses are in English, as well as objecting to having separate men's and women's classes for TAV's 170 chassidic students, taught by professors of the same sex. The courses are taught and co-ordinated by UQAM staff.

UQAM said no new students will be admitted, but it will honour its obligation to students already enrolled in the three-year program, which leads to a bachelor's degree in computer science or business administration. However, UQAM indicated it will not teach gender-segregated classes anymore because that was not part of the contract signed between TAV and UQAM in April, 1999.

"The decision to not pursue the program was necessary when it became obvious that it was not responding adequately to the different needs of the three clienteles that are enrolled there," UQAM said in a press release. These groups are described as the Chassidim, immigrants, largely of Chinese origin, and francophone North Africans. No explanation is given of what that means.

UQAM does say that its experience with TAV has led to "deeper reflection" on "the necessary integration of allophone immigrants into university life and, in a more general way, on the openness to minority groups in society."

TAV academic director Eli Meroz, who has led a very public campaign to try to save the program, was saddened by the news. It, effectively, means the chassidic sector will cease to exist after this semester, he said. "They are not going to bend on their principles," he said of these students.

Since September, about 100 chassidic men and 70 women, have been studying at TAV's Outremont campus. The other approximately 380 students, attend the main TAV campus on Décarie Boulevard.

"This is all very unfortunate," Meroz said. "UQAM is making a tremendous PR blunder that is sending a negative message to the students and society in general."

UQAM says the segragated classes were an "accommodation" but would be "difficult to maintain given the principles, orientations and policies that govern the university."

"Granted the segregated classes is not written into the contract, but what is written is that UQAM would endeavour to meet the needs of the chassidic community, and its limited access to higher education in the past has been precisely due to this reason. Separate classes might not be in the letter of the contract, but cancelling them is not honest to the spirit," Meroz said.

Meroz feels it is unfair to judge the program's willingness to increase French and promote the diverse students' integration into Quebec society after only one year.

"Cancelling the program is certainly not going to help integrate minorities," said Meroz, who points out that the Chassidim and many of the other students were learning more French and gaining more exposure to Quebec francophone society through this program than they would otherwise.

UQAM and TAV have different interpretations of what their agreement was on the amount of French to be taught. UQAM says that it had "foreseen" that 20 to 30 percent of the classes would be French.

"The contract says 'at least' 10 percent of the classes would be in French. They may have hoped that would mean 20 to 30 percent, but it doesn't say that. Students were from the beginning required to take a minimum of three French classes, and we brought that up to five," Meroz said.

Meroz points out that UQAM's mission statement includes this: "UQAM exists to train succeeding generations and people already in the workforce to make the latest knowledge available to all social and cultural sectors and to serve the community by responding to its expressed needs... It fulfils its mission and involves staff expertise and student participation through partnerships with the community to develop new fields of training, research and creative endeavour..."

"I'd say they are not being true to that," he said.

Meroz said TAV is considering taking legal action against UQAM because the agreement was that six months' notice would be given before cancelling the program.

"I interpret that as meaning six months before the end of the three-year contract, but even if it means they can do it anytime, the effect of what they are doing now is immediately terminating the program, with no forewarning," he said.

TAV will also try to find another partner, perhaps again approaching Concordia University, which earlier was not interested, he added.

TAV has received sympathy from the B'nai Brith Canada League for Human Rights. "The existing relationship between TAV and UQAM sent an extremely positive message of rapprochement between the Jewish community and the Quebec francophone population," said chair Allan Adel. "Cancellation of this program represents a major step backward in relations between the communities."

Legal committee chair Steve Slimovitch added: "Forcing Chassidim of opposite sexes to study together, in complete violation of their religious beliefs, encroaches on their freedom of religion, and runs counter to the Canadian and Quebec charters of rights."

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On Campus

Goodwill gesture goes sour at UWO

By DAVID SKOK
Special to The CJN

LONDON — What began as a goodwill gesture ended up leaving a bitter impression and unanswered questions for many in the University of Western Ontario's Jewish community.

Several hundred students who had paid in advance for a recent Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) fraternity party were turned away at the door because of overcrowding.

In compensation to those who were not allowed in, AEPi, the only officially recognized Jewish Fraternity on campus, decided to donate all the proceeds to the Jewish National Fund.

This donation was announced the following Thursday in the *Gazette*, the university's daily student newspaper. The paper received an angry letter to the editor about the donation from two engineering students. The letter was published on April 4, but, it was later found out, the two had not signed their own names.

In the letter, the students wrote about being made to feel unwelcome by the University of Western Ontario's Jewish Community. The letter begins:

"Four years ago, we made the fateful decision to attend Western, believing it to be a diverse community in which each student could pursue their education in an environment without segregation. It took little time, however, before we realized there were many events or cliques at which we were not made to feel welcome, solely because we were not of the Jewish faith."

As an example, the students wrote that soon after coming to Western, they expressed an interest in learning more about Yom Kippur.

"We were quickly informed that unless we could say a prayer in Hebrew, we could not take part in witnessing the celebration," they wrote.

In one paragraph, the students angrily responded to AEPi's donation to the JNF.

"Why, when apologizing for an unfortunate incident at a party open to all Western students, did they decide to make a donation to the Jewish National Fund? What about all the worthy causes in our own country? Is planting a tree in Israel more important than feeding a hungry person in Ontario? It certainly isn't to us. Perhaps what you should be apologizing for is assuming that everyone who attended your party shared all your warped priorities," they wrote.

The university's Jewish community responded with an outpouring of letters to the *Gazette*.

"We received 40 e-mails and 15 written letters in the first eight hours after the letter was published," said Aaron Wherry, the Opinions editor of the *Gazette*.

In an effort to ease the concern over the letter, the *Gazette*, which normally reserves space for only one or two responses, printed 10 of the responses in the following three issues of the paper.

When asked why the letter was published without a background check on its authors, *Gazette* staff were unwilling to comment. They said that although the letter was published in the paper, it reflected only the views of those who wrote it.

Responding to the letter's claim that AEPi has "warped priorities," Eric Bernofsky, president of AEPi at Western said, "It is unfortunate that the one time we actually make an effort to publicize our charitable donation, it happens to be for a Jewish cause."

Bernofsky wrote in a formal letter published in the *Gazette* the following day: "We are known on campus as a non-religious philanthropic fraternity. Rock for Research, an annual cancer research event, and the serving of food at a local London shelter are but a few of our worthy causes."

Mark Driman, vice-president of community relations for the Jewish Students Union at Western, and Joshua Landy, vice-president of communication for the JSU, co-wrote in the *Gazette* on April 7: "It seems the spirit in which the letter was written was not one of cultural tolerance. The stereotypes they suggest are misleading generalizations, and we believe that the attitude they maintain borders on racial prejudice."

Eitan Szlak, a first-year business administration student also wrote a letter to the *Gazette*: "I was really shocked and disturbed that some students at this university could actually take the time and effort to write such a derogatory letter. I am really proud, however, at the way the entire community rallied around this cause."

The *Gazette's* last issue of the academic year was published on Friday, April 7, the same week that the letter was printed. As a result, this debate may not be resolved before the summer break.

David Skok is a third-year political science student at the University of Western Ontario.

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How religion may play politically

Although most of you were busy preparing for Passover (or watching the NHL playoffs!) you may have caught a recent *Globe & Mail* headline about the resurgence of religious sentiment among Canadian youth.

Some of us would register mild surprise that organized religion has remained dynamic. Within the political sector, however, the news of the Angus Reid poll (leaked before it was actually published) spread like wildfire. Political hacks immediately engaged in frenetic analysis of what the information meant for them.

The two parties most interested in the news were the New Democrats and the Canadian Alliance. The NDP hooked onto one of the themes that emerged in the poll, namely that while more than 80 percent of young Canadians identify with basic Christian tenets, they are not especially active adherents. Specifically, Canadian youth relate to the ethical values inherent in Christianity, but are less enthusiastic about ritual.

"That's us," said one senior NDP fixture, "and what we have to do is tap into that electoral vein to draw new support to the party" – not the most tasteful way to design an election strategy, but at worst, it amounts to exploiting an asset that already exists.

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

The more offensive conversations relate to the CA camp, suspect among the eastern establishment from the get go because of Reform's evangelical roots. All of a sudden, religious credentials have become a hot commodity.

Preston Manning's minions, who for 12 years have attempted to downplay his religious background, are now trumpeting it as a selling feature.

Tom Long's supporters have apparently been trying to establish his connection with basic Christian values (as if a man who has spent over half his 41 years in active politics would be the type to go to church every Sunday).

But the Stockwell Day camp emerged with the trump card. A supporter boasted that Day has the perfect combination of religious bona fides and James Dean-like rebelliousness (after all, he "confessed" to having smoked pot). "This will resonate perfectly with the most important electoral target group," crowed the supporter.

The sad part is that he is right. An Easter weekend CA poll indicated a significant increase in support for Day – not from new-found youthful members of the party, but rather from already committed CA members who are placing their bets.

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Holocaust and art focus of conference

MONTREAL — A two-day conference entitled Evocations of the Holocaust in Contemporary Canadian Arts will be held May 4 and 5 at the Gelber Centre of the Jewish Community Campus.

"This conference brings together artists, creative writers and cultural historians from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests to discuss the impact of the Holocaust in recent Canadian art, architecture, film, theatre, music and literature," said its co-ordinator Loren Lerner, of the art history department of Concordia University. It is being organized with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre.

The conference will feature different forms of presentation, including literary readings and video showings.

Among the invited speakers are theatre director Tibor Egervari on What to do with an Anti-Semitic Masterpiece; Norman Ravvin, who holds the chair in Canadian Jewish studies at Concordia University, on the topic The Holocaust as Buried Text: A Challenge in Fiction; writer Régine Robin on L'écriture de la fragmentation et l'Holocauste; Reesa Greenberg on Absences and Presence: Representations of the Holocaust in Canadian Museums; author Doug Beardsley reading from *Close to the Gates*; and Lisa Bleyer, whose subject is Healing Through Dance: Child of Survivor Seeks Catharsis in Choreography.

An art exhibition on the theme will open May 4 at 7 p.m. and continue until June 7 on the lower level of the campus. Artists represented are Sorel Cohen, Katja MacLeod Kessin, Mindy Yan Miller, Marie-Jeanne Musiol, Wendy Oberlander, Sylvia Safdie, Yvonne Singer and Marion Wagschal. They will engage in a dialogue May 4 from 8 to 10 p.m.

The conference is free and open to the public. Reservations should be made by calling 345-2605.

The event is also supported by the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal and the Concordia University Centre for Canadian Jewish Studies.

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Coast to Coast

Lubavitch couple makes inroads in Maritimes

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Mendy and Bassie Feldman have brought an energy to Halifax that hasn't been seen in decades.

Rabbi Feldman, director of Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes, and his wife Bassie have been in the largest city in the Maritimes for five years. They are slowly convincing the Jewish community that Chabad programs are worth attending, that being Jewish is something to be proud of, and that learning more about one's religion is acceptable.

Halifax, a community of 1,500 Jewish people, has two synagogues – Beth Israel, which is Orthodox, and Shaar Shalom, a Conservative congregation. Each shul has a Hebrew after-school program and has run occasional community events. The Atlantic Jewish Council has tried, with limited success, to encourage parents to send their children to Sunday youth programs.

However, the Chabad Lubavitch outreach program appears to be making inroads. The Feldmans made their first statement soon after arriving in 1995, when they started a summer day camp for children unwilling or unable to go to the AJC's Camp Kadimah.

"We had 10 children the first summer," says the rebbitzen. "Last summer we had 35," children enrolled in a program that emphasizes Jewish learning, but in a fun atmosphere.

"The first Purim we were here, we had 14 people at a Purim celebration," says the rabbi. "In March 2000, for a program on a Purim in the shtetl theme, we had 150 – men, women and children – many dressed up and all enjoying themselves."

His wife adds, "If we do it right, and people see our enthusiasm and the enjoyment of others, they will come. If they come for either the spirituality or the party, they'll get both. It's just nice to see people celebrate. Our Purim party was equal to [that of] any big city and the percentage of Jews was the same as the big cities."

Purim attendance goes from 14 to 150

Halifax is the first posting for the Feldmans. He's from Brooklyn, N.Y., and she's a native of Thornhill, Ont.

"We were asked to come to Halifax," says Rabbi Feldman. "We had our choice, but because of the enthusiasm and devotion of the Rebbe [Menachem Schneerson], we came here."

Bassie says most people in Chabad know from a young age that outreach work is what they'll do.

"This is considered to be the holiest work. We were offered Halifax, saw a need, and have made a permanent commitment to stay here."

The couple has two children, Zevi, 5, born five weeks before their move to Halifax, and Levi, 3. "We've grown into the community," says Bassie. "At the beginning, the people might have been skeptical of us, but they've seen us develop a home here with plans to stay forever. This is where the kids will grow up."

As there is no Hebrew day school, Bassie home-schools Zevi and will do the same with Levi.

The couple have taken a portable sukkah to the universities and have had the students make the brachah over the lulav and etrog. Last Sukkot, they attracted close to 100 students.

At Chanukah, Rabbi Feldman arranges for an 18-foot menorah to be raised in the Grand Parade, which is adjacent to City Hall in downtown Halifax.

Last year, Zevi said the blessings with Halifax Mayor Walter Fitzgerald, Nova Scotia Premier John Hamm and Lieutenant-Governor James Kinley in attendance. Afterwards, everyone ate latkes in City Hall. Bassie arranged for groups of women and children to attend a craft shop, where they made menorahs and dreidels.

On the 50th anniversary of the Rebbe's leadership, the Feldmans held a community auction during which people bid to take on various mitzvot, such as attending a daily minyan more often, or being more observant of Shabbat.

"We were the first Lubavitch community to do this," says Bassie. "Halifax is a leader, not a follower."

The Feldmans have led Shabbatons, and now hold a pre-school two mornings a week and a one-week day camp in December for both teens and pre-teens. Bassie also runs a kosher catering service for visiting Jewish families, and she single-handedly prepared a community seder for 40 Haligonians.

"We've surpassed our expectations," Rabbi Feldman says, "but we're not satisfied. Our goal is to reach every Jew, but mainly the unaffiliated. We want to reach people who aren't connected enough."

The couple holds a monthly Shabbat service, as well as High Holy Day services and services throughout the month of Tishrei at a small shul in their home.

But Bassie says their nachas is the camps. "We're trying to give the children pride in their Jewishness.

"With no day school, little programming and mostly non-Jewish friends, our camps give them a Jewish environment. We're proud of that."

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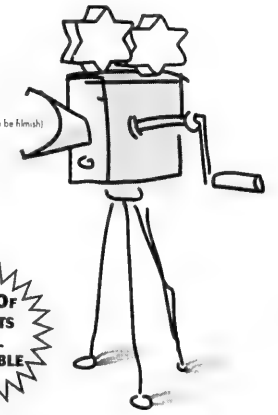

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Coast to Coast

'Virtual comedy' comes to life on new Web site

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — With 6,000 sites devoted to humour and comedy, the Internet can be a pretty funny place.

Now two of Montreal's best known personalities have their "sites" set on launching a new era of virtual world humour.

Andy Nulman, former head of the Just for Laughs Festival, and Garner Bornstein, president and CEO of Generation Net Services Inc., say that by June they plan to have a new concept in World Wide Web drollery up and running.

The two are combining their entertainment and business savvy to create the site, thefunniest.com.

It will serve as as 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week "virtual comedy festival," Bornstein said at a recent breakfast event of FEDERATION CJA's Hi-Tech and Communications Division and the Jewish Chamber of Commerce.

In an often funny projected-on-Internet-screen presentation, the two friends test marketed the idea on the 100 people at the breakfast, and tried to show how the site will be unique in the virtual world landscape.

"You're a focus group. If [the idea] crashes and burns," Bornstein joked, "you could say you were here."

So ambitious is their project and so high their hopes that the duo has spent the last months seeking to attract some of comedy's best-known names for the project. They've already signed Bob Newhart and Nathan Lane, and are negotiating with comedians Don Rickles and Robert Klein. They have also talked to Comedy Central, a U.S.-based cable channel.

They are considering launching the site publicly with a mega-event at New York's Radio City Music Hall in July.

What makes this comedy site different from all others?

Nulman and Bornstein stressed that the idea is not to be just another site with links. The difference lies in what thefunniest.com will do: It will be a creative "hub" or "platform" for everything from the passing on of jokes by Internet users and posting humour-based games, to a venue for stand-up comedy. (Newhart, for example, will be able to be seen doing his classic "telephone" routines on the site.)

It will give such routines "a whole new life" and make them accessible to generations who have never seen them before, Nulman said.

The site will also contain creative art and cartoons that will allow "raw ideas to be turned into the deliverable," Bornstein said.

A key to the site's success will be to give it "brand" identification, to create something totally different in the 500-channel universe, Bornstein said.

"You build a brand, and the business will follow," he predicted.

The two also hope to work hand-in-hand with the Just for Laughs festival, said Nulman, who described himself as "chief executive retina" of Eyeball Glue, a creative Internet and strategic content consulting agency.

Bornstein predicted that 20 percent of the site's content will be original, with the other 80 percent comprised of "aggregate" material gathered from a variety of sources.

"We can tap anyone with a funny idea for this new form of media comedy," Nulman said.

"This project is really positioned to take off," Bornstein said. "We'll be in a business we can really have fun with."

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

דער טויט איז אַ באַלעבאָס אין דייטשלאַנד

(צום יום השואה — כ״ז ניסן)

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אונטער דעם משוגהדיקן טיטל האָט די פראַנצייזישע דייטשישע טעלעוויזיע־נעץ, וואָס ווערט דאָ געווען אין אירע גלייכצייטיק געזען אין דייטשלאַנד, פֿאַרגעשטעלט צוויי אוונטן וועגן דער שואה. זיי זיינען געמאַנגען אין די שפּהען, ווען ס׳זיינען פֿאַראַן די גרעסטע צאָל צוהערער. דער טיטל איז געווען פון אַ בוך מיטן זעלבן נאָמען פון דער זשורנאַליסטקע **לעאַ ראַש**, וואָס האָט זיך קונה־שם געווען מיט איר צער־אַריקער אַקציע פֿאַר אירפשטעלן אין בערלין אַ דענקמאָל לכבוד די זעקס מיליאָן ייִדישע קרבנות. די געווייענע פֿילמען זיינען טאַקע צונויפּגעשטעלט דורך דער זעלביקער לעאַ ראַש צוזאַמען מיט פֿראָפּ׳ **עבערהאַרד דשפּקעל**, נאָך דעם ווי זיי האָבן באַזוכט געוועזענע קאָנצענטראַציע־לאַגערן אין געסטאַפּו אין ליטע, לעטלאַנד, פּוילן, אוקראַינע, רומעניע און פראַנקרייך. (איך קען נישט דערקלערן פֿאַר וואָס זיי האָבן אויסגעלאָזן דייטשלאַנד אין עסטרייך). זיי האָבן אויסגעפרעגט סיי ייִדישע און סיי ניט־ייִדישע עדות. זיי האָבן צוזאַמענגעפֿלאָכטן בילדער און פֿאָטאָגראַפֿיעס געפֿילמט בעת־מעשה דורך די דייטשן, אָקטוועלע פֿילמען, וואָס זיי האָבן געדרייט בשעת זייערע באַזוכן.

זיי האָבן קיין זאָך ניט אויסגאַהאַלטן פונעם שרעקלעכן גרויל און פון דער דייטשישער בעסטיאַלישקייט. זיי האָבן געוויזן די גאַדקאָמערן, די דערשיסונגען, די געסאָס, דעם ווידערשטאַנד פון וואַרשע, דעם אויפֿשטאַנד אין סאָביבאָר, דעם אָנשטייל פון די לעטישע, ליטווישע, אונגאַרישע אַן אוקראַיִנישע מערדערס, ווי אויך די אָקציעס פון דער פראַנצייזישער זשאַנדאַרמעריע און פֿאָלקסי.

דעם גרעסטן רושם האָבן אָבער איבערגעלאָזן די בילדער פון טויזנטער דייטשן, וואָס האָבן מיט שטאָלצקע קאָלבעס אין בייזע הינט געצווונגען די קרבנות זיך אויסצוטאָן נאַקעט אין זיי געשטופּט אין די גאַדקאַמערן און אין די צוגעגריטע טויט־גרייבער, דערשיסנדיק זאַרגפֿעלק די, וואָס האָבן זיך נאָך באַוועגט. מען האָט געזען ווי דייטשישע זעלנערס האָבן געוואָרפן דורך די פענצטערס לעבעדיקע, ייִדישע קינדערלעך, די שטראָמען בלוט און מאַרך, וואָס האָבן פֿאַרפלייצט די וואַלערטער. עס איז אונטערגעשטראָכן געוואָרן די נאַישישע, ליבערישע פראַפֿאַגאַנדע וועגן פּירן די יידן כלומרשט אויף אַרבעט, כדי זיי זאָלן ניט שטעלן קיין ווידערשטאַנד. מיט איין וואָרט: זיי האָבן ניט פֿאַרפעלט קיין איין אָספּעקט פון דער דייטשישער אויסגערעכנטער און מעטאָדישער אכזריות.

דאָס אַלץ האָבן נעוען אין געהערט די עלטערע דייטשן, וואָס האָבן אַליין געוומען אַן אונטיל אין די מוראדיקע שחיטות. אויך זיינען צווישן די צוהערער גע־ווען די יונגע דורות, וואָס זיינען געבוירן נעוואָרן קורץ פֿאַר אָדער נאָך דער מלחמה. קיין איינער פון די אלטע קען זיך ניט גרויסן דערמיט, אז ער האָט זיך אפֿגעזאָגט אָדער אויסגעמיטן צו שיסן אין צו מאָרדן. פֿאַרקערט, פון די בילדער אין געוועזן צו זען, אז די דייטשן האָבן דאָס געטאָן גערנווילק, מיט גרויס התמדה און אפֿילו מיט פֿאַרגעניגן.

ראָש אין דשעקעל האָבן ניט אויסגעפרעגט קיין איינעם פון די נאָך טויזנטער לעבנגעבליבענע מערדערס, וואָס דריען זיך אַרום פראַנק אין פּריי אין פֿאַרנעמען אפֿילו וויכטיקע פאזיציעס. עס וואָלט נעוועז אינטערע־סאַנט אין באַלערנדיק צו הערן, וואָס זיי טראַכטן איצט וועגן זייערע מעשים.

בעת דער דעבאַטע נאָכן וויין די פילמען איז געקו־מען אַן אינטערעסאַנטער אַריסטאָז מצד אַ דייטשישן יונגעלעכן. ער האָט באַטאָנט, אז ניט דייטשלאַנד אליין טראָגט די שולד פאר דער שואה, נאר די גאַנצע מענטש־הייט, וואָס האָט זיך קאַלטבלוטיק צוגעקוקט צו דער פֿאַרטילקונג פון די יידן אין גאַרניט אונטערגענומען, כדי זיי טיילווייז צו ראַטעוונען. זאָל דאָס פֿאַרבליבן אַ שאנד צו די שולדיקע אין זאָל דאָס ניט אויפהערן צו פּלאָגן זייער נעווינס.

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See Page 41

Barak may seek referendum on peace framework

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is considering holding a national referendum when, and if, Israel and the Palestinian Authority agree on the framework of a final peace accord.

Sources close to Barak said the prime minister discussed the idea with cabinet members from his One Israel bloc.

First, however, Israel and the Palestinians must agree on the framework – no small task in light of the slow progress in talks so far.

On Sunday, the two sides launched accelerated talks aimed at reaching the broad outlines of a final accord.

Negotiators face a mid-May deadline for agreeing on the framework, but the sluggish pace of two previous rounds of talks held in Washington have prompted speculation that the target date may be again postponed to June.

After agreeing on the accord's framework, the two sides will then have to conclude the accord itself by Sept. 13 to meet a self-imposed deadline.

The negotiators have four thorny issues topping their agenda – Jerusalem, Jewish settlements, final borders and Palestinian refugees.

In an effort to help speed the pace of the talks, U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross was expected to join the negotiators, who were to meet in the Red Sea resort of Eilat on Tuesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak

According to Israeli media reports on Sunday, Barak may soon transfer security control over three Arab towns near Jerusalem to the Palestinian Authority as an "advance" on a planned further pullback in the West Bank.

Barak would reportedly seek approval from his security cabinet for such a move, which is intended to build confidence in the talks with the Palestinians.

The villages – Abu Dis, Al-Azariya and Sawahara – are currently under Palestinian civil control and Israeli security control.

Arab towns near Jerusalem were initially to be included in an Israeli redeployment carried out several weeks ago.

But Barak came under political pressure from hawkish members of his government, and at the last minute the towns were excluded from the redeployment maps.

Barak began consulting Sunday with members of his coalition to see how they would react to his plans for advancing the negotiations.

Interior Minister Natan Sharansky, of the Yisrael Ba'Aliyah party, adamantly opposed the idea of transferring to the Palestinians, areas that "kiss Jerusalem."

I consider this a terrible mistake," Sharansky told Israel Radio.

"I truly hope we will be able to remain in the government," he added.

Barak's proposals draw criticism from both sides

Barak's proposals drew criticism from the Palestinian side as well. Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the Palestinian Authority would not accept any Israeli advance on the next redeployment without first knowing the total scope of the planned pullback.

Palestinian officials also cried foul when Israel announced its intention to build 170 new housing units in a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem.

Palestinian officials called the plans for Ma'aleh Adumim a betrayal of the peace process.

Meanwhile, ongoing tensions within Barak's coalition over domestic issues have cast doubt on the government's ability to make decisive political moves with the Palestinians.

The Shas and Meretz parties have been engaged for months in a dispute over funding for Shas' financially troubled school system.

Shas has repeatedly threatened to pull out of the government if it did not get government funds – and last Friday it was Meretz's turn.

Meretz, which controls the Education Ministry, said its ministers would resign from the government if Shas obtains special grants for its debt-ridden schools.

Meretz was responding to reports that Barak is ready to promise funds to Shas in exchange for its commitment to back the government's peace moves.

Yom Ha'atzmaut greetings

It gives me great pleasure to send you my greetings on Israel's 52nd Independence Day. Much has been achieved in our country during these 52 years. Millions of immigrants from the four corners of the earth have been successfully absorbed into Israeli society. Israel stands at the forefront in science, technology and agriculture and has attained recognition by most countries in the world and their leaders, who are anxious to visit and learn from our experience.

All this must be borne in mind when considering our ongoing struggle to achieve peace with our neighbours. This past year has had its full share of tragedies and setbacks. However, we must not become victims of helplessness and despondency. We are in the midst of a very difficult and protracted process with many painful contentions. However, just as peace treaties were concluded with Egypt and Jordan, I am convinced that eventually, these will also be achieved with the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon.

Israel's President Ezer Weizman

The stronger we are and the greater in number, the easier it will be to attain our goals. I therefore once again call on you, our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora, to join us in our own sovereign country. Together we will continue to progress and create an even better country for the future generations.

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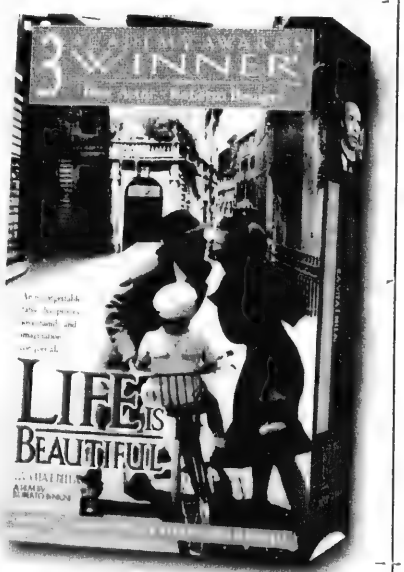


Lipstadt reflects on ordeal of Irving libel trial

Continued from page 1

In 1984, he blamed the cancellation of his book contract on Jewish organizations and cautioned that "they will live long to regret it."

In 1998, he compared American Jews' professional success to Jews in Weimar Germany and warned that such success might give "rise to the...same dire consequences as happened in Nazi Germany."

Regarding a Holocaust memorial in Baltimore, he asked, "Why do we need a memorial...we haven't done anything to the Jews yet."

I never anticipated the havoc this fight would wreak with my professional and personal life. At the post-verdict news conference, I was asked: "Given all that has happened, would you write the same things about Irving?"

The answer was "No." Were I writing my book now, I would write even more harshly about him. This legal action, which he instigated, allowed my lawyers to demand the release of reams of his personal papers documenting his activities. We know far more about him than we ever did before. We hoisted him on his own petard.

Deborah Lipstadt [RNS photo]

I fought him because I could not run from evil, even when the evil is rooted in nonsense, for nonsense can cause significant damage. *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* are proven forgeries that are based on a ludicrous premise. Nonetheless, they continue to circulate. The Holocaust teaches that evildoers must be stopped early, before they can inflict much damage. Hitler was far less of a foe in the early 1930s than in the 1940s.

So too, deniers must be stopped now.

Though I would never have placed myself in the arena with him, once dragged in, I had no option but to fight. I have consistently refused to debate deniers. I have declined appearances on talk shows and news programs because they entailed appearing with a denier, giving the hotion that there are two sides to this issue.

I have not yet fully unpacked what it meant to be a defendant in a libel suit that brought together the Holocaust, free speech and historiography. I shall never forget as I entered the court on the first day being told by survivors: "We are counting on you."

Nor shall I forget being enveloped after the trial by a man outside the courtroom who said: "My parents died in Auschwitz. In their name: thank you."

An experienced litigant, Irving may have assumed I would "settle," i.e. pay some symbolic figure, apologize to him and agree to the withdrawal of my book from publication.

Two years prior to my book's publication, Irving described what happens to defendants in libel actions: "There comes a very expensive stage for both parties known as discovery...discovery is an ugly phase, for plaintiff and defendant, when you face each across a lawyer's table...and you say, 'I want to see your documents and you can see mine.' And at that stage usually the defendants crack up and cop out."

I was wrong to laugh 20 years ago when I first heard about deniers. I was wrong to laugh when I opened the letter informing me that Irving was considering a suit. And I was entirely wrong to assume that it was just a nuisance. It was far more than that.

But David Irving was far more wrong than I if he thought that I would "crack up and cop out." I did neither. I fought this charge with all my strength. It was a demanding battle.

Yet, on some level, it has also been a surprisingly rewarding endeavour. It taught me much about evil, but it also taught me about goodness, friendship and about doing the right thing. That too is part of this story.

Deborah E. Lipstadt is Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University. On April 11, a British court ruled against Irving, who had sued Lipstadt and Penguin Books, the publisher of her book, Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory.

TORONTO

Probationary Firefighters

Help make our City a safer place for all.

If you like helping people, work well with others, enjoy learning and are physically fit, this is a great time to compete for firefighter positions at the City of Toronto for possible openings in 2001. In addition to firefighting services, you will perform rescue work, fire prevention duties, administer first aid, respond to emergency hazardous material situations, and maintain firefighting apparatus, equipment and fire stations. To carry out these duties, you must be able to handle intense, sustained physical effort, communicate clearly in English under stressful situations, and work shifts (including nights and weekends).

Qualified applicants must be legally eligible to work in Canada, meet the prescribed hearing and visual requirements (20/30 in each eye without corrective lenses, and colour vision that is safe for firefighting), and have completed a minimum of Grade 12 (or equivalent as approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education). A valid Ontario driver's licence and the ability to obtain a class D (minimum) with Z brake endorsement by the time of job offer are also essential.

The first stage of the recruitment process is a written test, to be conducted beginning June 13, 2000. For further information on dates, times and locations, and to learn more about the recruitment process, you may do the following:

1. Pick up a recruitment information package, between May 8 and June 8, 2000, at one of the following locations:

   North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street
   York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Avenue West
   Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
   Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive
   Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall
   East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Avenue

2. Attend a Firefighter Career Information Session at the Toronto Fire Academy, 895 Eastern Avenue, Toronto, on one of the following dates:

   Saturday, May 13, 2000 — 10:00 a.m.
   Saturday, May 27, 2000 — 10:00 a.m.
   Tuesday, May 30, 2000 — 7:00 p.m.
   Thursday, June 8, 2000 — 7:00 p.m.

3. Call the Toronto Fire Services recruitment hotline at **416-392-FIRE (416-392-3473).**

4. Check our Web Site at: **www.city.toronto.on.ca/index.htm**

5. You must pre-register for the written test. **Registration forms must be recieved at Human Resources, York Civic Centre on or before noon, Friday, June 9, 2000.**

6. Candidates who pass the written test will be invited to apply. At that time, applicants will be required to submit copies of their Standard First Aid and CPR Level "C" certificates (current to within 24 months of the application deadline). Those not issued by the Canadian St. John Ambulance or Canadian Red Cross must be accompanied by written certification of equivalency from the issuing agency in order for the application to be considered.

Committed to employment equity, the City of Toronto encourages applications from Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, racial minorities and women.

Infighting in Tehran may affect trial of Iranian Jews

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The trial of 13 Iranian Jews accused of spying for the United States and Israel resumed Monday morning in Shiraz. The closed door trial, which began more than two weeks ago, takes place amid rising tensions between conservatives and reformists in Iran.

Husein Ali Amiri, head of the Shiraz district judiciary, earlier alleged that four of the accused have admitted to spying, but there was no independent confirmation of Amiri's claims.

The 13 were arrested in Shiraz and Isfahan and two months ago. Three were released on bail, one of them a 17 year old. Charges against these three were said to be "less serious."

An Iranian daily Monday quoted Amiri saying, "We will not allow any political gimmicks" in the trial, a reference to the fact that the suspects are Jews.

"We shall try the suspects as Iranian citizens," Amiri said.

He was also critical of the significant presence of foreign news agencies to report the trial, calling them "opportunists who turned a flea into an elephant."

The mounting tension between the reform and conservative movements in Iran is providing a colourful backdrop to the trial. Last week, the conservative administration closed down all reformist newspapers, and in the last month, Revolutionary Guard units, the backbone of the conservatives, have been on full alert amid expectations of violent protests by reformists. Other extremist conservative militias, the Ansar Hezbollah and the Basij, have been reported as preparing for clashes. Violent demonstrations swept Iran in July 1999.

President Mohammed Khatami, supported by the reformists, said last Saturday that he is worried about the deteriorating domestic situation and fears an eruption of violence.

Some analysts think the internal struggle in Iran could also be played out during the trial of the Jewish suspects. Diplomats and human rights organizations fear that the Iranian conservatives, who control the legal system, could influence judges and use the trial to strike a blow at the reformists.

Israel & the Jewish World

Forward Editor forced to resign

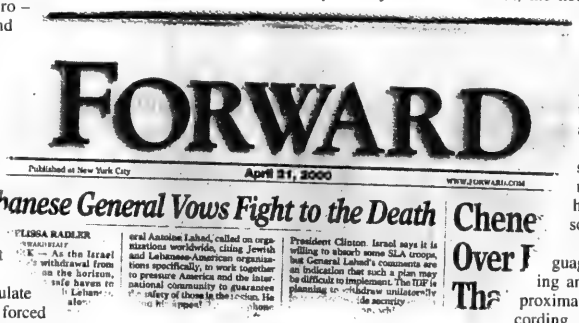
By PETER EPHROSS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — When Seth Lipsky was negotiating to launch the English-language edition of the *Forward* more than a decade ago, many touchy subjects came up, but perhaps none more combustible than that of Ze'ev Jabotinsky, Menachem Begin's ideological forefather.

Lipsky knew that Jabotinsky was the archenemy of the Labour Zionism that serves as one of the ideological underpinnings of the Forward Association, the longtime publisher of the renowned Yiddish paper.

But on that day in 1987, Lipsky – who considers the militant founder of Revisionist Zionism a hero – didn't back down, and the negotiations temporarily broke down, according to one source.

The talks with the board that owns about half of the paper were eventually restarted, leading to the creation in 1990 of the English-language *Forward* with Lipsky at its helm.


FORWARD

Published at New York City — April 21, 2000 — WWW.FORWARD.COM

...hanese General Vows Fight to the Death

Chene... Over J... The...

FLISSA RADLER

...K — As the Israel ... withdrawal from ... on the horizon, ... safe haven re... ... Lebanon ... alee...

...eral Antoine Lahad, called on organizations worldwide, citing Jewish and Lebanese-American organizations specifically, to work together to pressure America and the international community to guarantees ... safety of those in the region. He ... appeal ...

President Clinton. Israel says it is willing to absorb some SLA troops, but General Lahad's comments are an indication that such a plan may be difficult to implement. The IDF is planning to withdraw unilaterally ... security ...

But as reports circulate of Lipsky's imminent forced resignation, the Jabotinsky conflict reflects the ideological struggles, over past as well as current politics, and eventually led to his presumed ouster.

Lipsky's departure date has been officially announced. He will be gone as of May 25. The terms of his departure have not been disclosed.

The paper is jointly owned by the Forward Association and a partnership funded by philanthropist Michael Steinhardt. In the wake of Lipsky's resignation, Steinhardt announced that he will sell his share of the paper back to the Forward Association, thus leaving the Assocation alone to absorb the financial losses the paper has been incurring – or to look for other donors.

Steinhardt said in an interview, he believed the *Forward* could survive without his financial involvement if the Forward Association chose to let it.

Soon after Lipsky was appointed editor of the paper, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg wrote the Forward Association, saying that while he supported Lipsky's right to express his opinions, "to do so on the money accumulated on a socialist or social democratic platform" – as the *Forward* had – was absurd.

At the time, says Rabbi Hertzberg, now a visiting professor at New York University, the board virtually ignored his letter, turning it over to Lipsky.

But a decade later, the board appeared to share his conclusions. Sources say that after Sam Norich took over as general manager of the association in 1998, he began pressing for Lipsky's removal.

Norich made it clear that he did not feel the *Forward's* tradition was being well served, according to a source familiar with the developments.

Norich and Harold Ostroff, chair of the newspaper, declined to comment, citing the ongoing negotiations.

In retrospect, the relationship between Lipsky and the association was a marriage that was destined for divorce.

The Yiddish-language *Forvertz*, which in the 1920s had a circulation nearing 250,000, had made its name as the voice of immigrant socialism – but not communism – and the Jewish labour movement.

Lipsky, on the other hand, came from a background that included time at the staunchly free market and politically conservative editorial board of the *Wall Street Journal*.

He hewed to a hard line on peace both with Syria and the Palestinians, most recently attacking Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak for having a "double standard" for "assiduously courting and praising the dictator at Damascus, Hafez al-Assad."

As egregious to those members of the Forward Association, he published blistering editorials and incendiary front-page articles attacking beliefs long held by the majority of the Jewish establishment on such issues as welfare reform and school vouchers.

Indeed, the Jewish establishment came under constant criticism – some would say slander – for what Lipsky saw as its liberal ideology and clandestine operations.

A recent headline, If Police Spot a Clown in the Capitol, It Might Be Steve Solender on the Job, referred to the president and chief executive officer of the United Jewish Communities.

Some 39 executives of local Jewish federations signed a letter in last week's edition, protesting the headline.

He wrote several editorials attacking the UJA-Federation of Greater Philanthropies of New York for what he saw as the unfair advantage that the *New York Jewish Week* enjoys because contributors to the New York federation automatically receive subscriptions to that paper.

Indeed, reaction to the news of Lipsky's apparent ouster among Jewish organizational officials – many of whom assiduously read but simultaneously revile the paper – was swift.

"You can't go around slandering people and not think you're going to pay a price for it," said a key leader in the Jewish organizational world, who asked not to be identified.

But, added this insider, the *Forward* might not be as interesting if Lipsky does leave.

Lawrence Rubin, the executive vice chair of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, an umbrella group that the *Forward* often attacked, said, "I think that the *Forward* has been independent, but it hasn't maintained journalistic standards."

Jewish officials often complained to Steinhardt, the hedge-fund manager-turned-philanthropist who has devoted increasing resources to the Jewish world, and to the Forward Association.

Some observers say all of this may not have mattered had the paper not lost so much money.

But the English-language version is suffering annual losses of approximately $2 million, according to *The New York Times*. Its circulation never topped 30,000, and it never achieved the daily publication envisioned by Lipsky.

"If Lipsky had succeeded in creating a going concern, he might have gotten away with it, but he didn't create a going concern," said Hertzberg.

Both past and current staff have come to Lipsky's defence.

In a letter to Forward Association officials, past staff members, several of whom have gone on to careers at such publications as the *New York Times Magazine* and the *New Yorker*, wrote: "It would be devastating both for the cause of free journalism and for the Jewish community if the *Forward* were to cease publication; it would be equally terrible, however, if the *Forward* were to continue to publish without Seth Lipsky at its helm. Seth is not merely the editor of the English-language *Forward*, he is its animating spirit."

Meanwhile, the president of the company that publishes the *Detroit Jewish News* and the *Atlanta Jewish Times* says the developments at the *Forward* will not affect those papers, of which Steinhardt recently invested and became chair.

"The reasons why Steinhardt is involved in Detroit and Atlanta stand on its own merits," said Arthur Horwitz.

Meanwhile, the staff is working with the increasing feeling that they might be working aboard a sinking ship.

"Morale is in the toilet," said one staffer.

JTA Editor Lisa Hostein contributed to this report.

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Many Russian Jews are dodging the draft

By LEV GORODETSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — Dmitry Neverovsky is out of jail, but he is not out of trouble.

A Russian court released the Jewish computer programmer, who was given a two-year jail sentence in November for refusing to serve in Russia's war in Chechnya, pending an appeal.

But Neverovsky, 26, is not allowed to leave his native city of Obninsk, located southeast of Moscow, until his appeal is heard.

Neverovsky is not alone in wanting to avoid the bloody Chechen war. The number of Russians, Jews and non-Jews alike, who are avoiding the draft has skyrocketed since the war broke out last fall in Chechnya with Muslim guerrillas, prompting the chief of the Mobilization Department of Russia's General Staff, Col. Gen. Vladislav Putilin, to complain of a manpower shortage.

Even though all Russian males under the age of 27 must serve in the army, Jews are particularly reluctant to do so – and this is nothing new.

Since the mid-19th-century reign of Czar Nicholas I, whose mandatory 25-year military service for Jews was considered a certain death sentence, Jewish families have, with the exception of World War II, generally tried to avoid having their sons conscripted into the Russian army.

"All Russian Jewish parents are terribly afraid of the army because of the old army tradition of anti-Semitism and because of the war in Chechnya, and try to put their boys in the universities by all means," said Vladimir Shapiro, a leading Jewish sociologist in Moscow.

Many potential Jewish draftees are ineligible because they receive an exemption by attending university, where they complete some kind of "military instruction course." After graduation, they become part of the reserve corps, which is normally not called up for duty.

Other Jewish draftees, as well as their non-Jewish compatriots, try to dodge service by getting a medical deferral, getting a job at a strategically crucial firm – or by simply bribing draft board officials.

Jewish high school students can also avoid the draft by enrolling in one of the Jewish Agency for Israel's programs for high school students that send boys and girls to complete their schooling in Israel. After the students complete their schooling, many boys stay in Israel to avoid service in the Russian army.

Jewish Agency offices in Russia and Ukraine have run into problems on this issue with the authorities, who are not happy with this additional drain on potential draftees.

"Normally I wouldn't have had much against the service. But with the Chechen war and hazing, I am going to use every possible way to avoid the army in Russia, including emigrating to Israel and serving in the Israeli army," says Konstantin, 17, one of whose parents is Jewish.

But Neverovsky never used any of these escape routes.

In 1995, he dropped out of the Obninsk Institute of Atomic Energy's course in military instruction in protest over the first war in Chechnya, which ended in 1996.

"Dmitry didn't want to have anything to do with the army, which wages war against its own people," said his mother, Tatyana Kotlyar, who is a member of the Obninsk city council and a campaigner for the right to alternative military service.

When the military tried to draft him after he graduated in 1997, Neverovsky tried to use his constitutional right to alternative civilian service and even sued the draft board for this right, but lost the case.

The current situation tests Russian President Vladimir Putin's vow to impose the rule of law.

In 1996, Russia's Constitutional Court ruled that "the right to alternative service should be ensured, regardless of whether the corresponding federal law has been passed or not."

But draft boards and judges pay no attention to this ruling.

At the same time, many are accusing Putin of a "creeping militarization of schools" after his recent decree to revive military training for 11th-graders in Russian state schools.

I see this decree as a "step back in the democratic process. Military training should be voluntary and the right to alternative military service should exist," says Vyacheslav Leshchiner, director of the state-run Jewish ORT school in Moscow.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Pittsburgh's Jews shaken by shooting spree

By PETER EPHROSS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Jewish facilities in Pittsburgh are increasing security measures following last week's shooting rampage that killed five individuals from minority ethnic groups – including one Jewish woman.

Richard Scott Baumhammers, 34, allegedly began his spree by killing Anita Gordon, a Jewish woman who was one of his next door neighbours and a family friend.

Security guards and city police officers patrolled the city's JCC building in Squirrel Hill, which was also requiring members to show ID cards before entering, while the suburban Jewish Community Center of the South Hills temporarily went into a lockdown after the shooting occurred last week.

Rabbi Neal Scheindlin of Beth El Congregation of Short Hills, one of two synagogues that was fired upon in the rampage, said the synagogue will buy a new security system.

Police have charged Baumhammers with one of the murders and he was awaiting arraignment for the others. State and federal authorities are determining whether he should face hate crimes charges.

The Jewish victim, Gordon, a 63-year-old married mother of three daughters, was known for her work as a volunteer at Beth El Congregation.

"Many members talked of her as if she were a second mother," said Rabbi Scheindlin.

Three of those also killed in the spree were immigrants – an Indian man, Anil Thakur, and two Asian men, Thao Pham and Ji-Ye Sun.

An African American man, Garry Lee, was also shot and killed.

THE DINING GUIDE

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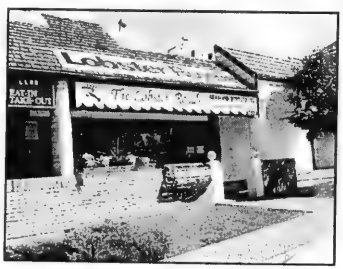

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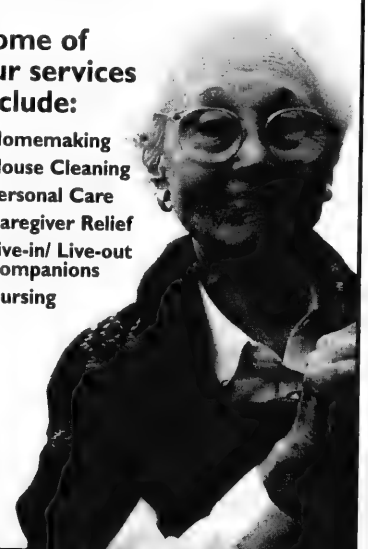
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Israel & the Jewish World

Israel, West watching developments in Iran

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

Iran is being convulsed by a struggle of historic proportions, pitting Islamic hardliners against Islamic reformers. Israeli leaders are watching this unfolding ideological battle with the utmost interest, hoping that moderates will prevail, open up Iran to the West and reassess Iran's current policy of hostility toward Israel. Iran severed diplomatic relations with Israel 21 years ago, and turned into an implacable foe.

Iran has been under the thumb of a staunchly theocratic regime since the 1979 Islamic revolution, when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ousted the pro-western Pahlavi monarchy. But in the past three years, much to the chagrin of Islamic radicals, Islamic moderates have scored two major electoral victories which have had the effect of broadening democracy and civil rights in this pivotal Middle Eastern nation of 65 million people.

In May 1997, Mohammed Khatami, a former aide to Khomeini, was elected Iran's president in a landslide triumph. Several months ago, the reform movement, which Khatami has encouraged, won three-quarters of the seats in parliament.

As a result of these victories, Khatami started to loosen some of the onerous restrictions that have oppressed ordinary Iranians.

A relatively independent press began to emerge, and in the most recent signs of liberalization, the regime gave Iranians permission to possess "immodest" pictures, video films and cassette tapes for personal use only.

Despite these developments, the hardliners, spearheaded by Ayatollah Ali Khameini, Iran's spiritual leader, are still very much in charge, controlling the police, the armed forces, the judiciary and the courts. Given the enormous power they wield, the hardliners have tried to hold back the tide of change by means of a campaign of intimidation and violence.

Shortly after February's parliamentary elections, gunmen riding a BMW motorcycle of the kind restricted to the Iranian police and army shot and critically wounded Saeed Hajjarian, a newspaper editor, a Tehran city council member and a close associate of Khatami.

The shooting came on the heels of a series of incidents instigated by hardliners in 1998 and 1999. In short order, they arrested two of Khatami's most important allies – Gholamhossein Karbaschi, the mayor of Tehran, and Abdullah Nouri, the minister of interior, and crushed a student revolt in the capital.

Last week, the hardliners dealt the moderates a grievous blow by closing all 16 reformist newspapers, including one owned by Khatami's brother. They also arrested three journalists and charged two others with offending "religious sensibilities."

The hardliners are also behind the imprisonment of 13 Iranian Jews accused of spying for Israel. Their trial, which began on May 1, is widely regarded as an anti-Western exercise designed to embarrass the moderate camp in Iran.

In a bid to strengthen moderate forces, the United States has tried to establish a new relationship with Iran. In March, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright abolished a ban on the import of Iranian luxury goods ranging from caviar to carpets.

Yet Washington is still a long way off from restoring ties with Iran, broken off in 1979 when militants seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran. A resumption of relations will only be possible, Washington says, when Iran stops supporting terrorism, drops its opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace process, and ceases efforts to acquire non-conventional weapons of mass destruction.

Mohammed Khatami

Although Khatami has said that Iran will not interfere in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, his assurance carries little weight with hardliners. Due to their influence, Iran has not relaxed its hostile attitude to Israel, whose very existence it opposes. Six months ago, Ayatollah Khameini described Israel as "a cancerous growth."

Since Khatami's emergence on the scene, Israel has reclassified Iran from an "enemy" to a "security threat." Yet Israel remains wary of Iran, which continues to supply Hamas and Hezbollah with weapons and with moral and financial support.

Iran reclassified from enemy to 'security threat'

According to Gen. Shaul Mofaz, Israel's chief of staff, Iran will try to foil a peace agreement between Israel and Syria, the likelihood of which has greatly diminished in the past month.

It would therefore seem that an Israeli-Iranian rapprochement is still far off.

Israel's status at UN to change?

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — After years of lobbying and disappointment, Israel may be on the verge of changing its status as the only United Nations member shut out of a regional group.

Israel moved one step closer to membership in the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) last week, when UN ambassadors from the 15 countries that comprise the European Union agreed that Israel should be accepted to WEOG as a full – albeit temporary – member.

Israel's logical place is within the Asian grouping, but Iraq and Iran show no sign of ever welcoming Israel. Israel sees its next best choice as the 26-member WEOG, which also includes the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Analysts say the group has dragged its feet on admitting Israel because some members are concerned about angering their allies in the Arab world.

Membership in one of the UN's five regional groupings is more than symbolic. An enhanced status for Israel would mean a stronger voice in UN affairs, though exactly how strong a role it could play would depend on any conditions that might be placed on Israel's membership.

The development comes as Israel, which has often felt isolated and unfairly singled out for condemnation in the world body, has expressed concern that it may be a target at the UN conference on nuclear non-proliferation, which is taking place this month in New York.

Israel is one of four countries that has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and it has not officially admitted to having nuclear capabilities. The other non-signatories are Cuba, India and Pakistan.

The WEOG development also comes in the wake of Israel's formal announcement that it will comply with the 1978 UN resolution that calls on it to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

It is not clear whether either of these issues will affect – positively or negatively – WEOG's decision to accept Israel.

But as Portugal's ambassador to the United Nations put it, "Everything is political in these delicate issues.

"The atmosphere is always more favourable in the minds of politicians if positive steps are taken" in the Middle East, said Antonio Monteiro, the ambassador from Portugal, the nation currently holding the rotating presidency of the European Union.

As a result of last week's meeting, the European Union was to recommend Israel's full membership to WEOG, Monteiro said.

Momentum favours membership

"The EU now has a unified position," Monteiro told JTA. "We realized we could not delay this any more. Israel naturally belongs to the Asian group, but since conditions do not exist, the principle of exclusion should not prevail."

Israel's membership in WEOG would be temporary, he said, with the ultimate goal of getting Israel accepted by the Asian group.

The momentum clearly favours Israeli membership, but negotiations are far from over.

The devil will be in the details, say observers – in this case informing Israel of what WEOG calls "modalities."

Monteiro described them as the various practices and mechanisms designed to avert clashes between WEOG members big and small, northern and southern.

Monteiro went to lengths not to refer to modalities as "conditions," but that is how they are viewed by Israeli and American Jewish officials.

Indeed, in light of the fierce competition for appointments to key WEOG and UN committees, these officials express concern that Israel may be allowed in only if it agrees to forsake certain posts and other rights to which all other members are entitled.

But Israel believes such conditions would remain an injustice and would continue to violate the UN charter, which holds that each UN member is equal.

"We have said all along that we do not want to substitute one anomaly for another anomalous situation," said Aaron Jacob, Israel's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

"We are willing to accept certain temporary limitations, but we are not willing to accept restrictions that will render our membership meaningless."

Another diplomat close to the negotiations, who requested anonymity, said the modalities may also be an effort to appease the Arab and Muslim states in the United Nations, who constitute a huge, influential bloc.

No European member wants to be seen as "the one that allowed in Israel," said the diplomat, noting that those states could threaten an economic boycott.

"The Europeans may want to water down Israel's membership," he said, "so they can tell the Arab world that we let them in, but not entirely."

Israel was inching toward WEOG membership in the mid-1990s, until the November 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. The Europeans were loath to reward his replacement, Benjamin Netanyahu, with WEOG membership because of his perceived intransigence in peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

At the same time, some within WEOG were concerned that opening the door to Israel might encourage others in Europe, like the Baltic and central Europeans countries now in the Eastern European grouping, to bang on the door for WEOG membership.

The European outlook changed with last year's election of Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

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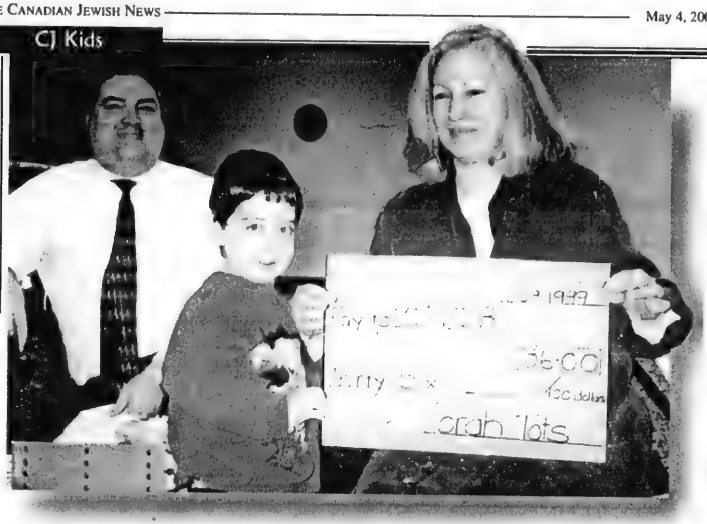

SEEING ALSO FROM THE HEART: Torah Tots Pre-school recently invited Ronna, the school's blind friend from the CNIB, to help teach students about the human senses. The children also collected tzedakah to help the blind.

WAVE THE FLAG FOR ISRAEL: This file photo shows students from Or Haemet Sephardic School having fun on Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Day of Independence.

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CJ Kids

Families, Baseball and Shabbat

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

It is often very difficult to adjust to having a new stepfather or stepmother in your life, even if he or she is very nice. Sometimes, well, more than sometimes, it seems that if you let yourself get close to a step-parent, you are being disloyal to your natural parent.

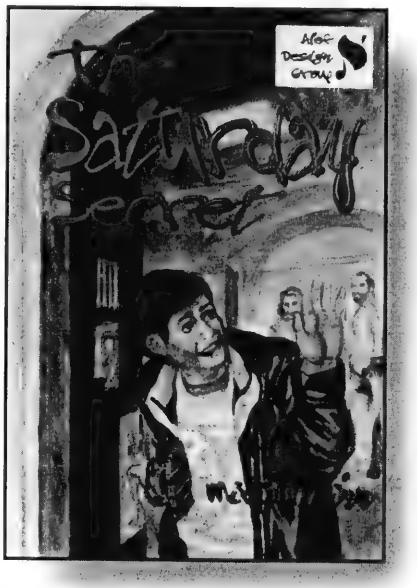
It is even harder when the step-parent tries to change the way the family lives.

That's the challenge facing Jason Siegel in *The Saturday Secret*, by Miriam Rinn (Alef Design Group, 1999). In the first place, it seems like David, his stepfather, has made his mother forget all about Jason's own father.

To make matters worse, David has become religious, and insists that the family keep kosher and observe Shabbat. He even wants Jason to wear a kippah. All these things wouldn't be totally awful, except for the fact that it is baseball season.

The team is doing very well this year, and Jason is the star pitcher. The problem is that some of the games are on Saturday afternoon.

Jason is very angry that everything seems to be changing without his having any say. He is upset that he can't play Nintendo on Saturday and that he can't celebrate his birthday at a Chinese restaurant. (The fact that David arranges for the family and some of his friends to go to a kosher Chinese restaurant helps a little.)



Jason decides that although his mother is going along with David's ideas, he doesn't have to. He arranges to pick up his uniform and glove at a friend's house on Saturdays, telling the family that he is going to visit his grandfather, or that he is taking part in a shul function.

Naturally, the truth starts to come out. In the process, Jason realizes that his stepfather has a lot of good qualities. He is understanding when a black friend of Jason's is treated badly at a restaurant, he apologizes when he blows up at Jason and hurts his feelings, and stands up to the abusive baseball coach, when no one else has the courage to do so.

But then, Jason gets hurt at a baseball game. Meanwhile, his parents think he is at a synagogue rally for the homeless. He is convinced that his family won't break the Shabbat rules to come and help him.

Jason gets quite a surprise by what happens – and in the process, learns what being a religious Jew really means.

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Arts & Travel

Two films cement our impressions of modern Israel

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Although at first glance, the two Israeli films, Aaron Cohen's *Debt* (1999) and *Late Summer Blues* (1987) seem markedly different in plot, tone and structure, they bear more than a passing similarity in their dual depictions of the bureaucratic altar of the Israeli state, on which individual needs, dreams and even lives are sacrificed.

They are among a handful of Israeli films being showcased at this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival, May 4 to 11 at the Hyland Cinema on Yonge Street north of St. Clair Avenue.

Seeing these two excellent cinematic offerings in juxtaposition may cement our impression of modern Israel as a far less kind and gentle society than it was 30 years ago, and one far more enmeshed in the ugly social realities of selfishness and bureaucratic corruption.

After coming up against the state, characters in both films experience a loss of innocence and life. In director Renen Schorr's well-received *Late Summer Blues*, which is set in the peacenik era of 1970, a troupe of young student musicians wrestles with the inevitability of military service and the necessity of curtailing their musical antiwar protests. Those who die are fallen heroes struggling for the common good.

Moshe Ivgi in Aaron Cohen's *Debt*.

In Aaron Cohen's *Debt* (directed by Amalia Margolin), the protagonist is a middle-aged man (Moshe Ivgi) who is arrested at his own birthday party for failing to make an alimony payment.

Led away by police, he descends into a Kafkaesque nightmare in prison as his daughter, a singer in a band, repeatedly tries to redeem him. Alas, the police computer is down and none of the officers care to intervene: they're preoccupied by a soccer match. This time, tragedy results because no one will take the responsibility to help someone in apparent difficulty and pain.

Based on a true story that rocked Israel, Aaron Cohen's *Debt* is a riveting and disturbing portrait of police indifference, compounded by a subsequent coverup. As compared with the wistful warmth of *Late Summer Blues*, which tells of the coming of age of a hopeful generation, the newer film is a shocking indictment of an ugly and cynical side of Israeli life.

Both films present young hopeful musicians who awaken to difficult social realities, but the awakening in the earlier film is soft and gentle, and brutal and traumatic in the latter.

In Hebrew with English subtitles, *Debt* is being screened Wed. May 10, 8:15 p.m. with writer Alon Bar and actor Moshe Ivgi in attendance.

Also with subtitles, *Late Summer Blues* is scheduled for Friday May 5, 1:30 p.m. It's being shown with the Israeli short, *Striptease*.

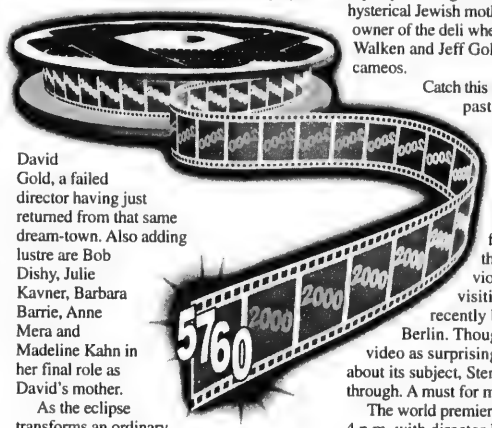
***

It's hard to convey the essence of *Judy Berlin* (1999), though not the excited reactions it tends to generate. An American-made black-and-white feature written and directed by Eric Mendelsohn, *Judy Berlin* focuses on the intertwined lives and aspirations of a curious ensemble of characters (some Jewish) living in a Long Island commuter town called Babylon, on the afternoon of a long, and increasingly surreal, solar eclipse.

Judy Berlin combines all the short-story sharpness of Rod Serling's *Twilight Zone* with the starkness of *The Last Picture Show* and the refreshing quirkiness of *Fargo* (without, I'm happy to report, any of the violence).

Mendelsohn, a young Woody Allen-like author, honed his craft working as a minor technocrat on numerous of Allen's flicks. Not surprisingly, this, his first feature film, lassoed the best director award at Sundance last season.

The cast sparkles. Edie Falco plays the eponymous lead, an aspiring actress about to leave for Hollywood; Aaron Harnick plays David Gold, a failed director having just returned from that same dream-town. Also adding lustre are Bob Dishy, Julie Kavner, Barbara Barrie, Anne Mera and Madeline Kahn in her final role as David's mother.



As the eclipse transforms an ordinary sleepy day in Babylon, the strange light illuminates the lonely lives of its inhabitants in peculiar ways and turns the suburban vista into a dreamscape.

Experimental and exhilarating, *Judy Berlin* is a delightful and finely rendered minimalist sketch that turns its back on the overblown demands of modern audiences for Hollywood-style plot formulations. It's filled with unexpected moments, humour and inventiveness. Don't even try to explain it: just enjoy it.

Judy Berlin is playing Monday May 8, 7 p.m. and again Wed. May 10, 2 p.m.

***

Commendably, this year's festival revisits a few familiar but rarely screened titles such as *Next Stop, Greenwich Village* (1976), by American director Paul Mazursky (also known for *Enemies: A Love Story* and *Down and Out in Beverley Hills*).

Funny, lighthearted and charming, *Next Stop* tells the purportedly semi-autobiographical tale of Mazursky's own youthful experiences with a bohemian crowd in New York's Village circa 1953.

Lenny Baker and Ellen Greene make brilliant cinematic debuts as, respectively, would-be actor Larry Lapinsky and his girlfriend. Equally dazzling are Shelley Winters as Larry's hysterical Jewish mother and Lou Jacobi as the owner of the deli where he works. Christopher Walken and Jeff Goldblum deliver sparkling cameos.

Catch this memorable blast from the past on Tues. May 9, 9:30 p.m.

***

The 44-minute German documentary *Violin Up! Isaac Stern in Cologne*, focuses on a few master classes with the 79-year-old legendary violinist, who is also shown visiting Daniel Libeskind's recently built Jewish Museum in Berlin. Though some may regard the video as surprisingly light on background about its subject, Stern's character still shines through. A must for music lovers.

The world premiere occurs Wed. May 10 at 4 p.m. with director Michael Meert in attendance.

***

In keeping with its longstanding tradition of offering obscure Yiddish classics, this year's fest offers *Der Yidishe Nigun* (The Jewish Melody), which Josef Seiden directed in America in 1940; the cast includes Izidor Casher, Lazar Freed and Chaim Tauber. The songs are by Sholom Secunda.

Everything about this musical romantic comedy, which focuses on two pairs of mismatched lovers who straighten everything out just as they reach the altar, is slow and old-fashioned. But that's to be expected: the joy comes from a handful of fine comic bits that are well worth the price of admission.

Since subtitles are present but sparse, working knowledge of Yiddish is a definite asset when viewing this newly struck print. Screened with the 13-minute Canadian short, *Village of Idiots*. Sunday May 7, 1:30 p.m.

***

For tickets to any festival film, contact the Toronto Jewish Film Festival box office at 416-324- 9121 or visit the Web site at www.tjff.com.

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Play is an autobiographical peek at actors' relationship

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Joe Bologna and Renée Taylor celebrate 35 years of love, marriage and comedy.

TORONTO — *If You Ever Leave Me...I'm Going With You!* playing at the Winter Garden Theatre is a multi-visual autobiographical stage show co-written by Renée (*The Nanny*) Taylor and her husband Joe (*Big Daddy*) Bologna.

The audience gets to peek into the personal and professional lives of the two actors, directors, screenwriters and playwrights of 40 works, including the Oscar nominated *Lovers and Other Strangers*.

"The show is a celebration of love, marriage and comedy over the 35 years we've been together," Taylor says. "It tells the story of how we met and fell in love, and what we were writing during our relationship. We do comedy scenes together from plays and movies we've written. I get to fall in love with Joe every night all over again. You can't do comedy unless you are in a state of love."

It was love at first sight, Taylor says, at least on her part. "I was looking for writing help. Our mutual manager introduced us. He said, 'Here's a guy you're going to have a comedy rapport with,' and the minute I looked into Joe's eyes and shook his hand, I thought, 'This is the man I'm going to marry.'

"He later told me that when we met, he thought, 'This woman is looking at me very funny.'"

The play recaptures their unusual wedding reception on *The Merv Griffin Show*. Taylor was a regular on the show, and she kept Griffin's viewers informed on the progress of her relationship with Bologna.

Once she became engaged, she planned to have a reception at New York's Tavern On The Green, but complained on air to Griffin about paying $12 per person for chicken – pricey in the '60s.

"Merv said, 'Let me give you the wedding reception right here on stage. We'll make a home movie and show it on my television show.' I thought it was a great idea. Joe thought it was a bad idea, but it turned out to be great, because 35 years ago, marrying a Jew was a big deal. So, a lot of people weren't going to come to the wedding, until they found out it was going to be televised."

As you will discover in the play, this was the first of five weddings for the couple, she a New York Jew, he an Italian American Catholic.

"The first time, we had to get married in the Catholic Church or his family wouldn't come. The second time, it was a Jewish wedding or my family wouldn't come. We had such a good time at that wedding that we got a rabbi to marry us again. The fourth time, we had a Protestant minister we know marry us, and the fifth time, we had a Buddhist wedding with chanting bells – it was beautiful," Taylor says.

Although she strongly feels a Jew is always a Jew, she and Bologna have taken pleasure in being blessed by clergy of many faiths including the Pope and the Dalai Lama, she says.

"The Jewish faith is very exciting to me. My son Gabriel is a Holocaust scholar and a certified Nazi Hunter for the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. His Greek wife is studying the Kabbalah and converting to Judaism. Their son, my grandson Juiliano Giovanni Bologna had a bris."

Taylor and Bologna have a long list of credits on film, television and stage together and independently. Most remember her as wacky Sylvia Fine on *The Nanny*.

Projects they produced together include their first effort, called *Lovers and Other Strangers*, which garnered them an Academy Award nomination when it was made into a movie. Other projects included the Emmy Award-nominated special, *Paradise*; the Emmy-winner, *Acts of Love and Other Comedies*; and the couple's third motion picture collaboration, *It Had To Be You*.

Currently, their stage hit *Bermuda Avenue Triangle* is being made into a movie.

In addition, Taylor is a best-selling author, having penned *My Life On A Diet*, a spoof on "how to" celebrity health books.

When the couple find time to relax at home, Taylor enjoys her garden. "I like to sit in my beautiful garden. I have plants from all over the world. I love my roses. This was Shirley Temple's house when she was young and I think the roses are that old."

Admitting only to being in her very, very late 30s, Taylor says, "I'm at the best part of life now. I can really grow as a person, learn things and go deeper. I'm most interested in finding the meaning and wisdom of my life."

If You Ever Leave Me...I'm Going With You! plays until May 28 at the Winter Garden Theatre. For tickets call 416-872-5555.

Middle East history for idiots

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Has there ever been a moment when the Middle East was not in turmoil politically or militarily?

A coup in Egypt or Syria. A Palestinian uprising in the territories. A civil war in Yemen. The Arab-Israeli wars. Islamic fundamentalist terrorism. Fighting in Lebanon.

The list goes on and on.

As a source of incessant tension and unpredictability, the Middle East is certainly quite dependable.

But if the whirl of events confuses and confounds you, Mitchell Bard's book, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict* (Alpha Books); will come as a great relief.

Four hundred and seventy pages in length, it is encyclopedic in breadth and stylistically easy to read. It is balm to readers who haven't always been able to grasp the shifting complexities of this vitally important region.

Not a stone is left unturned. Broadly speaking, Bard begins at the beginning, with the patriarchal period, and ends with the most recent diplomatic developments in the Mideast peace process.

More specifically, Bard fills in the blanks regarding the rise of the modern Zionist movement and of Arab nationalism, the monumental effects of World War I on the area, the evolution of the Jewish community in Palestine, the Palestinian Arab backlash, and the events leading up to the 1948 War of Independence.

Bard also analyzes the causes of Israel's subsequent wars with the Arabs, surveys the cycle of Arab terrorism and Israeli reprisals, and charts the growth of immigration to and democracy in Israel.

In addition, he describes Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Israel, the Camp David accords, the Iran-Iraq War, Israel's incursions into Lebanon, the Gulf War, the Oslo peace negotiations, and Israel's peace treaty with Jordan.

The back of the book features a useful time line from 3000 BCE (the dawn of history in Sumer and Egypt) to 1999 (King Hussein's death), as well as a chart of the military balance in the Middle East.

Bard dispenses timely insights (almost all the borders in the Middle East and ill-defined or in dispute) and drops arcane but interesting facts (Nathan Birnbaum, a journalist, coined the word "Zionism").

In a volume of this size and ambition, factual errors are inevitable. Two examples will suffice: The Hebron accord was signed in 1997, not 1998. The War of Attrition lasted three years, not nearly two years.

Some of his assumptions are questionable.

Yitzhak Rabin, he claims speciously, "used negotiations as a fig leaf for what was essentially a unilateral withdrawal from the territories." A superficial assessment.

And Bard underestimates the Palestinian Arab fear of being displaced by Jewish settlers.

Despite these blips, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict* is recommended. It is well worth reading and constantly consulting.

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Arts & Travel

BOOKS & BAGELS FEATURES AUTHOR ED KLEIMAN

This monthly literary happening at the Koor JCC features Winnipeg writer **Ed Kleiman**, whose latest book of stories, *The World Beaters*, offers a parade of eccentric and bold klutzes.

Members free, non-members $8. Includes coffee, bagels & cream cheese. May 7, 11 a.m. 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Arts in Brief:

• Stage Centre Productions presents *Side by Side by Sondheim*, a celebration of **Stephen Sondheim's** works up to 1976. Now thru May 13 at Fairview Library Theatre. 416-299-5557.

• Comedy legend **Bob Newhart** brings his one-man comedy show to Roy Thomson Hall, $36.50-$56.50. May 10, 8 p.m. 416-872-4255.

• An Evening of Jewish Song and Music, a tribute concert in memory of **Izzie Fine**, features **Dave Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner** of the **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band**. Morris Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $12 in advance, $15 at the door. May 13, 8 p.m. 416-789-5502.

• **The Yorkminstrels Show Choir** presents Musical Memories: May the Music Never End. Includes medleys from such musicals as *Showboat*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Ellingtonia* and many more. Leah Posluns Theatre. $15. June 3, 8 p.m. and June 4, 2 p.m. 905-294-3511.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

* * *

At the Galleries:

• The four regional watercolour artists known collectively as the **Wembley Group of Artists** offer their fourth annual exhibition and sale. Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre, 197 Main St., Unionville. May 4 to 14; doors open 10 a.m. Susan Cohen, 905-886-3808.

• Spectacle is a showing of the works of Ottawa-born artist **Mark Garland**, who builds life-sized figures from fibreboard, then uses paint and collage techniques to fashion them into creatures intended to represent various emotions. Gallery one2one, 326 Carlaw, suite 121. May 6 to June 3. Opening reception, May 6, 4 to 7 p.m.

• Works of photographer **Beverley Abramson** focusing on Italy's romantic mysteries are on view at the Robert Mede Gallery, 321 Davenport Rd., now through June 3. 416-966-9362.

• Sotheby's London is selling works by the Jewish-Russian artist **Isaac Ilich Levitan** (1860-1900), a celebrated landscape painter, as part of its Russian Sale. It's estimated that one Levitan painting, *Marshes in the Evening*, may fetch as much as 180,000 British pounds. May 10.

* * *

Doors Open Toronto: The city of Toronto celebrates its architectural heritage with the first-ever event meant to help the ordinary citizen get his or her proverbial foot in the door of scores of heritage properties that are normally closed to the public.

Doors Open Toronto offers free entrance to some 70 architectural gems such as the Flatiron Building, Osgoode Hall, the Arts and Letters Club, the Guild Inn, the Masonic Temple, the CP Roundhouse and many more. While similar events have proven vastly popular in Europe, Australia and Brazil, this is the first time such an event has been organized in Toronto.

"The time is right to show some pride in our architectural landmarks," say event organizers **Michael** and **Anne Tippin**, owners of several historic properties including the Flatiron Building.

The public is invited to a free launch party on May 26. For details, visit the Web site at www.doorsopen.org or phone 416-392-6827, ext. 265.

Auvers owes much of its fame to Vincent van Gogh

By WOLF ARNOLD
Special to The CJN

AUVERS, FRANCE — Auvers is a lovely town on the Ile-de-France where the Oise flows quietly and joins the Seine west of Paris.

Landscape painters benefited from this countryside of river and hills, supplying an endless variety of motifs. Beneath sloping fields to the north, huddle the houses of the village; there is the church, the town's square and the *Mairie* (city hall), bringing to mind a picture of a typical small town in northern France.

On a fine summer's day the sun rises here in all its glory, touching the golden wheat fields above town, while streets and lanes still lie deserted in the early morning mist.

The town owes much of its fame to Vincent van Gogh. The 37-year-old artist arrived at Auvers from the psychiatric hospital in southern France, his spirits renewed. He was "healthy, broad-shouldered, his expression lively and determined," his sister-in-law later remembered.

A local doctor met him at the station and arranged a room for him, but the artist soon moved to an inn across from the *Mairie*, the little town hall of Auvers. Hardly acclimatized, the artist, an unceasing letter-writer, wrote to his brother in Paris that at Auvers he found "lush country…no factories, but lovely greenery in abundance and well kept…I am living a day at a time, the weather is so beautiful, and I am absorbed in my work."

He certainly was absorbed in his work, producing a canvas at the rate of almost one per day.

Down the street from Ravoux's auberge and slightly uphill, stands the venerable village church of Notre-Dame complete with flying buttresses and Romanesque arches. It served the artist for one of his most memorable paintings, and still today you might find an admirer standing there, sketch pad in hand, drawing the church from the same position as van Gogh painted it.

In a small square below the church, stands a modest memorial to the painter Charles Daubigny. Wearing a beret and holding a palette, he reminds us of all the artists who worked in the countryside here: Corot, Berthe Morisot, Pissarro, and Cézanne.

Daubigny, who had first discovered the Oise valley, was so enthralled with the village that he kept a barge moored at the riverbank on which he travelled the Oise, painting river scenes.

Go still farther uphill along a dirt path, and you come to the cemetery where the Van Gogh brothers found their final resting place. (Theodor van Gogh died shortly after Vincent's suicide and his remains were transferred to Auvers.)

Outside the compound is a small parking area where you see a young couple quietly having a picnic in the shade of a tree.

In the calm of the summer day you can explore the graveyard at leisure, and if you feel so inclined, pay homage to the unfortunate painter whose grave is in the far left corner.

The cemetery, the village church and the wheat fields all lie within a stone's throw from each other. It was in the wheat fields that the artist painted his last work, *Wheatfield with Crows*, showing the birds suddenly taking flight above the golden ears of ripe wheat.

The tourists who now throng the village to a much greater extent than a decade ago, are drawn to the restored inn of Ravoux, now a museum. It contains the reconstructed room in which the artist died, but also has a gallery with van Gogh's works, and a restaurant.

The property, still a functioning bistro in the early 1980s, was put up for sale. In 1985 it was purchased by a Belgian businessperson who embarked on the task to restore the place to the tune of $8 million.

The original Auberge Ravoux, site of van Gogh's death in 1890. [Wolf Arnold photos]

A passionate believer in his cause to ensure the inn a place in history, he raised most of the money among small investors in North America and Japan. Strong-headed locals objected, fearing "the defiling of a cathedral" when a false fireplace was removed from the building, which had been put there in the first place by Vincente Minnelli when he filmed *Lust for Life*, starring Kirk Douglas as Vincent van Gogh.

The Auberge Ravoux inn has become a shrine for van Gogh lovers around the world.

The Auberge Ravoux is open daily except Mondays, November to April, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. In the summer, hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It can be reached by train from the Gare St. Lazare in Paris, and day excursions can arranged by various tour operators in Paris.

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Arts & Travel

American author tries to bridge the gap between the Talmud and the Internet

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Is there a connection between the ancient Talmud and the contemporary web of electronic information known as the Internet?

Jonathan Rosen, novelist and culture editor of the English-language New York newspaper *The Forward*, has noted some interesting parallels between the two.

He wrote an essay on the subject which he later enlarged into a non-fiction book, *The Talmud and the Internet: A Journey Between Worlds*. The book is slated for publication by Farrar Straus Giroux in September.

"It's broad ranging, held together by a personal spin," the 36-year-old Yale-educated author explained recently. "There's something about the Internet – all those multiple texts vying for attention … some people find it disruptive.

Multiple texts vy for attention

"But the Talmud also has multiple texts vying for attention. The harmonized chaos of the Talmud may offer a key to understanding the multiplicity of voices and the tremendous wash of information that bombard us in the Internet age. The Talmud teaches us that the multiplicity of voices don't dilute us, they strengthen us."

An occasional contributor to the *New York Times Magazine* and the NYT's influential *Book Review*, Rosen works two days a week at *The Forward*, presiding over one of the most comprehensive and intelligent coverages of Jewish arts and letters anywhere.

His first novel, *Eve's Apple* was greeted with wide acclaim when it was published by Random House in 1997. Now he's under contract to produce another novel for next year; he's completed about a third of it.

Asked to define any current trends in Jewish literature in America, Rosen noted that *The Forward* began a century ago as a Yiddish daily geared to a huge readership of Jewish immigrants finding their way in America.

"It did its job very well because American Jews assimilated very well," he said. "It seems to me that the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of these immigrants are lost in a different way. Which is to say, they may be strangers to their own tradition, not strangers to America. The stories told by the great American-Jewish writers in years past involved the journey from immigrant origins to American belonging – it seemed as if that was *the* story, as if there were no other stories to tell.

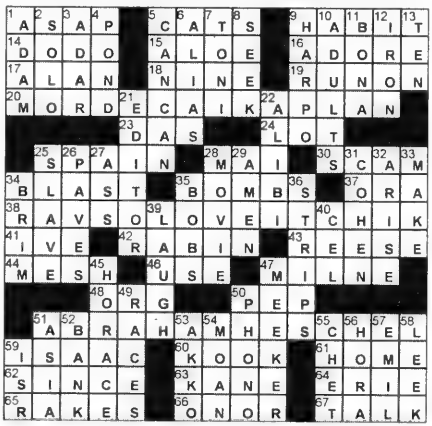
"But the journey back must be as exciting as the journey out."

Saul Bellow, Henry Roth, Philip Roth and Bernard Malamud are among the venerated old guard of American Jewish writers who focused on the immigration-assimilation experience. Rising in their shadow is a new crop of American-Jewish writers, including Allegra Goodman, Rebecca Goldstein, Steve Stern and Nathan Englander, who are writing about Jewish culture from the inside, according to Rosen.

"Today's young (North) American Jews are immigrants of a different sort. They're lost inside Jewish culture. The journey back – it's a journey that America itself has made, back from an assimilationist ideal towards an embrace of ethnic particularity as a way of participating in the larger American whole."

American Jewish writers once faced an either-or proposition, Rosen said: "Either you were an American writer or you were a Jewish writer." But he contends that that's no longer the case. "There's so much hyphenated identity now that I don't think that one negates the other. I think that frees up writers a lot."

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.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Business Profile

Lion Gate Films head dedicated to one goal: survival

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Jeff Sackman is the ultimate pragmatist.

"A good film is one that's profitable," he said. "A bad film is one that's not profitable. I try to be associated with good films."

By hewing assiduously to this tightly focused philosophy, Sackman, president of Toronto-based Lions Gate Films Corp., has been uncommonly successful.

In the past few years, the movies this publicly owned multi-media conglomerate has acquired and distributed – *Dogma*, *American Psycho*, *Affliction* and *Gods and Monsters* – have not only acquitted themselves respectfully or spectacularly at the box office, they have also garnered five Academy Awards nominations. In fact, *The Red Violin* won an Academy Award in the music category.

In line with his unblinking practical approach, Sackman, a boyish-looking 39, regards the film industry without the slightest awe.

"Ultimately, what's important is running a successful business," observed Sackman, a casually attired, down-to-earth person who seems immune to pretension. "It's really no different than any other business. I recognize its glamour, though it's not so glamourous working until 11 o'clock at night."

Born and bred in Montreal, where his parents and siblings live, Sackman is something of an anomaly in a cutthroat business synonymous with Hollywood fizz and sparkle.

Not one to gravitate to the interminable round of cocktail parties and dinners which are de rigueur in the industry, Sackman keeps his nose to the grindstone and concentrates on the task at hand.

A workaholic who thinks nothing of crushing 80 to 90 hour weeks, Sackman is dedicated to one overriding Darwinian goal: sheer survival. In a dog-eat-dog environment where companies like his regularly emerge and disappear without a trace or murmur, Sackman's objective is simply to keep Lions Gate Films afloat, thriving and growing.

Since his appointment as president, he has kept stockholders reasonably happy. "We've been increasingly profitable," he said, declining to be more specific.

Jeff Sackman: Film industry "is no different than any other business."

Once known as Cinepix Film Properties, Lions Gate Films Corp. is one of North America's leading distribution and production companies, with six fully integrated divisions.

Three years ago, the company was acquired by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., with its film, television, video and production facilities.

Sackman, who came aboard in 1991, was instrumental in orchestrating the sale of Lions Gate Films in 1997. Today he is responsible for all its activities, from acquisitions and sales to marketing and production.

"We're the only Canadian company to successfully operate in the U.S. distribution game," he noted. "We never went there with big expectations. Most people go there wanting to change the world."

With branches in Los Angeles, New York, Montreal and London, Lions Gate Films specializes in so-called "indies" rather than in studio movies. As a commentator recently put it, "Lions Gate Films has found a happy niche as an independent distributor."

Perhaps inevitably, it has been favourably compared to Miramax, the American outfit which has hammered its reputation on the anvil of films like *Pulp Fiction*, *The English Patient*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *The Cider House Rules*.

Sackman, however, dislikes the comparison. "We want to be ourselves, though we hope to be as successful as Miramax."

Like Miramax, Lions Gate Films embraces quality movies which appeal to dedicated filmgoers. "We won't get Harrison Ford in a movie and pretend to be Universal or Paramount," he quipped.

Sackman, whose wife Terri is an actress and a writer, grew up in Montreal's New Bordeaux neighborhood. His father, Mike, owns a wholesale paper products firm which employs his wife, Rhoda, and their son, Brian. Sackman's sister, Mallary, is in charge of Ben Gurion University's Montreal office.

After graduating from Lower Canada College, he studied at Vanier College and then at McGill University, where he received a bachelor of commerce degree.

While prepping for an MBA degree at Syracuse University, he took a variety of film courses. Movies have always fascinated him, but Sackman said his taste for film was whetted by a trip to Hollywood as a teenager and a meeting there with a cousin who was a big shot in the industry.

When he finished his studies in Syracuse, Sackman drove to Toronto in search of a job. Riffling through the Yellow Pages, his eye caught Cineplex Odeon Films, of which he had heard. He snagged an interview with its legendary and irascible president, Garth Drabinsky. Sackman eventually landed a position, and stayed for six years.

Under Drabinsky's tutelage, he mastered every facet of the business, from distribution to acquisition. "I worked hard. No job was too small."

From Drabinsky, whose financial woes have been the stuff of newspaper headlines of late, Sackman learned an important lesson which he has not forgotten. "There is an absolute correlation between what you put in and what you achieve," he mused.

At Cineplex, Sackman rose through the ranks, becoming vice-president in 1988. The cutting-edge films he acquired and marketed were, among others, *The Piano*, *The Crying Game*, *My Left Foot* and *Sex, Lies and Videotape*.

Since 1995, he has also been the executive producer and producer of more than 20 films, notably *Buffalo 66*, *Dog Park*, *Jerry and Tom*, and *Deadly Currents* (Simcha Jacobovici's Genie Award-winning documentary about the intifada, the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising in the territories).

Currently, he is developing eight movies, four of which are scheduled to be released this year. Lions Gate Films spends about $50 million annually on the production and co-production of features.

Sackman likes movies which "cut through the clutter and are unique." But personally, he is drawn to escapist fare. At one point, he saw as many as 500 films a year, but lately he has had no time for more than about 100.

He enjoys the perks of the trade – the Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles and the Cannes Film Festival. But at the end of the day, you will usually find him at his desk, working from morning to night.

"I'm totally consumed," he acknowledged. "You have to be in this business. It's in my blood. It's another layer of skin."

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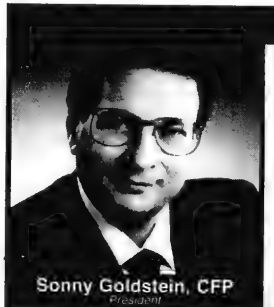

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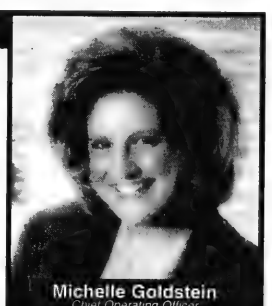

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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Teen lobbies for no-smoking bylaw

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

VAUGHAN — Simon Strelchik, 17, is on a mission to get York Region to butt out.

The Grade 12 student at Westmount Collegiate Institute is founder and executive director of Youth Fighting Tobacco, a group of about 10 high school students dedicated to having all public indoor places in the region become smoke free.

At present, smoking is permitted in public places such as restaurants and the workplace, unless a specific location has its own policy.

Strelchik, a member of the youth advisory board of York Region Health Services, says that he has gone from door to door collecting signatures for a petition urging regional counsellors to vote for a no-smoking bylaw, and in one day at school collected 150 names from students. "People are eager to sign the petition. Most thought it was a good idea.

"Even the smokers were signing. I had some people sign the petition with a cigarette in their hand. They think that it may help them quit smoking if they are not allowed to smoke in restaurants and other public places. They understand that smoking is dangerous, and they do not want to impose their bad habits on other people," said Strelchik.

At the start of the school year, he said, he did a survey of students at his school, and it showed that 75 percent of them supported a no-smoking bylaw. "They realize that people should not be forced to be exposed to second-hand smoke."

Surrounding municipalities such as Toronto, Mississauga, Caledon and Waterloo have no smoking bylaws, said Strelchik. "The bottom line is that there used to be smoking everywhere, and some places were able to change that. It is the businesses here that are opposed to the bylaw. They know that in the short term, their business will be affected. Long term, however, there should be no difference."

Youth Fighting Tobacco held three public meetings this past winter, and they held a rally before one meeting in Richmond Hill. "A lot of people showed up. We told them how smoking affects workers and how the bylaw will help smokers. One member talked about his father who has had a heart attack due to smoking," said Strelchik.

"The people at the meeting really paid attention to us. The businesses were silenced. I think they were overshadowed; we gave a fresh perspective to things," he said.

A no-smoking bylaw is coming, said Strelchik. "Some counsellors are adamant about it and have been very encouraging. It is in our hands; we just need to mobilize enough support. If people call their counsellor and get involved, then it is a definite possibility."

He is also involved in the Youth Tobacco Coalition, a group that holds meetings in Toronto. "As opposed to the York Region group, which is more about legislation, the coalition runs workshops for youth about the dangers of smoking.

Strelchik, who sees politics in his future, says he is proud to be making a difference. "More people are becoming aware of the no-smoking issue because of us."

Respect is the key to all relationships

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Understanding another person's point of view is the key to a respectful relationship says Vera Held, an educator and communications expert.

"You do not have to approve or accept; you just need to understand," she says.

Held, author of *How Not to Take it Personally: 10 Action Strategies for Communications Success* (VNH Communications) says that people who take the time "to hear the other guy out show an underlying generosity of spirit. That should be the premise of all relationships."

Vera Held

Unlike breathing, she says, listening is a mental process. "You must first make a decision to listen, then use your good listening habits to do so. It does not come naturally, it is not an automatic reflex and certainly, not everyone knows how to listen.

"It has nothing to do with intelligence. Good listeners want to listen, and they make, and take, the time to do so."

As well, she says, listening and hearing are different things. "Hearing acuity and good listening are not related. A person may hear well and not be such a good listener, or indeed, may be a poor listener."

If there was more respect in the workplace, productivity would increase tremendously, she says. "Many employers pay lip service to their employees; they do not really listen. The employees then become frustrated because no one is listening to them. Employees are often kept on a short leash so they do not step out of line. All these things squash creativity."

Creative ideas are fostered, she says, when employees feel respected. "When people leave work they should not feel like a *shmatta*, but unfortunately, that is what is going on. A lot of this is not from the work itself, but from the interpersonal relationships in the workplace. Productivity is hampered when a worker feels slighted by something someone says to them."

Dr. Barry Winter receives Distinguished Service Award

TORONTO — Dr. Barry Winter is the recipient of the Ontario Association of Optometrists' 2000 Distinguished Service Award.

Honoured for almost 30 years of outstanding service to the visual welfare of others and the profession of optometry, Winter was given the award by the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) president, Brian Lockyer, during the recent OAO Annual Symposium in Hamilton.

Winter, of Etobicoke, is also the treasurer of the Jewish Camp Council. He has spent much of his career advocating for the rights of individual optometric practitioners.

He has served both as a member of the Council of the College of Optometrists (COO), the body that deals with complaints against optometrists, and as chair of the OAO resource committee, which advises optometrists facing legal problems relating to practice. He has become an expert witness in cases involving optometric practice.

"The public, the profession of optometry, and the community have profited greatly from Dr. Barry Winter's dedication," Lockyer said. "He is a great believer in individual rights."

"It is an honour to receive this award," Winter says. "It's satisfying to know that my work has made a difference."

After graduating from the Ontario College of Optometry in 1965, Ottawa-born Winter opened private practice in Etobicoke.

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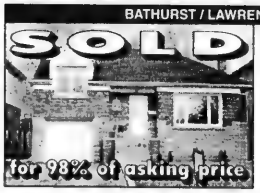

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Bringing People Together. It only takes one match to light a fire. Call Ruth **905-731-5204.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Tzedec Synagogue & banquet hall **avail. for Simcha** on Sun. July 16, 2000. Call Laurane, 416-781-3514, ext. 13.

270 PERSONALS

Seeking car pool to attend Catskill mountain spiritual retreat. (E'lat Chayyim), May 26-28. Call 416-964-7066.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Fun loving, special, 40 year old, reubenesque lady. Seeks big hearted gent., w/ lux. home in the Bridal Path, Forest Hill etc. This high spirited gal needs to settle down to a loving, compassionate, kind partner. Age unimportant.Call **416-460-8927.** Waiting to hear from you!

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maj - Looking for players living above Steeles to start new groups. Afternoons or evenings. Call Barb at 905-737-7735.

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For Sale - 220 volt appl., great prices. TV's, washer & dryer, small appl. Call 905-715-7362.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ELZA SZAMOSI ז"ל
loving wife, mother & grandmother
will take place
Sunday, May 7th, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
First Nareyever Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BELLA GOLDSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Cemetery
Stashiver Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ALEXANDER & HAJNAL SAND ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Bnai Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MAX KINGSTON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 7th, 12:45 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANN ZWEIG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

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FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish female, 37 yrs, brown hair, hazel green eyes, slim, cute, petite, honest, sincere, smoker, enjoys cooking, singing, dining and dancing, movies, walks, talks. Seeking Jewish male, 35-43, spontaneous, romantic, ambitious, smoker, who's ready to settle down and have children AD#1428

BUILD A FAMILY

Single modern orthodox Jewish female, blue eyes, brown hair, beautiful, educated, tall. Seeks male, caring, intelligent, healthy, tall, 36-48 yrs, ready to build a happy, loving family AD#1665

WAITING FOR YOU

Single Jewish female, 40 yrs, 5'8", brown eyes, tall attractive, honest, sincere, secure, enjoy dancing, sports, dining and outdoor activities. Seeking male 38-52 yrs, established, intelligent, romantic with similar interests and qualities. AD#1730

GREAT PERSONALITY

Single female from Australia en route to England, 5'1", long dark curly hair, attractive, outgoing, feminine, fun loving. Seeks male with similar qualities AD#1154

MAN OF MY DREAMS

Single Jewish female, petite, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, brown eyes, red hair, enjoy the theater, movies, music, travelling. Seeking a Jewish male, 52-65, non smoker, financially and emotionally stable, honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests AD#1253

FEMME DE JOUR

Slim Jewish professional female, dynamic and challenging personality, multi-faceted with great sense of humour. Enjoys dancing, travel and exploring new horizons. Seeking an honest, established tall gentleman, mensch only AD#1138

MARRIAGE ONLY

Separated Israeli female with 5 yr old daughter, attractive, a Hebrew teacher. Seeks professional or self-employed Canadian-Israeli male, attractive, 5'10"+, speaks fluent Hebrew, non-smoker and non-drinker, for marriage only. AD#1139

SERIOUS CALLS ONLY

Single female, good looking, business woman, 48, 5'6", warm, spiritual , sincere, marriage minded, with 2 children, 1 married, other 14 yrs old. Enjoy dining, dancing, movies and other interests. Seeking male 46-57 yrs for friendship first relationship. AD#1449

SOULMATE

Semi-retired professional female, blond, slim, pretty, shapely, youthful, caring, with home here and in Florida. Enjoys theatre, movies, dancing music, especially Jazz. Seeking sincere, established male, 60-69 yrs, non-smoker, to share love, laughter and more. AD#1325

SINGLE DADS WELCOME

Divorced Jewish professional mom, 43, 5'6", in Thornhill. Seeks intelligent, stable, optimistic, happy, healthy, and energetic single Jewish mensch, who's family oriented, follows traditional Jewish values, sense of humour a plus , to establish a long term committed relationship, based on honesty and friendship. AD#1516

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single female, Toronto born, family oriented, works in the medical educational field, enjoys sports. Seeks male, marriage minded, ready to start a family and raise them with traditional Jewish values. Leave details and self description, will return calls. AD#1051

FAMILY VALUES

Attractive Jewish female, early 60's, seeking gentleman with integrity and who's family oriented AD#1676

LET'S MEET

Single divorced female, 38 yrs, 5' 4", attractive, sophisticated, warm hearted, romantic, professional. Enjoys music, the arts, tennis, dancing and travelling. Seeking male, 37-48 yrs, who is intelligent, sincere, emotionally and financially stable AD#1175

LET'S BECOME FRIENDS

Optimistic, fun loving, attractive, professional, brunette, green eyes. Enjoys reading, travel, music, dancing, movies, theatre, walks, evenings at home. Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, who is compassionate, honest, has integrity, strong family values, humourous and enjoys good conversation AD#1571

LOVES LIFE

Divorced female, 55 yrs, semi-retired professional, green eyes, blonde hair, attractive, caring, good sense of humour. Enjoys music, sports, dining and dancing, cottage life. Seeks male, 60-69 yrs, established, non-smoker, sincere, loves life and laughter AD#1159

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single female, attractive intelligent, professional, warm hearted, sincere, spiritual modern orthodox, wide variety of interests. Seeks male, 39-45 yrs with similar interests and qualities for family oriented relationship AD#1158

LET'S FALL IN LOVE

Single Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm, good sense of humour. Seeking a male, over 47, secure, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat a lady. AD#1463

LET'S MEET

Single Jewish female, divorced, 38, 5'4", professional, attractive, slim, enjoy music, theater, philosophy, psychology, tennis, dancing, travelling. Seeking a Jewish male, 37-48, intelligent, honest, sincere, financially secure AD#1226

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single female, divorced, 41, with 2 teenagers, fun, spiritual, sensual, happy, humorous. Seeking a mensch who is family oriented, humorous, sincere, enjoys outdoors, movies, dining out, having fun, to share good and bad times together AD#1329

UNIQUE LADY

Single Jewish female, 50ish, 5'6", attractive, thoughtful, loving, caring, sensual, fit, professional, non smoker, positive outlook, enjoy sports, ballet, jazz, countryside. Seeking a male, non smoker, down to earth, secure, to share life's treasures with. AD#1119

JAU DA VIVE

Single female, 58, writer, intelligent, attractive. Seeking a Jewish male, 60ish, who has strong ties with Israel AD#1247

FAMILY VALUES

Divorced female, 42, 5'2", cute, slim, smart, 2 children, passionate, energetic, fun. Seeking a male, well educated, has good values, non smoker AD#1016

LOVE LIFE

Single Jewish female, 28, adventurous, ambitious, outgoing, friendly, enjoy sports, working out, reading, music, theater. Seeking a Jewish male, never married, ambitious, trustworthy, honest, outgoing, ready to live life to the fullest. AD#1564

COMPANIONSHIP

Single Jewish female, late 40's, attractive, professional, no dependents, enjoy movies, long walks, theater. Seeking a Jewish male, 49-60, with similar interests. AD#1390

FRIENDS FIRST

Single Jewish female, intelligent, honest, educated, kind, religious, wide variety of interests. Seeking a male, 69-75, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, possible future developments. AD#1050

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single Jewish female, 37, brown hair, hazel green eyes, smoker, slim, cute, petite, honest, sincere, down to earth, enjoy cooking, singing, dining, dancing. Seeking a Jewish male, 35-43, spontaneous, romantic, ambitious, ready for marriage and children AD#1280

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish female, widow, attractive, 50, intelligent, European. Seeking a male, honest, kind, well established, to share love and life AD#1522

MAN OF MY DREAMS

Single Jewish female, petite, brown eyes, cute red hair, intelligent, fun loving, enjoy theater, movies, music, travelling. Seeking a Jewish male, 54-65, professional, non smoker, financially and emotionally stable, honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests AD#1256

LET'S TALK

Single Jewish female, 29, attractive, long straight hair, brown eyes, enjoy travelling, the outdoors, love all animals. Seeking a male, established, good sense of humour, easy to talk to AD#1049

SEARCHING FOR SOULMATE

Divorced professional female, 50, long brown hair, hazel eyes, attractive, charming,m strong headed, twin girls age 22, enjoy dining, country on weekends, camping, travelling, movies, reading. Seeking a male, family oriented, or has a family, understanding, happy for soulmate AD#1347

KIDS ARE WELCOME

Divorced Jewish female, non practicing, tall, dark hair and eyes, honest, secure, independent, sense of humour, love cottage life, beach, cooking, theater, travelling. Seeking a tall, handsome male, employed, emotionally available, sincere, spontaneous, for serious long term relationship AD#1436

BE MY SUNSHINE

Single Jewish female, attractive, 5'5", brown hair and eyes, fit, non smoker, kind, sincere, emotionally stable, good natured. Seeking a single Jewish male, traditional, 45-55, around 6', handsome, exiting, established, honest, sensitive, kind, funny, caring, non smoker, children welcome AD#1609

SINGLE MOM

Single Jewish mom of 10yr old son, 40, attractive, slim, employed, going to school, enjoy dining, dancing, movies, family life. Seeking a male, 40-44, with similar interests and qualities AD#1475

GOOD TIMES AHEAD

Single Jewish female, 50, attractive, kind, warm hearted, very young looking, enjoy nature, walks, theater, movies, reading, dining, dancing. Seeking a male, 50+, warm hearted, loving, giving, honest, with similar interests, ready to share life to the fullest AD#1328

HONEST AND SINCERE

Single female, 37, honest, sincere. Seeking a male, 37-47, enjoys dancing, dining out, for a serious and sincere relationship. AD#1237

SEEKING KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR

Single female, attractive, slim, 5'4", brunette, professional, employed, enjoy camping, fine dining, dancing, theater, country life. Seeking a male, 37-45, intelligent, loves to travel, very sincere, single or divorced, do not want anyone who is separated AD#1285

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WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS MOST

Single male, 47 yrs, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies-especially Hitchcock, and drives in the country. Seeking female, professional or non-professional, non slim okay, children okay, smoker on non-smoker, a basically nice, down to earth person AD#1055

GOOD IN EVERY WAY!

Divorced male, 53 yrs, no children, good hearted, good humoured, good looking. Seeks female for loving relationship AD#1600

WARM & CARING

Single white male, 57 yrs, warm, caring, romantic, self-employed. Enjoys travel, movies, quiet romantic evenings, good conversation. Seeks female with similar interests and qualities. AD#1565

LET'S HAVE COFFEE

Single male, young looking, 45 yrs, 5'11", brown hair, brown eyes, cute smile, university educated, employed professional, good manners. Enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, sporting events. Seeks female 30-42 yrs, for casual relationship, possible long lasting relationship AD#1598

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single male, 35 yrs, 5' 10", honest, sharing and caring, down to earth, enjoys movies, dining, and dancing, concerts, quiet romantic evenings. Seeks female with similar interests AD#1660

LOVE AWAITS

Single Jewish male, late 40's , 5' 10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, loving, good sense of humour. Enjoys the theatre, long walks, bowling, tennis. Seeks female, 32-33 yrs, single or widowed, orthodox preferred but not required, intelligent, with similar interests. AD#1161

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER

Single Jewish male, widower, blue eyes, brown hair, medium height, good looking, non smoker, very fit, work out, enjoy movies, dining, travelling, beach holidays, skiing. Seeking a female, attractive, good natured, to enjoy life with AD#1393

GOOD MAN

Divorced male, 53, no children, good hearted, good looking, good sense of humour, seeking a female to share life with AD#1178

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Single male, unique and special, with traditional values, attractive, young looking, healthy, successful, enjoy life. Seeking a female with similar qualities AD#1212

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, sincere, no children. Seeking a physically fit and sincere female, 25-35, for serious relationship. AD#1189

WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single Jewish semi-retired business man in beauty supply, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, short dark hair, mustache, traditional, family oriented, enjoy swimming, bicycling, lot of educational reading. Seeking a Jewish female to have children and a family. AD#1322

TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME

Single Jewish male, traditional, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, well educated, semi-retired, in the beauty supply business, handsome, short dark hair, mustache, enjoy swimming, cycling, educational reading, family life, ready for marriage and family. Seeking a single Jewish female, with similar qualities and interests AD#1008

LIVE LIFE FULLY

Single male, divorced, father of 2, 48, 5'7", slim, fit, generous, Family Physician, enjoy philosophy, cultures, Latin dancing, cross country skiing. Seeking a younger female, attractive, slim, highly intelligent, passionate, giving, sincere, emotionally and financially secure, likes children AD#1318

HOUSE OF TORRAH

Single male, Canadian born, divorced, caring, professional, enjoy Torrah and phycology. Seeking a female, attractive, Jovio, 32-44, easy going, warm, gentle, spiritual, compatible for love, marriage, family AD#1222

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish male, Canadian born, lawyer, Sabith of servant. Seeking a very intelligent and attractive female who wants children and family AD#1608

SOULMATE

Single male, 58, 6'1", 160lbs, Israeli origin, Canadian citizen, young looking and feeling, tolerant, compassionate, love nature, country side, animals, reading, dining, glass of wine, anxious for a real soulmate to enrich and fulfill my life AD#1424

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

Divorced male, professional, originally from Eastern Europe. 5'10", handsome, slim, fit, down to earth, non smoker, hopeless romantic, enjoy movies, sunsets on the beach, healthy lifestyle. Seeking a female, affectionate, slim, attractive, late 30's, for long term relationship. AD#1317

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, fit, non smoker & drinker, little shy, adventurous, enjoy movies, sports, dancing, walks. Seeking a nice female, friendly, similar interests, non smoker, for friends first relationship AD#1083

CULTURED SCHOLAR

Divorced male, 50's, attorney, handsome, author, poet, musician, pilot, parachutist, sky diver, scuba diver, lived all over the world, classical music enthusiast. Seeking a female, attractive, intelligent, slender, gracious, compassionate, financially & emotionally secure, to share love & life AD#1124

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single male, 6'3", 195lbs, fairly intelligent, enjoy running, reading, major goal is to get married and have a family. Seeking a female, enjoys reading and has goals AD#1631

I BET ON YOU!

Single male, tall, young, 6', medium build, enjoy good music, good food, dining. Seeking a female who enjoys going to sporting events, wagering at the races, having a good time. AD#1483

OPEN YOUR HEART

Single white male, 57, warm, loving, romantic, self employed, business man. Seeking a female, similar qualities and interests. AD#1426

VERY ACCEPTING

Single male, conservative looking, humorous, 46, enjoy dancing, old movies, especially Alfred Hitchcock's, drives in the country. Seeking a female, 40-50, non slim OK, non professional OK, children from previous marriage OK, smoker OK, someone nice! AD#1591

OCEANS OF LOVE

Single Jewish male, 37, handsome, down to earth, fun to be with. Seeking a female, lovely, attractive, down to earth, 25-35, for compatible and understanding relationship. AD#1177

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Single Jewish male, late 40's, 5'10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, compassionate, gentle, good sense of humour, enjoy the theater, long walks in the part, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking a female, single or widowed, intelligent, with similar interests and qualities, Orthodox preferred but not required AD#1552

BE MY SPECIAL SOMEONE

Single Jewish male, 34, dark brown eyes, brown hair, 5'10", handsome, down to earth, kind, loving, caring, financially secure. Seeking a Jewish female, petite, 25-33, sincere, attractive, 5'1"-5'6", love to wine and dine AD#1413

IT TAKES TWO

Single male, 50ish, fair, blue eyes, 160lbs, great body, personality, talent, easy going, humble, warm, spontaneous, enjoy the outdoors, movies, art, cuddling, Israel. Seeking a female, honest, warm, caring, sensitive AD#1059

SHARE MY WORLD

Single Jewish male, 30, 6'2", 185lbs, tall, slim build, handsome, non smoker, enjoy walks, swimming, camping, cooking, music, reading, conversations. Seeking a Jewish female, early 20's - 30, attractive, fit, outgoing, non smoker, with similar interests AD#1298

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Single male, tall, dark handsome, 6', 185lbs. Seeking a female, professional, understanding AD#1028

CULTURED AND AERODITED

Single male, early 50's, dark handsome, divorced, lawyer, author, musician, pilot, parachutist, skydver, scuba diver, lived throughout the world, love classical music, art. Seeking a female, highly intelligent, slender, attractive, gracious, compassionate, financially and emotionally secure, to share love life AD#1238

LET'S TALK

Single male, 42, enjoy taking long walks, skiing, skating, plays, movies, dining. Seeking a female, 35-44. AD#1725

WINE AND DINE

Single male, 44, look younger, 5'8", brown hair and eyes, fairly fit, honest, sincere, loyal, open minded, love to wine and dine, travel, movies, comedy shows, dancing, music, long walks. Seeking a lovely female, 35-48, loyal, honest, humorous, attractive AD#1537

ARE YOU FOR ME

Single Jewish male, 30, 6'2", handsome, non smoker, enjoy camping, taking walks, swimming, cooking, music, reading, conversations. Seeking a Jewish female, 23-30, attractive, fit, outgoing, non smoker, with similar interests AD#1130

BE MY SABBATH QUEEN

Single Jewish male, 30, professional, spiritual, intelligent, fun to be with. Seeking a single Jewish female, 23-33, kind, spiritual, stable, intelligent, cheerful AD#1440

LET'S CONNECT

Divorced male, shomer shabbaos, 5'10", eclectic, enjoy travelling, studying, the Tora phycology and health. Seeking a female who is warm, attractive, spiritual AD#1004

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Single male, divorced, 45, one son age 12, university educated, non smoker, attractive. Seeking a lovely lady, late 30's - late 40's, wants to settle down, enjoy life, not into games. AD#1090

MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE

Single Jewish male, 44, 5'8", brown hair and eyes, fit, down to earth, honest, sincere, open minded, humorous, enjoy movies, dining, dancing, long walks, travelling. Seeking a single Jewish female, honest, sincere, loyal, down to earth. AD#1068

MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE

Single Jewish male, 44, 5'8", brown hair and eyes, fit, down to earth, honest, sincere, open minded, humorous, enjoy movies, dining, dancing, long walks, travelling. Seeking a single Jewish female, honest, sincere, loyal, down to earth. AD#1068

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The Canadian Jewish news

Israel's golden boys in blue finally win tournament

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Israeli national hockey team has finally done it. After eight years of woulda', coulda' and shoulda', the boys in blue put their checkered past behind them, exorcised old demons, stared down old rivals and finally won a gold medal in International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Pool D competition.

The Israelis went undefeated in the IIHF tournament, held recently in Reykjavik, Iceland, and despite a couple of scares in games against Iceland and Belgium, they refused to let a little adversity stand in their way.

This time there were no late game giveaways to leave them short, no botched calls by IIHF referees to deprive them of key goals, nothing to spoil the party and ruin their exultation at finally, finally playing up to their full potential and winning it all.

Paul Rosen, the Toronto-based general manager of the nationals, said the team had good reason to feel confident going into the tournament. Last year, the Israelis finished second and they were close to winning the gold.

This year's team was loaded with talent and "when we left Canada, we thought we had our best team ever. We had talented forwards who could've played in the B Pool," Rosen said.

Leading the Israelis up front were Max Bierbraer, a Kazakhstan-born forward who plays for Newmarket Hurricanes and who this summer may be one of the few players ever (other than Danius Zubrus) to be drafted by the NHL out of Tier II Junior A; Sergei Zak, a Russian-born forward who played last season in Division 1 in Sweden; and Alon Eizenman, an all-star centre with Penn State in the American College Hockey Association.

Backstopping the Israelis was goaltender Yevgeni Gusin, who had brief stints in the East Coast Hockey League and in the Colonial Hockey League.

Eleven skaters with Israeli passports flew to Iceland from Canada to join the Israelis, Rosen said.

The team enjoyed only one practice prior to their first game, a barn-burner against the host Icelanders. The rink was full of enthusiastic fans, including the country's president, and it felt like playoff hockey, Rosen recounted.

Israel jumped into a 3-0 lead but saw that margin whittled away on three fairly weak goals given up by Gusin. With the scored tied, coach Sergei Matin pulled Gusin and inserted Sergei Ostrovski between the pipes. That seemed to settle down the team and they went on to a 6-3 victory, said Erez Eizenman, a centre with the CHAT Tigers high school team, who joined the Israelis in Iceland.

Game two saw Israel face off against Turkey, one of the weakest teams on the international scene. After jumping into a 15-0 lead, Israel went on cruise control and still managed to outshoot the Turks 64-0. Gusin reportedly was seen in the mezzanine level enjoying a cup of coffee while the forwards played Hearts on the bench.

Rosen reports the game was not the most lop-sided contest he's aware of. In 1997, Kazakhstan, led by Nik Antropov, beat Iceland 72-1 in Under-18 junior action. Antropov, now a Toronto Maple Leaf, collected 39 points in that game.

The two victories in preliminary games put Israeli into the medal round against Australia and arch-rivals, Belgium. Belgium kicked off the medal round by defeating Australia 7-3.

Israel then faced off against Belgium and more or less dominated. They did just about everything right, Eizenman said.

"We definitely had the best skill in the tournament," he said. By that time, his brother Alon had joined the team from Penn State and was centring the big line with Zak and Bierbraer.

The Belgians had a few pro players from Holland and the game was competitive. Nevertheless, the Israelis, particularly, the big line, controlled the play.

"We had so many scoring chances," Eizenman said. Israel had numerous two on ones and even some two on none breaks but the forwards "overpassed the puck" and sometimes didn't even get a shot on goal.

Despite strong goaltending by the Belgians, Israel managed to score one goal. They held on until the 19:50 mark of the third period when the Belgians bounced the puck towards Gusin, who'd been strong in the Israeli net, and scored on a goalmouth scramble.

With no overtime, the game ended 1-1.

Naturally, the Israelis were in shock after the tie, but they collected themselves and geared up for the task at hand. To win the gold medal, they knew they had to beat Australia by at least four goals and score more than seven, Rosen said. The game started badly for Israel when Australia jumped into a 1-0 lead on a goal by Vladimir Rubin, a Czech Jew who now resides Down Under.

But instead of folding, the Israelis battled back. Israel's top line poured it on and outskated the Australians badly – as they'd done all tournament long. Their puck-cycling was unstoppable and it powered the Israelis into a 7-1, second period lead.

Israel padded its lead to 9-1 and held on for a 9-3 victory.

Zak had four goals in the game, Bierbraer had two. Bierbraer was named the tournament's top forward, while Zak won the scoring title with 12 goals and four assists. Bierbraer was second with six goals and six assists, and according to Rosen, "was more dominant."

As far as Eizenman is concerned, the victory "was amazing. I was the youngest player [18] and the only one who hadn't played [with the senior nationals] before. Sergei Zak was almost crying on the bench and everyone was so ecstatic. It was a great feeling to win it and hear *Hatikvah* after. It was just amazing."

"It was a great experience and it was really emotional to be on the blueline and represent your country," Rosen added.

The Israeli national hockey team. Team manager Paul Rosen is in the middle row, second from the right.

For defenceman Oded Orgil, the victory "seemed like the end of a long journey."

Orgil was one of the originals – a member of Israel's first national team in 1992. "It's different winning it at 34 after starting in my 20s. Now I know what the old veterans in the NHL feel like. You appreciate it more."

Defenceman Ran Oz was the only other original on the gold medal-winning team.

Under normal circumstances, Israel's win would have vaulted them into C Pool next year but the IIHF is re-organizing its divisions. Next season the IIHF will feature a Division 1 with 20 teams and a Division 2 with 12 teams. Rosen believes that if Israel retains most of its key players, it can win gold again in Division 2.

Joining the team from Canada this year were: Bierbraer, Ostrovski, Ron Soreanu, Ron Berman (North York Rangers), the Eizenman brothers, Yaron Orgil (Drexel University), Oded Orgil, Shawn Frydberg, all of Toronto, and Dan Mizrahi and Shlomo Levy of Montreal.

Hitchcock heading to Metulla

Continued from page 1

For the Hitchcock family, participating in the hockey school seemed a perfect fit. "The Jewish community in Dallas is very strong and our family has become very active in the community," he said. The children attend Jewish supplementary school three days a week and the family enjoys a strong attachment to the State of Israel. When the opportunity arose to visit Israel as a family, they jumped at it. They plan to visit Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and other sites both before and after the camp, Hitchcock said.

"It's something that everyone in the family is really looking forward to do. To me, the culture is the thing I'm really interested in," said Hitchcock, who led the Stars to a Stanley Cup victory last year. "I'm in the people business, so any time I can intermingle with the people of another culture, that's something I look forward to.

"I think the kids and Nancy are keen on the historical aspect of it. It really is the homeland...We're viewing it as a once in a lifetime experience."

The camp was co-founded by Philadelphia Flyers head coach Roger Neilson, by Starkman, a goalie coach at Neilson's Lindsay, Ont.-based camp, and by Jeff Budd of Kitchener, Ont., who worked at Canada Centre for several years.

They hope to bring to Israel 34 Canadian and American youngsters (aged 14-20) – up from 19 last year – to join about 50 sabra skaters. One question mark continues to be Neilson's participation. The Flyers' head coach has been diagnosed with a rare form of bone marrow cancer. Neilson has undergone chemotherapy and recently received a bone marrow transplant.

In each of the camp's three years, an NHL player has rounded out the teaching staff. Bill Lindsay, Danius Zubrus and last year, Steve Dubinsky, who is Jewish, have participated. Starkman said he has several NHLers in mind for the 2000 camp but "usually NHLers are not ready to commit until after the season."

Fees for the two-week camp and related tours and programs runs for $1,795 plus airfare. A four-week program that includes the hockey camp and two weeks of touring sells for $3,795 plus airfare.

Inside Back

Downtown Jam comes uptown

By JOYCE SINGER-D'APRILE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Andrew Hall's claim to fame used to be that he was Monty Hall's nephew.

Then one day, frustrated that he had nowhere suitable to go in Toronto to jam on his drums with his buddies, he came up with an original idea. He envisioned a club that was accessible, clean, and well-stocked with instruments and the latest in sound-recording technology. In other words, a studio that would appeal to jammers like himself.

Hall is now making a name for himself with his Downtown Jam club for amateur musicians. He calls it a "health club," since it caters to the well-being of their musical souls.

Andrew Hall **[Barry Shainbaum photo]**

He's not claiming that any of his club members should quit their day jobs to become professional musicians, Hall says, laughing. "That'll never happen. Bill Gates has a better chance of catching up on his e-mail!"

Hall is proud to be able to match up amateur musicians with others of their musical calibre. Many of these wannabe Janice Joplins and Frank Zappas grew up playing in high school garage bands of the '60s and '70s.

They're not just run-of-the-mill jammers, Hall says, but successful, white-collar types. Club members range from surgeons to stockbrokers to single mothers, who all have a blast reliving their musical past at the downtown jam studio on Richmond Street.

On April 13, the Downtown Jam club played its third concert for charity, rocking the beautifully refurbished Capital Theatre in uptown Toronto.

Hall says that for each concert, they pick a different charity and donate a portion of the proceeds. The recent concert raised money for the Shout Clinic, which provides free medical services for homeless street youth.

The concert was a hit with the audience, which consisted mainly of family, friends and coworkers, who partied up a storm, dancing away the evening, he says.

This is not always the stuff of great music, or even very good music. But the performers score points for enthusiasm and chutzpah, if not finesse. Kudos go to producer Hall for providing them with a special place to jam with their new pals, and then showcasing their efforts at a fund-raising gig.

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2 small angel food cakes cut into bitesize pieces
1 cup coffee liqueur
2 - 3 oz. pkgs. French vanilla pudding mix
3 cups half and half
3 cups whipping cream
3 tblsp instant coffee
3 tblsp sugar
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
9 Heath or Skor bars broken into little pieces

Sprinkle coffee liqueur on angel food cake and set aside. For custard, combine pudding mix with half and half and chill.
Whip cream with coffee granules. Add sugar and vanilla until soft peaks form. Combine chilled custard with cake, tossing gently.
In trifle bowl, layer cake, cream and broken bits of candy bars. End with the candy layer.

About Seniors

By DR. MARK CLARFIELD

Although I am a doctor and as much as I love them – I have fought a long and more or less successful battle against becoming *the* family doctor in my own family.

And as a physician, I know that I am not alone in struggling with this dilemma – not because we don't value our older relatives and certainly not because we don't want to help out.

The reason is, simply put, fear. The medical practitioner is afraid that since the family are so near and dear to us, our judgment might be impaired if we acted as their physician.

Of course, in an emergency, most MDs would do whatever is necessary. For myself, I have on occasion gently steered family members away from certain operations and diagnostic procedures when my advice was sought. Most physicians have looked in their own children's ears and occasionally, albeit reluctantly, I have prescribed antibiotics for my offspring.

Research investigating the circumstances under which doctors have treated family indicated that many physicians indeed acted sensibly. But surprisingly, in a multitude of cases, it also provided evidence of a far more interventionistic approach to one's near and dear than seems wise.

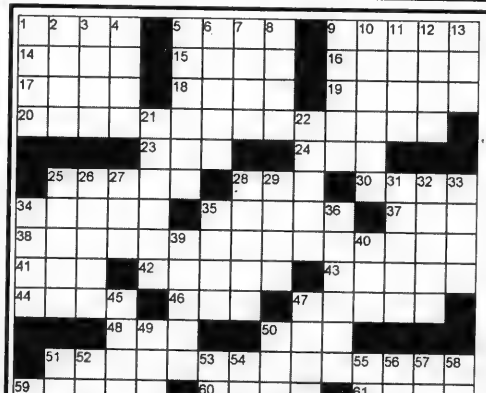
The interesting question as to whether the care provided relatives was actually inferior to that given other patients was addressed. The authors do not venture an opinion but state (perhaps tongue in cheek) that "comparative process and outcome evaluations of care provided to patients who are family members and to those who are not would provide a more complete assessment of the quality of care."

Concerns about a physician's professional relationship with family are not new. For example, south of the border back in 1901, the American Medical Association stated that a family member's illness "tends to obscure [the physician's] judgment and produces timidity and irresolution in practice." And not much has changed over the ensuing decades.

What should a physician do if, despite the best laid plans of mice, men, mothers-in-law and medicine, close relatives call at ungodly hours describing strange symptoms?

First, establish that the situation is not urgent and deal with it if so. In most cases, however, the physician would be well advised to tell a close family member to "take two aspirins and call *your* doctor in the morning."

Mark Clarfield is the chief of academic affairs at the Sarah Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem and a staff geriatrician of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Sir Mortimer B. Davis – Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, Montreal.



The Canadian Jewish news

That's What They Think

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across
1 Urgent, for short
5 Broadway's longest-running play
9 Nail-biting, for example
14 Extinct bird
15 Soothing herb
16 Love like crazy
17 Actor Arkin
18 Number of Israeli prime ministers, through 1998
19 Type of sentence
20 Jewish philosopher (*Judaism as a Civilization*, 1935)
23 Marx's ___ *Kapital*
24 He fled from Sodom
25 Whence Sephardim
28 ___ tai (mixed drink)
30 Con man's game
34 Fun time
35 Six-Day War weapons
37 "...man ___ mouse?"
38 Jewish philosopher ("The Lonely Man of Faith," 1965)
41 "___ got it!"
42 November 1995 assassination victim
43 Pee Wee of baseball fame
44 Interlock
46 Put to work
47 Pooh's creator
48 Part of many e-mail addresses
50 Oomph
51 Jewish philosopher (*God in Search of Man*, 1956)
59 Sci-fi king Asimov
60 Jewish philosopher (*The Lights of Holiness*, 1951)
61 Whither Koufax's pitches
62 "___ you asked..."
63 "Hester Street" actress Carol
64 Pennsylvania city
65 Fall tools
66 ___ about (approximately)
67 "Can we ___?" (Joan Rivers catchphrase)

Down
1 Genesis name
2 Prima donna's favorite number
3 Sixth month
4 Fishing spot
5 Paris dance
6 Ahad Ha'am, for example
7 Literature Nobelist Morrison
8 Hide's partner
9 One of Groucho's brothers
10 Bar mitzvah completers
11 ___ *fide* (in good faith)
12 Do a household chore
13 Perfect score for Kerri Strug
21 *Ha'aretz* worker
22 Dershowitz defense, sometimes
25 Type of labor used in concentration camps
26 Makes roads
27 Balaam's animal
28 "Fargo" or "Manhattan"
29 "So be it!"
31 Jewish philosopher Hermann (*Religion of Reason*, 1918)
32 Come up
33 "___ me an offer"
34 Edge
35 Woodward and Costas
36 Gaza and Sunset
39 React to "Seinfeld"
40 Movie reel part
45 Journalist Greeley
47 Less assertive
49 Steeplechase and marathon
50 Graph starter
51 Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, etc.
52 Chemical or Chase Manhattan
53 Acre alternative
54 Kvetch
55 Letter after zayin
56 Circular dance
57 Jewish philosopher Fackenheim (*God's Presence in History*, 1972)
58 Green vegetable
59 Jor. neighbor

(Answers are on page 43.)

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This Week

National

Jewish leaders slightly optimistic about Ontario budget. *Page 3*

On Campus

Recognize the suffering of others, Holocaust survivor says. *Page 7*

Dr. Joe Greenberg named man of the year by Forest Hill Lions Club. *Page 18*

Arts & Travel

WTN serves up delicious serving of *Loving Spoonfuls*. *Page 47*

Sports

Student games aim at friendship and understanding. *Page 54*

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SYMBOL OF LIFE AND HOPE: A Canadian youngster on the March of the Living, last week, raises high Israel's flag outside the death camp at Birkenau. It appears to be an affirmation by the marcher of life and hope in a place of death. *[Stephen Epstein photo]*

Jewish Lt.-Gov. named in N.S.

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Nova Scotia has its first female and first Jewish lieutenant-governor in one neat package.

Myra Freeman, Saint John, N.B.-born, but a Halifax resident since her days at Dalhousie University in the 1960s, will assume the vice-regal post before the end of May.

Myra Freeman

A teacher by profession, Freeman has been a strong community worker, both in the secular and Jewish sectors, and was a major worker in the leadership and national election campaign for Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

For the last several months her name has been mentioned, with several others including Halifax volunteer Ruth Goldbloom, as a strong candidate to replace James Kinley as the Queen's representative in Nova Scotia.

"I really couldn't imagine being chosen," she told *The CJN*. "There were lots of names out there. It's the prime minister's decision. It could have been anyone."

Held in high regard by her peers, she is chair of the Atlantic Canada Women's Division of United Jewish Appeal, was small community co-chair for Canadian Jewish Congress, and was on the national executive of CJC.

She is a member of Hadassah, and also chaired the social hall renovation committee of the Beth Israel Synagogue where she served on the education committee.

Continued on page 34

ISRAEL SENDS AID TO ETHIOPIA: An Israel aid worker distributes food to famine stricken victims in northern Ethiopia. Thirty tons of relief was delivered by Israel last month. *[Israel photo]*

Greater Toronto Area

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Havdallah: 9:20

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Toronto filmmaker's personal Iranian protest — please see page 34

The News in Brief

CANADA

Senator Retires

OTTAWA — Ron Ghitter, one of a handful of Jewish senators, announced his retirement recently after serving for seven years in the upper chamber. A Calgary-born lawyer, Ghitter, 64, served as provincial MLA for eight years in the 1970s. Ghitter consistently stressed human concerns and was a vocal opponent of the prosecution of Alberta schoolteacher and Holocaust denier James Keegstra.

Holocaust Tools

VANCOUVER — Teachers in British Columbia will have new tools to teach the Holocaust next year. Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific region, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and the Ministry of Education have put together two educational packages on the Holocaust to be available in the public school system for the grades 6 and 11 social studies curriculum.

Prof. Gets Top Prize

TORONTO — Prof. Paul Brumer of the University of Toronto has been awarded the prestigious Killam Prize, one of the world's top scientific prizes. Brumer is best known for his contributions in the area of theoretical chemical physics. The prize, one of three won by U of T professors, was awarded this week at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa in a ceremony presided over by Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson.

ISRAEL

Ethiopians Protest

JERUSALEM — Several hundred members of Israel's Ethiopian community demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office last week, demanding that Israel allow the immediate immigration of relatives waiting in Ethiopia. Israeli Interior Minister Natan Sharansky recently promised to adopt measures to speed up the review of applications.

War-Era Reunion

JERUSALEM — The chairman of the board of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial here was reunited with the grandson of a Polish couple that hid his family during World War II. The grandson contacted Shevach Weiss after seeing the Yad Vashem executive and former speaker of the Knesset appear on Polish television.

WORLD

Church Apologizes

VILNIUS — The Lithuanian Catholic Church apologized last month for its passivity during the Holocaust and its failure to dissuade believers from collaborating with Nazis during World War II. Lithuania has recently come under fire from several Jewish organizations and the U.S. Justice Department for moving slowly in prosecuting two alleged Nazi collaborators.

Murder Arrests

NEW YORK — New Jersey police have arrested two men in the 1994 murder-for-hire of the wife of a prominent local rabbi. The men were charged with murder and conspiracy to murder Carol Neulander. Her husband, Rabbi Fred Neulander, was indicted in January 1999 on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. He is free on bail awaiting his trial, which is scheduled to begin in June.

Jews Targeted

MOSCOW — Russian neo-Nazis are again targeting a Jewish community in the northwestern part of the country, according to reports from Jewish organizations. Last week, a car owned by the security chief of Borovichi's synagogue was set on fire and swastikas were drawn on the cars of two local Jewish leaders who were celebrating Passover inside the synagogue.

Greek Campaign

ATHENS — Greece's Jewish community is launching a campaign to raise about $1 million to save its remaining synagogues and cemeteries, some of which have been vandalized recently. Jewish leaders say they are facing government indifference to the problem and plan to seek assistance abroad.

Former Labourers Urged to Apply for Funds

NEW YORK — The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany says application forms for payments to former slave and forced labourers will be short, simple and non-bureaucratic.

Applicants should apply directly to the Claim Conference. There is no fee.

In March, Germany announced a fund of $4 billion in restitution for Nazi-era forced and slave labourers.

A slave labourer is defined as a person who was in a concentration camp or ghetto, or under comparable conditions of confinement during World War II, and who was forced to work. Former slave labourers who meet the eligibility requirements may receive up to 15,000 deutschmarks.

A forced labourer is defined as a person who was forced to work during World War II but is not included in the definition of a slave labourer. Former forced labourers may receive up to 5,000 deutschmarks.

The final amounts paid may be less than these sums, depending on the number of people who are eligible.

There will be no reduction of payments for persons who received compensation or restitution under other programs. Persons who received payments for slave and/or forced labour from a private industry fund, either recently or in the past, will have such payments deducted from the payment to be received under this initiative.

Former slave and forced labourers alive on Feb. 16, 1999, will be eligible to apply for payments. In the event that a former slave or forced labourer passed away after Feb. 16, 1999, his or her legal heirs will be entitled to apply for payment.

For more information, contact the Conference on Jewish Material Claims, 15 E. 26th St., suite 906, New York, N.Y., 10010, or call 212-696-4944, fax: 212-679-2126.

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Ont. budget studied for special needs funds

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A section in last week's Ontario budget which calls for public funding of the medical requirements of special needs students at religious-based schools was greeted by Jewish communal leaders with confusion but cautious optimism.

The small paragraph, contained on page 13 of the budget, read: "Through the Ministry of Health, we are delivering on our promise by proposing to extend funding for the medical requirements of special needs students in all denominational schools. This will eliminate unfair barriers for special needs children seeking a faith-based education. It is the fair and equitable thing to do."

But there was no dollar amount accompanying the item in the budget or in supporting documents, leaving Canadian Jewish Congress to speculate that the Tories were simply reannouncing an old expenditure of between $2 and $3 million a year to provide independent schools with medically-based health services already available in public schools.

After a day of feverishly working the phones, Congress was able to ascertain, from officials in the finance ministry, that $7 million has been allocated for health services in private schools for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, and $11 million for 2001-2002.

Still, Congress greeted the announcement by saying it was "pleased but puzzled."

Pleased because it marked the first time the government has addressed a long-standing priority in the Jewish community.

And puzzled because the money is being allocated to the health ministry and not the education ministry, meaning funds will be targeted to a small subset of children with specific medical needs.

Continued on page 20

YOM HASHOAH: Holocaust survivor Elsa Chandler and her grandson David Caplan light one of six memorial candles at last week's annual community Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah service. See page 6 for more on Yom Hashoah.
[Ron Csillag photo]

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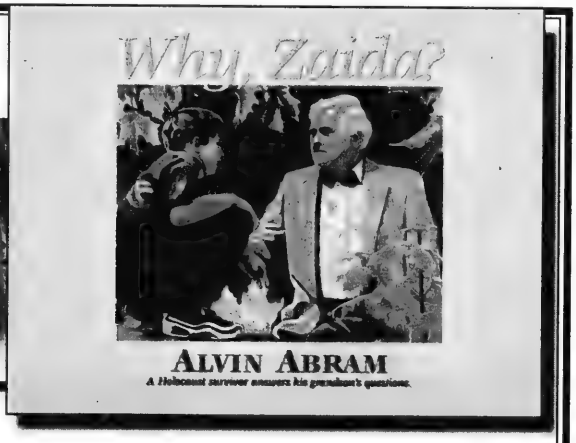

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Greater Toronto Area

'I believe in you'

From the editor's desk

One moves slowly, solemnly almost reverentially through the rooms specially arranged to house the new exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO). In the muted light of the chambers, one is soon struck by the unmistakable feeling that here is a special place.

The work on display is that of Charlotte Salomon, a young Jewish artist from Germany who was killed in Auschwitz in 1943.

It is also Salomon's life on display. And even a great deal more than that.

The exhibition is titled Life? or Theatre?, the name the artist herself gave to the extraordinary collection. The collection is a multi-media experience anchored in some 1,300 raw, sometimes-jarring-sometimes tender, but always startling, gouache watercolour paintings that tell the melancholy autobiographical tale of the young artist, her family, her country and her people. Of the 1,300 paintings that comprise the total collection, nearly 400 hang at the AGO.

Charlotte Salomon
Life? or Theatre?

But Life? or Theatre? is more than a series of paintings. It was intended by the artist to be a *Singespiel*, a play with music, a mini operetta, if you will.

And remarkably, this is what Salomon achieved.

The paintings are arranged chronologically as if they were each single frames in a reel of film. Advancing from one drawing to the next, therefore, is akin to advancing the film, moving further along in the storyline told by the artist/author.

Because there is a story, there are also characters, narrative, plot, dialogue and even monologue incorporated into the meticulously painted, serialized frames of this rare watercolour "film."

And there is also music. Young Charlotte carefully scripted a medley of classical works to accompany her drawings. To the great credit of AGO the exhibit includes an audio capability that recreates much of artist's intention.

The design and dimension of the collection are captivating; it is a unique, brilliantly creative effort at transcending the linear, two-dimensional world of drawing and painting into something vastly more complex.

Emotions flare not only by dint of colour and hue, texture and tone, but by "lyric" and narrative and melody as well.

The many layers of Life? or Theatre? beckon the observer. There is so much unravelling and peeling back, so much delving through the story and through the myriad artforms that Charlotte has placed before us, that the experience is as much "archeological" as it is artistic.

With the urgency borne of the time, of the frightening uncertainly that she faced each morning as dawn broke over the blood-red horizon, Charlotte raced to chronicle on the pages of her watercolours, the details of the collapsing civilization whose destructive rubble increasingly crumbled around her. In just over two years, she completed more than 1,300 drawings.

Standing before the drawings, one tries to imagine oneself inside the pictures, where there is little light but an abiding beauty. One dares even to imagine oneself inside the very soul of an artist who could design a form of moral order out of moral disintegration.

"May you never forget that I believe in you," Charlotte's teacher and friend Alfred Wolfsohn wrote to her before her 21st birthday, as she departed Germany in 1938 for her temporary refuge in the south of France.

She must have painted in a fury of urgent mission. Undoubtedly, it was to affirm Wolfsohn's and her own belief in both the goodness and the importance of her life. In so doing, she affirmed the goodness and the importance of every life.

On Sept. 24, 1943, the Gestapo arrived. Charlotte and her husband were dragged out of the house and thrown into the truck. Charlotte was then four months pregnant. On Oct. 7 they were transported to Auschwitz. On their arrival, Oct. 10, 1943, Charlotte was killed. She was 26 years old. Her husband was killed on Jan. 1, 1944.

Parents should bring their children, and teachers should bring their students to this remarkable exhibition.

Charlotte Salomon's belief in the ultimate goodness and importance of life is the true story of her *Singespiel*. It is a story we can never hear or see too often.

Life? or Theatre? is at the AGO until July 9. *MBD*

SEE JN

MEETING THE STARS: *CJN* contest winner Susan Molnar, second from left, won four VIP tickets to see husband-and-wife team Renée Taylor and Joe Bologna in *If You Ever Leave Me...I'm Going With You!* at the Winter Garden Theatre. With her after last week's preview are, from left, Taylor, Molnar's daughter Katherine and husband Tom, Reesa Rosen, and behind them, Bologna. [Frances Kraft photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Israel Funwalk is for runners also

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Adults who don't have young children have a new incentive to participate in this year's UJA FEDERATION Israel Funwalk.

An adult run has been added, along the first five km of the seven-km route through old Jewish Toronto. Runners will start out five minutes before the walk begins from Nathan Phillips Square. The route finishes at Ontario Place, with three checkpoints along the way including Grange Park and Bellevue Square.

The event, which usually attracts up to 10,000 people, will take place on Sunday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m., with registration from 9:15.

Traditionally the walk, an annual event for over 30 years, has been directed at young families, said Harvey Cooperberg, who is co-chairing the event with Fran Grundman.

For Cooperberg and his wife Maura, a former chair of the event, the funwalk is still a family affair. Son Lorne, 18, and daughter Erin, 15, will serve as walk marshals.

The adult run is aimed at attracting new participants, said Cooperberg. He anticipates "a great day for everyone, a great festival afterward, with lots of music and lots of fun."

The festival will include a kosher barbecue and entertainment by Beat Borscht, a student klezmer band. Mandell Entertainment Group Amusements is providing carnival rides at Nathan Phillips Square and dancers at one of the checkpoints.

For the second consecutive year, a clothing drive will be held for the Just A Second Shop affiliated with Jewish Family & Child Service. Runners and walkers are encouraged to bring new or gently used clothing to donate.

Although participants can register until the last minute, a number of prizes are offered for sponsorship money received before this Friday, May 12. For every $30 raised before Friday, participants will receive a pass to Ontario Place valid on the day of the walk, and T-shirts, while supplies last. Those raising $60 by the deadline will be eligible to win two tickets to Israel courtesy of El Al. Funds collected will be directed to this year's UJA Federation campaign.

Among other prizes is a one-year Cineplex Odeon VIP pass for the participant who raises the most money.

For further information, call 416-631-5700 or refer to the funwalk Web site at www.jewishtoronto.net/funwalk2000.

ACID RAIN: Aaron Nemteav (left) and Jeffrey Weiskoph explain their experiment on acid rain at the recent Associated Hebrew Schools Junior High Science Fair 2000.

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Holocaust's victims mourned, survivors honored

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — One of Inge Spitz's bitterest childhood memories of life under the Nazis was when the local grocer stopped giving her candy because she was a Jew.

"It still hurts," the 73-year-old Thornhill grandmother recounted at last week's community Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah commemoration.

Addressing nearly 2,000 people assembled at Earl Bales Park, Spitz said her first memories of the Nazi regime are of her grandfather's arrest around 1936. He soon died of pneumonia because, as a Jew, he could not be admitted to the local hospital.

Born in Potsdam, Spitz was just six years old when Adolf Hitler came to power. She and her sister were the only Jews at the school.

They both left for France in 1939 with a Kindertransport. Spitz lived in a convent using false identity papers. In 1944, she and nine other children slipped under barbed wire into the relative safety of Switzerland.

Joseph Peretz of Toronto was the only survivor of his family, having escaped from a forced-labour camp in France, where he spent two years. Under Nazi occupation in his native Antwerp, he was subject to anti-Jewish laws and curfews, and witnessed a synagogue being destroyed by a crowd of locals "in an orgy of desecration," while police stood by.

He too recalled memories of arrests and deportations, and of Jewish property being shipped to Germany in trains labeled "Gift from the Belgian population."

Yom Hashoah

A cold, damp wind blew through the giant tent erected for the solemn annual service. Six candles were kindled, one each in memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and the 1.5 million children who perished; and one each for the children of survivors, for partisans and resistance fighters, for the Allied forces, and for the Righteous Among the Nations.

Students from several Jewish day schools recited excerpts about the Holocaust and the final declaration issued by thousands of Holocaust survivors who gathered in Israel in 1981.

Members of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada and the General Wingate Branch 256 of the Royal Canadian Legion marched the colours. Greetings on behalf of Israel were brought by Consul General Meir Romem.

Dramatic readings and songs were rendered in Yiddish and English.

Premier Mike Harris and Hank Rosenbaum, chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, flank Holocaust survivor Olly Mittleman, one of 13 survivors honored at Queen's Park last week for contributions to Ontario.

Rabbi Moshe Stern said Kaddish, while Cantor Aaron Bensoussan recited K'El Maleh Rachamim and led the singing of *Zog Nit Keynmol*, the Partisans' Song.

The next day at Queen's Park, the provincial government and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem honored 13 Holocaust survivors who have made positive contributions to Ontario.

Premier Mike Harris and Helen Johns, minister of culture and citizenship, joined Hank Rosenbaum, chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, for the ninth annual reception attended by friends and family of the honourees.

Handed specially inscribed scrolls were artist Dubi Arie; former school trustee and community activist Elsa Chandler; Cantors Martin Rosenblum and Joseph Cooper; volunteer Sally Eisner; Olly Mittleman; Betty and Izzy Kirshenbaum, who were both aboard the *Exodus*; the late communal leader Ralph Snow; and businessmen Morris Leider, Izzy Light, Jerry Matta and Max Moneta.

Minutes later in the legislature, Willowdale Tory MPP David Young rose to pay tribute to the honourees, who were in the visitors' gallery, and to speak about the importance of remembering the Holocaust.

"As a youngster, I grew up in a community where it was common for adults to have numbers tattooed on their arms. These marks remain as painful reminders of the concentration camps, and of a tyrant's maniacal attempt to eliminate a people.

"We must continue our vigil to ensure that no tyrant will ever again inflict such unspeakable suffering on any group of human beings, regardless of their race, religion, or way of life, wherever they may live," Young stated.

More than 400 people attended a Yom Hashoah service on April 30 at Beth Radom Congregation, which was sponsored by The Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association. Special emphasis was placed on Canada's contributions to the defeat of Nazism.

Also last week, Canadian Jewish Congress praised the governments of Manitoba and British Columbia for passing legislation officially marking Holocaust Memorial Day in those provinces.

The provinces join New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario, where legislation has been enacted to mark Yom Hashoah as a day of Holocaust remembrance.

As well, B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights last week unveiled its Yom Hashoah teacher's guide, which lists resources, tips, Web sites and bibliographies for teachers.

The guide will be distributed widely across Ontario for the 2000-2001 school year.

CORRECTION: In the article titled "Teen lobbies for no-smoking bylaw," (May 4) there was an inaccurate statement. The public meetings were held by York Region's no smoking task force, comprised of a group of local politicians. We regret the error. For more information call 905-660-1886.

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Recognize the suffering of others, says Holocaust survivor

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — "I saw it. I lived it. I survived it."

With these simple words, Holocaust survivor Michael Stivelman confided why he felt compelled to write *The Death March*, an account of his wartime experiences.

Yom Hashoah

The book, originally published in Portuguese under the name *A Marcha*, was a bestseller in Brazil, where Stivelman now lives. It was recently published in English.

Stivelman launched the book at a Yom Hashoah program at Chabad@Flamingo, The Ernest Manson Lubavitch Centre, in Thornhill.

He said that while he himself was not in a concentration camp, he wanted to give first-hand testimony about what happened to him, his family and his village, and by extension, to the Jews of Europe under Hitler.

"I was not just reliving my private hell," he said. "I was giving one microscopic example of what the Nazis did."

When the Nazis came to Bessarabia, instead of putting the members of his community into camps, they rounded them up and made them march through the countryside until they died of malnutrition or disease, he said. Some were executed.

Stivelman said he was saved by an "Orthodox Ukrainian woman," one of the three miracles of his life; the other two were meeting his wife Rachel and returning to religious observance.

When the war ended, he found that his entire paternal family had been wiped out. He immigrated to Brazil, where his mother's family had been since the early years of the century.

He became an economist and president of Banco Cedula S/A in Rio de Janeiro, married and had two children. He never spoke about the war years.

Eventually, though, he came to the conclusion that "by my silence, I failed to honour those who didn't survive. I decided to bare my soul."

Michael Stivelman signs a copy of *The Death March*, his memories of the Holocaust. **[Paul Lazlos photo]**

The biblical injunction, *Zachor v'al tishkach* – Remember and don't forget (what Amalek did to you), is not for the purpose of looking for pity, he stressed. "It is to denounce oppression and injustice. We must remember our suffering, so that it won't happen to anyone else."

In response to a question from the audience, Stivelman said that Jews as a people have to take an "ethical stance." Just because world nations didn't speak out or help the Jews during World War II, "that doesn't change our responsibility as Jews to fight against any injustice – not only against Jews, but against Blacks, the poor, Gypsies."

We should "extend the same ethical sense of justice that we feel towards Jews to non-Jews," Stivelman said.

That is not just empty rhetoric for Stivelman. All proceeds from the sale of *A Marcha/The Death March* are going to a foundation that will help both Jews and non-Jews in Brazil. "I was accepted there, and my children were born there," he explained.

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan, spiritual leader of Chabad@Flamingo, said that when the Torah exhorts us to remember Amalek, it is not talking merely about a couple of ancient feuding nations.

Rather, it refers to a "cold indifference" – not caring about what is happening to other people.

"The Torah tells us to come to shul once a year to remember that being a Jew means something."

It is our responsibility, he said, "to be moved, to not allow ourselves to be indifferent" to other people or to the obligations and responsibilities of Jewish observance, such as saying Kiddush, going to shul and observing Pesach.

The program included excerpts from the Oscar-winning documentary *The Long Way Home*, about the liberation of the concentration camps by the Allied forces.

More Yom Hashoah coverage on pages 25, 27, 28.

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DANNY SHIMONI, Optimistic Attitude

On the fourth day of the war in Lebanon, 22 year old Danny Shimoni's tank was hit twice by Syrian anti-tank missiles ...

"It is very difficult today to describe the pain" says Danny. "My legs were crushed and the heat from the explosion was an unbearable 3000C". Danny chose to fight and did not allow himself to lose consciousness. "I felt very close to death, and I thought about my mother — I had to make sure that I stayed alive."

Danny lost both his legs and needed numerous operations. He was unable to work due to his terrible injuries, and became very restless.

Today, with the help of Beit Halochem, Danny says his injuries seem almost natural. "Although," he adds, "an injury is something that stays with you for the rest of your life. I think about it when I get dressed in the morning, when I get tired and at home when I take off my prosthesis."

Danny studied accounting and married his girlfriend Ronit. They have two children who were born to the reality of a father in a wheelchair. Although his memories are difficult, he remains the optimist that he always was.

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Protecting civilians

Israel is pulling its troops out of south Lebanon. Prime Minister Ehud Barak made withdrawal from Lebanon a main plank of his election platform last year. And he is determined to make good on that promise despite objections from diverse quarters, including, of all people, the presidents of Lebanon and of Syria.

July 7 has been announced as the IDF's withdrawal date. According to media reports last weekend, it may happen even sooner. The dismantling of military infrastructure and the removal of heavy equipment have already begun. There can be no doubt now that Israeli forces will be out of Lebanese territory within weeks.

It is the certainty of Israel's imminent departure that shines a high beam, bright light on the true intentions of Hezbollah in firing the barrage of Katyusha rockets that fell on Kiryat Shmonah last Thursday and Friday in which one IDF soldier was killed and a number of people were injured.

It was the first time Hezbollah shelled Kiryat Shmonah since their Katyusha attack in June 1999 that killed two Israelis. They were not retaliating for the accidental dropping of a bomb last Wednesday by an IAF pilot on the south Lebanese village of Habush that wounded six civilians. Israel made clear the accidental nature of the incident. Nor was Hezbollah retaliating for the deaths of two women caused by shelling from the South Lebanese Army (SLA). Retaliation for the sad deaths of the two women would have been directed precisely and expressly at the SLA. Rather, the eruption of violence was a joint "statement" sent to Israel by the Syrians and Hezbollah that while an IDF withdrawal may remove Israeli soldiers from immediate harm's way, it will not achieve the same result for Israeli civilians living in the north.

The Israeli government responded to the Hezbollah attacks in the same manner it did in June 1999, by sending warplanes to bomb economic infrastructure facilities, and assiduously avoiding bombing near civilian centres.

Israel had to demonstrate to Hezbollah, Syria and the government of Lebanon that the Jewish state will not equivocate in the measures it will take in protecting its own citizens. "The moment there is an attack and danger to the lives of civilians in Israel, including Kiryat Shmonah and the northen border," said Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz, "we will choose the way to act with full force against targets in Lebanon. I regard the Lebanese government and its army responsible for what happens in its sovereign territory."

In a matter of days there will no longer be an IDF presence on Lebanese soil. The rhetoric and bombings directed at Israel by Hezbollah are not, therefore, aimed at expelling the IDF from "Lebanese soil."

The volley of rockets launched in broad daylight, when most people were simply going about their business on the streets and in the marketplaces, was aimed at killing and injuring as many Jews as possible.

Israel cannot allow these murderous acts to go unpunished.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Teffilin, Omed Teffilin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

Editorials and Letters

Dry Bones
CLINTON WAS UNABLE TO GIVE THE GOLAN TO SYRIA
AND SO HE LOST HIS SHOT AT A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
PRESIDENT TO FLY TO MOSCOW IN JUNE
WOW!
GIVING ALASKA BACK TO RUSSIA ...A "SUBSTITUTE PLAN?"

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What Levant does not understand

Ezra Levant's response to Ron Csillag (Letters to the Editor, *CJN* April 28) is troubling in that it displays a fundamental lack of understanding of both the teachings of Judaism and the mission of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

I would like to point out the following:

• CJC does not oppose prayer in the legislature. We oppose the exclusive use of Christian prayer in a public place. Indeed, we support the idea of using the prayers of many faiths, as well as the practice adopted by the House of Commons, which employs a non-denominational prayer and a moment of silence to open its sessions. The Ontario Court of Appeal, in its recent decision, has found the exclusive use of the Lord's Prayer in opening a municipal session to contravene the charter.

• CJC's position with regard to the removal of prayer from public schools is hardly anti-Christian. We believe that public schools are not the proper place for school-initiated prayers of any faith.

• CJC is hardly "endangering the Jewish interest." Rather, we are properly engaged in efforts to ensure that the religious diversity of Ontario/Canada be respected in all of its public institutions.

In reference to Levant's statement that "the words 'human rights' and 'minorities' don't even appear" in the CJC charter, allow me to point out that the second fundamental principle of the Congress agenda adopted at its first plenary in 1919 was "the demand for Jewish national rights for all Jews…and also to demand for the Jews equal rights with the minorities in this country."

This principal now finds its expression in our 1992 Aims and Objectives, which state, in part, that CJC's role is to "investigate anti-Semitism and to devise means of overcoming its influence universally and in Canada in particular; and to promote the growth of a spirit of toleration, understanding and goodwill between all segments of society within a multicultural Canada."

The goal of overcoming anti-Semitism is expressed in tandem with the promotion of tolerance, understanding, goodwill and multiculturalism. The goals of Congress remain unchanged and strong after more than 80 years. As for the "J" in CJC, it is as relevant, vibrant and meaningful as ever with the "J" having pride of place in CJC.

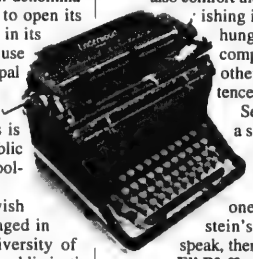
Keith M. Landy, Chair
Canadian Jewish Congress
Ontario Region

* * *

Solace or silence?

Re: "God and Suffering" (*CJN* April 28). In an attempt to explain God's absence during the Shoah, God-fearing people and theologians offer a variety of reasons for the "manquake," ranging from "because of our sins" to *Hester Panim* (God's hidden face). Apparently, Elliot Malamet, not a theologian, leans towards the solace seekers who find relief in God's tears mingling with those of the sufferers.

I doubt whether Malamet's recent discovery would also comfort those who stood in the roll call, perishing in the cold, parching in the sun, hunger gnawing at their guts. God's compassion, yes. But what about His other attributes: ubiquity, omnipotence?



Seeking solace in the Holocaust is a sign of an intellectual fallacy best left hidden behind God's hiding face and tears.

When writing on this subject, one should heed Ludwig Wittgenstein's advice: "Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent."

Eli Pfefferkorn
Toronto

* * *

Appreciative of 'Holland' article

I wish to express my thanks to *The CJN* for publishing the article by Manfred Gerstenfeld titled "Re-examining Holland's wartime record" (April 28). I have tried many times to explain this issue to my friends here in Canada, but they do not seem to understand; the Netherlands did a great PR con job, even until this day.

My father is a Holocaust survivor and has many horrible stories to tell, apart from the camps, about the way he was treated upon his return to the Netherlands. The way the Dutch behaved after the war is a tragedy on its own. Having worked for the Jewish social services in Amsterdam I got a good education regarding issues that surfaced in a horrible manner after the war.

I am very grateful to live in Canada. I moved here with my husband and two sons four years ago. The possibilities are plentiful and I am actively involved in the Jewish community. It is like being in a warm bath.

Emmy Gershon
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

March of the Living 2000

SCENES FROM THE MARCH: Pictured in photo top left are second from right Ruchama Weizman, President Ezer Weizman, and Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau leading the delegation; photos clockwise, Israeli scouts marching past the gates of the death camp; scenes of Canadian youngsters participating in the day's events.

[Photos by Stephen Epstein and RNS/Reuters]

The next conflict

As I write this, at the end of March, the American government has been rebuffed by the Syrians, and the attempt to establish a meaningful relationship between Israel and Syria seems to have run aground. Perhaps, by the time you read this, things will have changed, but beyond this problem lie others that will not be resolved in the near future.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

One of these is the pervasive rejection of Israel's existence which has once again become a major theme in Arab propaganda. It has taken a new tack and concentrates on depicting not only the Jewish state but also Jews in general as a sore on the body politic of humanity, and especially in the Middle East.

It is no exaggeration to say that Arab anti-Semitism is far more widespread than Hitler's version ever was. Many millions of homes and thousands of schools teach that there is a Jewish conspiracy abroad and that *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* is not fiction but reality.

Once again there is talk of another possible Israeli-Arab war - not immediately, but sometime in the future. The pundits who foresee it believe it is inevitable, given the ever-growing fundamental enmity of the Arab world. There are, to be sure, notable exceptions, but they are just that.

Though I hope the prophets of doom are wrong, I will issue my own warning. It does not deal with the conflict of different peoples and their competition for a piece of land that each party believes it can call its own; rather, it has to do with ideology.

The conflicting parties I have in mind are both Jewish: those who call themselves religious and those who consider themselves to be secular. I foresee persistent serious and worrisome tensions that could develop into a form of civil war, and some analysts believe that it could even lead to bloodshed.

For a long time, the two sides lived peacefully together; today I see the contesting positions hardening – and not only in Israel, but here at home as well.

When I first arrived in Canada, we were still one community, but no longer. We must find a way of sitting down together to join in the solution of common problems. If we were to begin this reconciliation, we might make a beginning, not only for ourselves, but also set an example for our Israeli brothers and sisters.

Regardless of whether or not they would listen to us, we must try and do our bit in this confrontation. It is sure to come unless we Jews will see ourselves again as parts of one family and stop demonizing one another.

Ghosts in the photo

I have a picture of the Kotel from my trip to Israel. This picture is a little different than most pictures taken by young Jews in Jerusalem for the first time.

I dropped my camera, never being a proficient shutterbug, and somehow one exposure of the Western Wall superimposed onto another. In my picture, there are faint images of people standing and praying at the holiest Jewish site in the world. They look like ghosts.

Jennifer Fox on campus in Halifax

When I stood at the Kotel, I felt the hot wind hit my legs and skirt and I knew I would cry. And I did. I was not the only one. Though the Wall was smaller in proportion than I imagined, it still packed an emotional punch.

Today, three years after my trip, I think about why I had to brush tears off my face and the ghosts in my warped picture. The Kotel is IT. It represents Jewish determination. Sure it was destroyed – twice. We were exiled for a long time but now we're here and it's ours.

When I clenched my hands while listening to discussions about Israel in my Middle East history class, it was because of the Wall and those ghosts. I wanted to defend its honour.

Two months ago, I wrote in this column that I want Israel to be the good guys. Israel turns 52 years old this week. It's no longer a baby, which means I shouldn't treat it as such.

Israel is old enough to own up to her mistakes and accept the bad decisions made by her leaders. The difference between an adult and a child is that an adult takes responsibility for their misdeeds and a child promises to do better next time.

They are not the same and if I want to have adult discussions about my other homeland then I have to be able to say when it is wrong – not they'll do better next time.

All this maturity sort of sneaked up on me. Maybe when I was studying for the Middle East history exam, when I was reading about the instances of strife between Israel and its neighbours, its allies and even within its own borders. I knew I couldn't just excuse everything.

I had the same kind of feeling about Canada in elementary school.

Israel is a subject that gets a gut reaction out of people. This passion just takes over, making itself the focus of attention, which makes it easy to get caught up in defence rather than discussion.

A non-Jewish friend asked me what Jews thought about Israel. I'm assuming he meant us in North America. This unfortunately was during a long distance call so I laughed and told him I couldn't afford to begin to explain it right now.

What will I tell him when we eventually have this conversation? Some Jews support Israel and some don't. Some think it should be a Jewish homeland with Jewish laws.

Others think it's a secular country that's home to Jews. I'll tell him, like most of my other attempts to explain Judaism – no clear-cut decision has been reached.

I might show him my picture of ghosts at the Kotel. As I explain its importance, I'll tell him of a person on my trip that stared at the Wall and said, "It's just a wall," which is true. It's just a wall. It's just a country. But it's mine.

So I raise a glass to Israel and wish her happy 52nd. L'chaim. You're all grown up now.

Let's root for the Expos!

Do you own a Pokemon battling coin game? A calendar that starts in April? Four or five copies of that calendar? I can answer affirmatively to all three questions.

I acquired each of these items upon entering the tallest leaning structure in the world shaped like a toilet bowl which, on an average home game night, hosts about 9,000 lunatic fans trying to hide the 30,000+ empty seats.

Erica Horn on campus in Montreal

If you haven't figured it out, I am referring to the Olympic Stadium.

For those of you residing in Montreal, shame on you for not coming out to cheer on your Expos, who are having a smashing season and who continuously bewilder the fans who do come out.

I have been to five games this season (mainly because my boyfriend is one of those lunatic fans who wears his red Expos cap to every game – the rim is signed by most of the players).

I'll admit that entering such a structure is not done mindlessly. Before leaving the house I wonder whether I should grab a hard hat in case the building should cave in or whether I should simply say my last goodbyes.

In truth, the only "excitement" at the Big O these days is that the Expos are playing phenomenally, and that we are able to afford having the best player in the league on our team – Vladimir Guerrero.

Hopes of constructing a more centrally located downtown stadium to attract more fans have led many Montrealers to start thinking of creative ways to finance such a project.

My friends and I have thought of charging people to take a few swings at the Olympic Stadium with a sledgehammer. Or, asking for donations of dynamite and then using the existing stone to build the new park.

Instead of selling the seats as they did at the Forum before the move to the Molson Centre, simply ask for donations for a moving van and transfer them to the new site.

Montreal is a fair-weather city. We like winning teams and the Expos are exactly that.

It is unfortunate that those who do not trek out to the east end to see the game live aren't blessed with television and radio coverage and thus have missed witnessing any of our 10 home wins and I really can't understand why.

Pay $8 for a general admission ticket and you can literally sit wherever you want (just not in the VIP section). We always sit in section 123 along the first base line because it is most convenient to get autographs after the game, to spy on the Expos bullpen and it is usually vacant.

So, this is essentially an open-ended invitation to join my friends and me at an Expos game (although I'm not offering to pay for your tickets!!).

The Expos put on a good show, above and beyond their ability to play. Management has hired a teenaged boy to dress up as an elderly woman (much like the wolf dressed up like an old lady in *Little Red Riding Hood*).

He asks whether or not we have seen her son Albert, Martin or whomever it is on a given night and then tells you that if you see him to send him to Expofest (an arcade in the Big O) and then he hands you a coupon for Expofest.

Also, after every Expo home run there are fireworks and as each of our players steps up to bat, a different song is played.

Youppi gallivants around, and if you're lucky he'll hug you or hold you in a headlock. So, if you don't like baseball that is no excuse not to come out and cheer on your team.

How does this relate to Jewish student life on campus? It doesn't, not specifically.

I have noticed many students at the games, many of whom have painted the words Vladi or Expo on their stomachs or have brought their horns and shofars to the games and heckle the ushers.

Moreover, I know that there was a stampede to the home game the night before the first seder and that during Passover many of my friends went and packed knapsacks full of kosher-for-Passover snacks to ensure that they wouldn't go hungry during the 3½-hour showdown.

It is a relatively inexpensive form of recreation (cheaper than a movie) and easily accessible via metro.

Students are known for their idealism and passion. The Expos need us to believe in them – so students, now that school is out, come on out to "root root root for the home team, for if they don't win it's a shame."

The Kirshner File

Ambiguity defines Israel's nuclear policy

Ambiguity is the essence of Israel's nuclear policy. Israel has a nuclear arsenal, but its leaders rarely acknowledge it, even in the face of incontrovertible evidence to the contrary.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

In 1987, when an Israeli citizen named Mordechai Vanunu was sentenced to 18 years in prison for disclosing secrets about Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona, the Israeli government maintained a studious silence. When pressed, Israeli spokespersons fell back on a familiar rhetorical device: Israel would not be the first country to use nuclear weapons in the Middle East. This policy remains in effect. Two weeks ago, in response to Arab demands calling on Israel to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection, Ephraim Sneh, Israel's deputy defence minister, said: "We are not saying what we have or don't have..."

In point of fact, Israel has had an operational nuclear capability since 1967, if you believe Avner Cohen, an Israeli scholar living in the United States. Cohen, in *Israel and the Bomb* (Columbia University Press), a sober study on the subject, proves beyond a reasonable doubt that Israel is indeed an atomic power. He draws on Israeli and American government documents, most of them recently declassified and never used before, and interviews with key players to tell his story. The book, he acknowledges, is incomplete, since many documents still remain classified. But for now, *Israel and the Bomb* should be regarded as the standard work in the field.

Three men set Israel's nuclear project into motion: David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister; Ernst David Bergmann, an organic chemist and Ben-Gurion's scientific adviser; and Shimon Peres, the director-general of the Ministry of Defence who turned a vision into a reality. Imbued with the lessons of the Holocaust, the most important of which was that Jews in Israel should control their own fate, Ben-Gurion viewed Arab hostility toward the Jewish state as deep and long-lasting. In his opinion, Israel had to base its security on science and technology, the only areas where it could have a significant advantage over its Arab enemies.

Nuclear weapons might also persuade Arab states to accept Israel's existence, leading to peace in the region. As a theory, it was remarkably prescient. Recently, Peres told Israel Radio, "Israel entered the nuclear age not to get to Hiroshima but to arrive at Oslo."

Bergmann, a refugee from Nazi Germany, persuaded Ben-Gurion that a nuclear deterrent might be the key to Israel's survival and prosperity. Nuclear technology, he argued, would open options for civilian and military applications. Not surprisingly, Bergmann was the first chair of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission.

Peres' contributions were twofold: he was the architect of Israel's alliance with France, an entente which made the Dimona reactor possible, and he was instrumental in choosing the project's scientists and managers. It was a monumental task, as Israel did not have a single nuclear physicist in 1948, the year the state was created. Although self-reliance was at the heart of its quest to go nuclear, Israel at first needed outside assistance. In 1953, the first Israeli physicists were sent to France to study reactor physics. Two years later, Israel and the United States signed an agreement for peaceful nuclear co-operation which included the sale of a small research reactor. That was followed by an accord to buy heavy water from Norway for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Despite these developments, there was no clear consensus in Israel's scientific community as to a policy concerning nuclear energy. While Bergmann called for a dual-purpose program, Amos De Shalit, one of Israel's most prominent scientists, disagreed, arguing that major decisions on military applications should be postponed.

Siding with Bergmann, Ben-Gurion adopted his scheme of pursuing two nuclear paths simultaneously, one public, the other secret. In line with this philosophy, Israel signed a contract with the United States to build a modest reactor in Nachal Sorek as part of the Atoms for Peace program, while secretly continuing to press France for a reactor with military applications. According to Cohen, Ben-Gurion kept most of his cabinet colleagues in the dark about his intention to build a military reactor in Dimona. Nor did he allow the issue to be debated by the armed forces. To maintain secrecy and minimize the risk of opposition, Ben-Gurion and Peres ran the project underground, outside the normal state budget.

In 1960, France, currying favour with the Arab world, decided to sever nuclear ties with Israel. In desperation, Ben-Gurion promised Charles de Gaulle, the French president, not to build a nuclear weapon. A compromise was struck whereby French companies with existing contracts would be allowed to finish work on the Dimona reactor.

David Ben-Gurion

By then, two schools of thought had emerged in Israel about its military doctrine. The backers of a nuclear approach held that only non-conventional weapons could provide Israel with a stable deterrence without being caught up in a conventional arms race. Opponents countered that a military force built on mobile armour and a strong tactical air force would ensure Israel's security.

In a work rife with numerous disclosures, two of the most intriguing aspects of *Israel and the Bomb* turn on the manner in which the United States and the Arabs, primarily Egypt, responded to Israel's nuclear ambitions. Early in 1958, U-2 reconnaissance flights produced aerial photographs of the construction of the Dimona reactor. It took more than two years for intelligence agencies to identify Dimona as a reactor site. Even then, Israel alternately described Dimona as a textile plant and a metallurgical research installation.

In a meeting with President John F. Kennedy, Ben-Gurion emphasized Israel's interest in the civilian use of nuclear energy. American inspectors visited Dimona, but found no evidence of weapon-related activity. Cohen claims that Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Baines Johnson, did not press Israel to the wall on the nuclear issue, notwithstanding Israel's refusal to sign the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But according to files released by the U.S. State Department in April, Johnson did in fact exert considerable pressure on Israel. Worried about the threat of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, he asked Israel for a promise not to develop nuclear weapons. Israel was told in no uncertain terms that it would not be granted permission to buy U.S. arms unless it abided by that pledge. Israel refused, citing reasons of national security.

President Richard Nixon reached a tacit understanding with Israel which holds to this day. If Israel was discreet, the United States would not question its nuclear capability. The Arab world hewed to an identical policy, but on the eve of the Six Day War, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt's president, warned Israel that the acquisition of nuclear weapons would be a cause for war. Cohen claims that Egyptian aircraft made at least two reconnaissance flights over Dimona in May 1967, and that the nuclear issue exacerbated the crisis which culminated with the Six Day War.

Cohen ends *Israel and the Bomb* on an optimistic note. Israel's nuclear project, he notes, has greatly contributed to the rapid development of Israeli science and technology and solidified its image and status as the strongest nation in the Middle East. But to the Arabs, as Cohen would doubtless agree, Israel's nuclear stockpile is a threat to the security of the entire region.

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Questions and answers

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Your genealogical detective has been busy lately, responding to numerous mail and e-mail inquiries. Readers may find some of them illuminating:

* * *

Q: I'm interested in anything you can tell me about about Graeding, a town in Ukraine. I am not sure whether it still exists today. I am especially interested in finding a map of the town. –Yigal Walt, Toronto

A: One of the first and most important things to do when researching an unknown shtetl is to consult *Where Once We Walked* (*WOWW*), by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Sack. The book's numerical system of phonetics identifies Graeding as Gorodok, a town that had 2,545 Jews in 1939 and is located 26 kilometres west-southwest of Lviv (Lvov). Graeding or Grayding is how the town was pronounced and spelled by its Yiddish-speaking residents.

WOWW also lists numerous other sources, including the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, the Hebrew-language encyclopedia *Pinkas Hakehillot*, and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem.

Sefer Grayding, a 120-page yizkor or memorial book, was published in Tel Aviv in 1981. Like most yizkor books, its text is mostly in Hebrew and Yiddish. It is probably available at a local university library or via inter-library loan.

Another valuable source is *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova: Pages From the Past and Archival Inventories*, by Miriam Weiner, which gives the archival locations of many 18th- and 19th-century Jewish records from Gorodok. See also Suzan F. Wynne's *Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia: A Resource Guide*.

As a general rule, all researchers should consult the amazing array of resources available through the Internet Web site www.jewishgen.org. One of its databases, the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder (JGFF) provides a listing of more than 50 researchers with ancestral links to Gorodok.

As for maps, the University of Toronto's Robarts Library has a good map library. Your best bet for a detailed map of the shtetl, however, is the yizkor book.

* * *

Q: I'm researching the Ansell family tree, which has branches in Britain, Canada, the United States and elsewhere. It's a great tree to work on because a lot of it, such as Isaac Davis' family of Toronto, is documented. Any suggestions? –Judy Wolkovitch, Los Angeles

A: Lawrence Tapper's *Biographical Dictionary of Canadian Jewry*, 1909-1914, offers a lengthy entry on Isaac Davis, telling us he was born in Moscow in 1806, became a successful merchant in Montreal after 1834, married in England in 1847, and brought his family to Toronto in 1854.

The first naturalized Jew in Toronto, Davis ran a dry goods business on Yonge Street and was gabbai in Toronto's first synagogue on Richmond Street. He died in 1888, survived by his wife and three children – "Henry Davis, manager of the Crochet and Knitting Specialty; David Davis; and Mrs. Miller. Lionel Davis, of the law firm Davis & Mehr, is a grandson." Another entry relates that a Montreal cousin, David Ansell, was the Mexican consul general for Canada.

The Jewish Victorian: Genealogical Information from the Jewish Newspapers, 1871-1880, edited by Doreen Berger (UK, 1999) offers entries on members of the family in England, including the patriarch, Rabbi Zalmon or Salomon, a former chief of the Beth Din in London, and his son Moss Ansell, former president of London's celebrated Soup Kitchen for the Jewish Poor.

The 1934 publication *Canadian Jewry: Prominent Jews of Canada* (edited by Dr. Zvi Cohen) lists several Davises that may be related. See also *The Jew in Canada*, an unsurpassed historical tome by Arthur Daniel Hart, published in 1926, and more recent histories by Abella, Speisman and Tulchinsky. Newspaper obituaries are also recommended.

Got a genealogical inquiry? Write to Ze'ev Glicenstein c/o The CJN (e-mail, TorCJN1@aol.com).

Decades of memories

By MARLENE WALKER

I was born immersed in layers of generations, including three grandparents and three great-grandparents. So, yes, I was blessed and I've never taken it for granted.

Guest Voice

But now, as I approach 50-ish, the threads of my early years and my history are gushing forward to meet the present. I dig up family trees, engage in inquisitive conversations with aging relatives, bury myself in old photographs and enter the world of my paternal grandmother through her journal entries.

I also rummage through drawers, uncovering memories of my youth, and those of my children: a tiny hand moulded from clay, drawings, cards, handwritten apologies for naughty behaviour, awards, first words, funny comments, insightful comments, pictures… The list goes on and on, with every drawer another treasure house of memories.

One day I was talking to my mother about my preoccupation. She understood exactly where I was coming from and commented that "You have to reach a certain age before you can reminisce."

What that age is, is not predetermined but it may reflect a stage in your life, or your children's lives, perhaps an event or maybe serendipity.

Just recently memories have begun to flood my mind; some are trivial events that have arisen from the deep recesses of my being, while others are weaving themselves together into the fabric of my life. The more I remember, the more memories pour in. Sometimes they rush at me, taking me back to my childhood. As I remember, I ask more and more questions about my ancestors.

I seem to need to find out everything I can, before those who know will not be able to tell me. I am curious, intrigued and charmed by these visions, these feelings and by the connectivity of life.

As I delve into this rich personal history, I remember the outline of a funny vignette told to me by a distant relative, who remembered my great-grandfather. I knew that the "punchline" was brilliant Jewish wit, not easily translated into English.

My mother's paternal grandfather, my great-grandfather was a house painter and wallpaper hanger, a simple man in many ways but with great wisdom. One job involved hanging wallpaper that contained a motif of little men. When the owners of the house came home, they inspected my great-grandfather's job, and perplexed, they asked him "What did you do? You put the wallpaper on upside-down." And sure enough two panels had little men standing on their heads. My great-grandfather didn't miss a beat; responding in Yiddish: "Dis is de veldt mir voint in – Menchele aroif und menchele arup." (This is the world we live in, some people are up and some people are down.)

I have my own memories of Grandpa Phyvel as a very old man, a patriarch with a long grey beard down to his waist. I was three years old, and remember a "going-away" family gathering because, in my mind, he was going to Israel to die. But he flourished in Israel for four years before he died at the age of 89. He had his wish and was buried in the Holy Land at the Bnei Brak Cemetery.

Recently, my maternal grandmother, who is almost 91 years old, gave me a picture of the family gathering, which took place in June 1955. I was wearing a frilly sundress with barrettes in my long brown hair, wrapped in the arms of my father, who stood beside my maternal grandfather and my mother, who sat on a chair dressed in maternity clothes.

Grandpa Phyvel sat in the centre of the family surrounded by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His beard reached just under his chin!

What happens to events over the years? Whatever they are, memories are our own, on shelves in our minds, layered with the perceptions or misperceptions of time, but nevertheless are special.

Pictures document the reality, but even though I see the picture, the visualization in my mind remains the one of a three-year-old saying good-bye to the old patriarch with the waist-length beard.

Marlene Walker lives in Toronto.

Jewish Life

Jewish sites for teens

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It's one of the largest Jewish youth movements in the world – and it's as close as your keyboard. There's a wealth of information, camaraderie and fun for young people on the Web. Today, I am going to look at some great sites that are geared at Jewish teenagers. (Next time, Jewish sites for younger kids.)

A good place to start is JVibe **[http://www.jvibe.com]**. You will find a wide range of topics such as: an interview with Jerusalem-born, Long Island-raised actress Natalie Portman on playing roles ranging from Anne Frank to Star Wars' Queen Amidala; poetry about Yom Hashoah titled *Death of the Innocent*; an advice columnist named – Tell Aviv.

There is also a Jewish sports IQ quiz. Sample question: Which Jewish basketball player appeared in the first 12 NBA all-star games, and was recently chosen by the NBA as one of the 50 greatest players of all time? (Dolph Schayes)

Two other on-line magazines are Virtual Jerusalem's Teens **[http://www.virtualjerusalem.com/VJTeens/index.htm]** which has an article on interdating and intermarriage, along with its own advice column and a brain teasers section. The best articles in Teen-to-Teen are by young people telling the stories of their lives **[http://www.ttt.org.il/index.shtml]**.

There's Yehuda who is finishing his combat engineering course in the Israel Defence Force, Mike who writes about living on a West Bank settlement and Chava who explains what it's like to live a Jewish life in northern Montana where the nearest Jewish community is 300 miles away. There's also a photo studio section, tips on creative writing and a joke page. For example, What do you call an 18-storey condo in Tel Aviv? (A chai-rise.)

If you are a teen or in your 20s and are considering spending some time in Israel, then you should definitely check out the Birthright Israel Web site **[http://www.israelexperience.org/]**. This is a clearing-house for information about hundreds of Israeli programs geared toward young people. Search for the perfect program by using the site's database and compare notes with other travellers who have been there, done that. There is also information about the subsidies available to participants in these programs.

Although JewishYouth.com isn't strictly a site just for teenagers, it will be handy for anyone, from teens to adults, who creates programming for Jewish kids **[http://www.jewishyouth.com]**. This site is a great resource centre for anyone who works with Jewish youth, such as camp staff, teachers or for those who work at Jewish youth organizations. There are tips for organizing programs, sparking discussions about ethical issues and ideas for holiday-related activities. There's even a link to a job-board for people working with Jewish youth.

If you are still looking for more Jewish youth sites, take a look at Mishmash's Jewish Youth Directory **[http://mishmash.virtualave.net/kids.html]**. You'll find links to dozens of Jewish summer camps, university campus organizations and billboard areas for alumni of Jewish youth organizations.

I want to conclude by returning to JVibe.com and what I found to be a witty way to introduce a Jewish tradition to young people by using an icon of popular culture: The Homer Calendar **[http://www.jvibe.com/homer/]**.

We are currently in the period of Sefirat Ha'Omer when we count the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. Keeping track of the daily count can be confusing, but if H'Omer Simpson can do it, so can you. There are articles about the reasons for counting the Omer, appropriate charts and illustrations of Homer next to the blessing and that day's recitation – all halachically correct.

Where else could you find a cartoon of Bart Simpson writing lines on the chalkboard – I will remember to count the Omer.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home.com.

Diaries recount life in Germany

I Will Bear Witness, A Diary of the Nazi Years 1942-1945 **By Victor Klemperer (Random House)**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Those who read the initial portion of Klemperer's astonishing account of his day-by-day experiences in Nazi Germany during the years 1933 to 1941, will welcome this final instalment that covers the years 1942 to 1945.

This massive diary is a major source for the study of the Holocaust and the lives of ordinary Germans during the 12 years of Nazi power. The author, the son of a liberal Berlin rabbi, and a decorated veteran of World War I, married a Protestant woman and converted to Christianity. He was a professor of Romance languages at the Dresden Technical Institute and an acknowledged scholar and admired writer.

The fact that his wife was a gentile, undoubtedly saved him from quick deportation to a death camp. But, the couple were forced to leave their home and move into a "Jews' House" in Dresden. They had to give up their telephone, radio and typewriter; they could no longer walk in city parks, attend movies or theatres, use streetcars or shop, except at limited times.

Klemperer had to wear a yellow Jewish star and he and Eve were subjected to an ever-increasing escalation of Nazi tyranny.

Even though he grew more pessimistic and desolate, he did not lose his sharp and almost objective power of observation and his precise and meticulous style.

In 1936, in a moment of self recognition, Klemperer removed all masks of self-deception and wrote: "The majority of people…believe that it is inopportune to be outraged at such details as the suppression of civil liberties, the persecution of the Jews…the systematic destruction of all morality.

"And all are afraid for their livelihood, their life, all are such terrible cowards. (Can I reproach them with it?…I swore an oath to Hitler, I have remained in the country – I am no better than my Aryan fellow creatures)."

The present volume describes Klemperer's life in Dresden from 1942 through the end of the fighting with a cool and unsparing eye that uses the very act of writing, of keeping his diary, as a form of subversion directed against the Nazi regime.

Klemperer records his daily experiences in the "Jews' House" with a marvellous facility for capturing all of the ordinary and extraordinary aspects of life. Surviving the devastation of Dresden, the couple, during the chaos and confusion that followed, made their way to Bavaria, where they were eventually liberated by the American army.

The reader of this remarkable book is confronted with a paradox of a German patriot and member of the academic elite. He repeatedly insists on his "Germanness," while at the same time, he is reduced to overwhelming fear about the coming day, when even Jews in mixed marriages may be sent to labour camps, which he knows means certain death.

The author has insightful entries on so-called "good Germans," inbred German anti-Semitism, the reaction of his Jewish neighbours and friends to their unhappy plight, the question of Zionism, the essential differences between eastern and western Jews, and his impressions of victorious American soldiers – naive, arrogant, kind, but culturally backward.

This book, an unforgettable testimony – now translated into 12 languages – is compulsively readable and at the same time, a portentous slice of modern history.

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Ethnic cleansing, genocide can't be lumped together: Dinstein

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ethnic cleansing, though clearly a crime against humanity, cannot be lumped together with genocide, according to an Israeli specialist in international law.

Genocide, as defined by the 1948 United Nations Genocide Convention, refers to the deliberately planned destruction of an ethnic and/or religious group, Tel Aviv University professor Yoram Dinstein said last week.

Under this definition, the Holocaust and the mass murder of the Tutsis in Rwanda qualify as genocide, noted Dinstein, delivering the Stuart and Hadassa Rosenberg Memorial Lecture at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Yoram Dinstein

Ethnic cleansing, on the other hand, takes place when members of an identifiable minority, like the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo, are driven out of their homes, pointed out Dinstein, currently teaching at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Genocide, a term coined by Polish Jew Raphael Lemkin in 1944 to describe the systematic murder of Jews by Nazi Germany, ultimately turns on intentions, not results, Dinstein observed.

Without naming them, he charged that some militant Muslim movements advocate genocidal policies.

Arguing that the mass murders in Cambodia's killing fields were motivated by political and ideological reasons rather than by ethnic or religious considerations, Dinstein said that they do not fall under the category of genocide.

By contrast, Rwanda qualifies as the only certifiable case of genocide since the Holocaust, he added.

Calling the Holocaust a unique event, Dinstein, the immediate past president of Tel Aviv University, suggested that it was history's most cold-blooded attempt to annihilate a people.

The Holocaust is also unique due to the top-to-bottom degree of collaboration with the Germans.

Citing a few examples, Dinstein spoke of the anti-Semitic zealousness of the Vichy regime in France and of collaborators in Lithuania and Latvia, the high proportion of Dutch Jews who died during the German occupation, and the Bulgarian government's complicity in the deaths of non-Bulgarian Jews in Thrace and Macedonia.

Another unique feature of the Holocaust is its endemic, timeless anti-Semitism.

After two millenniums, anti-Semitism is still going strong, despite the march of human progress, said Dinstein.

Hatred of Jews is inspired by envy of Jewish success and wildly exaggerated fears of Jewish power, as exemplified by *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which has been exposed as a czarist forgery.

Dinstein blasted Israeli public figures who use the word "Shoah" flippantly to describe what he called minor disasters.

And in a reference to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, Dinstein said that NATO, including Canada, breached international law by bombing Yugoslavia in 1999.

The 86-day bombing campaign, he warned, has created a deadly precedent.

"What's to prevent the Arab League from intervening in Israel?

"What prevents China from sending troops to the Philippines?

"To start killing people in the name of human rights is wrong."

> *'To start killing people in the name of human rights is wrong'*

He criticized European governments for doing little to counter neo-Nazis.

In reply to a question, Dinstein lambasted the new school of Israeli historians who have written that Israel practised ethnic cleansing during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

"This is a calumny of incredible chutzpah," said Dinstein, who contemptuously dismissed their books as "nonsensical."

Dinstein claimed that Palestinian Arabs were not forced out of Palestine and that tens of thousands of them were allowed to return through family reunion programs.

He expressed regret that the current Israeli government has remained aloof from and indifferent to the writings produced by this school of historians.

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Greater Toronto Area

Centre must stay strong, says new Rabbinical Assembly president

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The recently named president of the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), the 1,500-member international body of Conservative rabbis, has strong roots in Toronto.

Rabbi Vernon Kurtz, spiritual leader of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park., Ill., was born and raised here, and is an alumnus of Associated Hebrew Day Schools, Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and York University, where he received his bachelor of arts degree in political science.

He also has a doctor of ministry degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary, a Protestant institution.

Rabbi Kurtz began his two-year term as RA president in March, when he succeeded Rabbi Seymour Essrog at the organization's 100th annual convention, held in Philadelphia.

Among his priorities, he said in a recent phone interview from his Chicago-area synagogue, is recognizing the global nature of the assembly.

The RA is affiliated with a total of five seminaries, located in New York (Rabbi Kurtz' alma mater), Los Angeles, Jerusalem, Budapest and Buenos Aires. For the first time, Rabbi Kurtz noted, the RA's vice-president (Rabbi Reuven Hammer) is from Israel.

"We intend to work with our colleagues there to ensure their rights and support the State of Israel as need be," he said.

Despite concern over issues of religious pluralism in Israel, Rabbi Kurtz, 49, describes himself as more optimistic than he was, because of the Masorti movement's growth in terms of education. To cite two examples,Conservative rabbis are being trained in Israel and there is a Masorti youth group there.

From a political perspective, however, progress is harder to discern, the rabbi said. "It's a long journey we are on, which we believe is for the benefit of Israel and world Jewry."

The RA agenda also includes much in the way of liturgical publications, Rabbi Kurtz indicated. In addition to the new Siddur Sim Shalom published in 1998, a committee is working on a weekday prayer-book, a French-language siddur and a revised machzor and Chumash.

Because the Conservative movement is "in the centre" denominationally, the rabbi feels it's crucial that it stay strong. "We can talk to both sides. We can agree to disagree in some areas and work together in other areas...I believe the centre must hold, lest the extremes pull the Jewish people apart."

Rabbi Vernon Kurtz

Within the Conservative movement, Rabbi Kurtz believes that much more unites members than divides them. In Conservative synagogues, he noted, there may or may not be musical instruments, there may be a different siddur or varying degrees of women's participation, but there is a common philosophy. The movement's committee of Jewish laws and standards also provides commonality, he said.

And while much of the Conservative movement has shifted leftward in recent years – it's only in the last 15 years that women have been ordained as Conservative rabbis, for example – Rabbi Kurtz "definitely" thinks there's a place for traditional congregations within the movement.

Rabbi Kurtz has a fairly traditional background himself, having grown up at Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, an Orthodox synagogue where he and his father Bernard used to sing in the choir.

The rabbi met his wife Bryna (née Wise) when both were teens in United Synagogue Youth, the Conservative Youth movement. He later served two Conservative congregations, Beth Am (now part of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation) as youth adviser and Beth Tikvah Synagogue as youth director.

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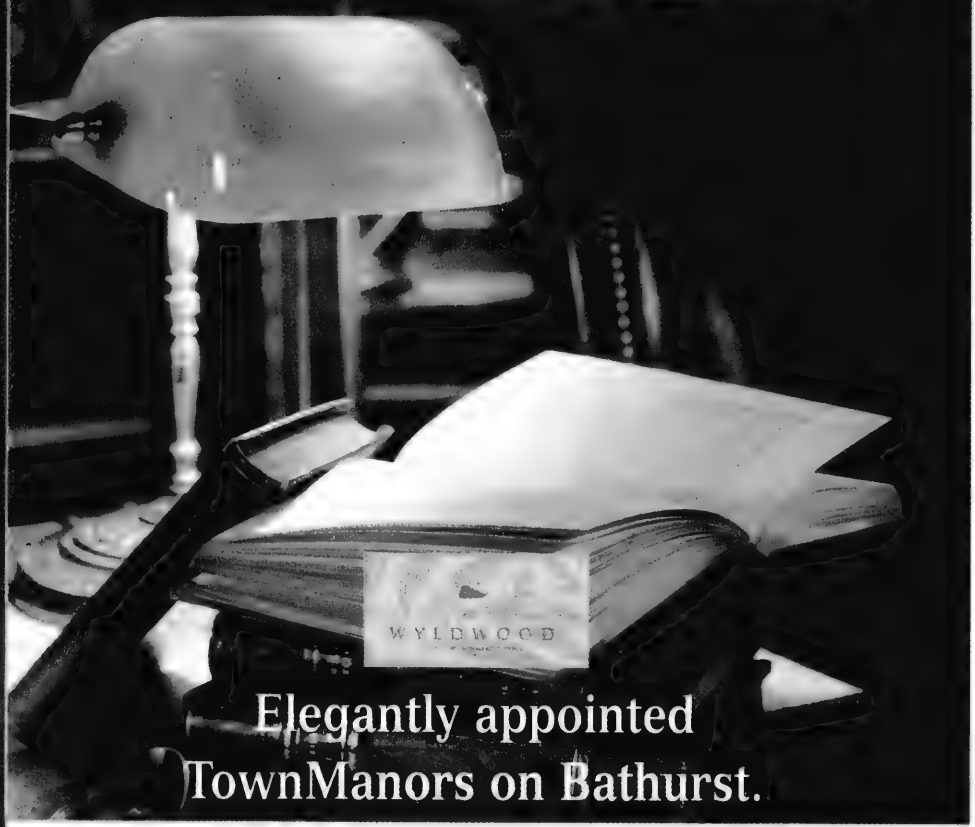

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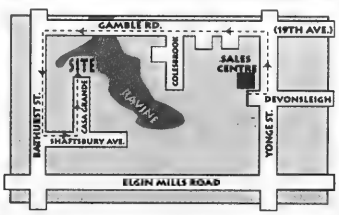

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Shaarei Tzedec gets $5,000 donation from Lions

Dr. Joe honoured by Forest Hill Club

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The Forest Hill Lions Club (FHLC), recently presented a cheque for $5,000 to Toronto's Congregation Shaarei Tzedec.

At a dinner held at Villa Columbo, Dr. Joe Greenberg, who was selected as the club's Man of the Year, was presented with the donation.

Dr. Joe, as he is fondly referred to, has been the custodian and president of the synagogue for 33 years. The shul is located at the corner of Markham and Ulster streets.

"I would like to establish a shul that has no membership fees and where anyone can come," he says. "The money from the Lions Club goes to an endowment fund that will help the shul survive forever.

"There is no mortgage on the building, no taxes to pay, and the staff members are all volunteers," he says. "I hope the establishment of the endowment fund will help perpetuate this landmark."

He notes that "our shul is different than others. Most come with their children, but they are really sitting with parents who are no longer alive. It's like a living museum. And we provide kiddush and a meal for all those who come on Shabbat or yom tov."

Dr. Joe's parents, Aaron and Sima Greenberg were early members of the congregation; his son, Dr. David Greenberg, is the vice-president.

"I believe the dream of perpetuating the synagogue is attainable," he says.

The FHLC, which was formed in 1952, has supported numerous non-sectarian groups and causes.

Moe Emer and Mickey Snow are two founding members who are still actively involved in FHLC. Emer, chair of the club's award committee says "Dr. Joe was selected as honoree for his accomplishments in his 47 years of practice. He is a wonderful doctor and a real mentsch to his patients and friends.

"He believes, above all, very strongly, that his patients are his family and his object in life is to be available when they need his help."

Emer says the FHLC has raised more than $2.5 million – approximately $100,000 a year through fund-raising activities. He notes that FHLC belongs to a network of clubs. The first Lions club was established in 1917 and there are now more than a million and a half members worldwide – the largest service organization in the world.

FHLC's 50 members fill 85 requests for help each year. "We are both a service club and a social club," says Emer. "We come from different backgrounds, but we are united by one common desire – to help those who are in need. We have members from Christian communities, the Asian community but primarily, FHLC has Jewish members."

FHLC supports numerous service projects through funding and volunteers.

"We are trying to encourage our members to introduce their sons and their friends to become part of Lionism," says Emer. "By encouraging younger men to join, we hope to perpetuate what we have achieved and guarantee the survival of our club – and continue to carry on the work that we do."

Moe Emer, awards chair of the Forest Hill Lions Club, makes a presentation to Man of the Year, Dr. Joe Greenberg.

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Greater Toronto Area

Sugihara to be honored

TORONTO — Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who was personally responsible for saving close to 3,000 Jews during the Holocaust, will be honoured by the Jewish community on May 17.

His son, Hiroki, will be accepting this posthumous honour on his behalf at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, 83 Green Lane, Thornhill, at 8 p.m.

The award will be presented by Rabbi Moshe Gerlitzky, a Holocaust survivor saved by Sugihara, and grandfather of Rebbetzin Goldie Plotkin of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham. He will personally thank Sugihara, on behalf of all the survivors and their families.

Hiroki Sugihara will speak about his father's life and his self-sacrifice on behalf of the Jews of Eastern Europe.

Just before the Nazis stormed Lithuania and Poland, Sugihara, in his capacity as a Japanese diplomat to Lithuania, issued within a two-week period, thousands of transit visas to Japan. This was against the orders of his government.

After being brought back to Japan in disgrace and dismissed from the Foreign Service, Sugihara spent the rest of his career as a translator and later as a manager of an import company. He never spoke about what he did.

It wasn't until 1969, when one of the Sugihara survivors tracked him down, that his story emerged. Until then, according to his son, Sugihara never knew whether the people he issued visas to had survived.

"He never knew for 28 years what had happened to them. When he found out about the survivors, he told me it was the happiest day of his life," Hiroki Sugihara said.

In 1965, Sugihara was honoured at Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. Because Sugihara, then 86, was too old and ill to travel to Israel, he sent his family in his place. The Japanese government honoured him only after he died in 1986.

Hiroki was five when his father was saving lives in Lithuania. He recalls playing with the children of the desperate families who were lined up by the hundreds outside the consulate seeking visas.

"I asked my father what would happen to the children. And he told me that they would die if we didn't help them," he says.

It is estimated that more than 40,000 Jews worldwide owe their lives to this hero. Chabad Lubavitch of Markham has attempted to locate and invite as many of them as possible to this presentation.

Tickets are $10 at the door. For more information, call Rabbi Avraham Plotkin at 905-886-0420.

Dreams are a message from God, says rabbi

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Dreams are the passageway through which God reveals himself to humans, not a conduit of the imagination, says Rabbi Jerry Steinberg, a psychotherapist, practising mystic and author.

"It is because of dreams that Jews are in the world today," he said at a recent adult education program at Temple Sinai.

After Joseph interpreted the pharaoh's dream about seven years of plenty and seven years of famine, said Rabbi Steinberg, Jacob sent his other sons to Egypt because he knew food would be available there. "We owe our existence to the fact that historically, we were saved because of a dream.

"Dreams are a well-established means of getting messages; many passages in the Torah relate to it. In the Talmud it says that a dream that is not interpreted is like a letter that is not opened."

Jacob awoke after dreaming of angels going up and down ladders, and realized that it is through dreams that we have a gateway to God, he said.

Rabbi Steinberg, who is writing a book about dreams, interviewed a 32-year-old woman whose grandfather had died when she was 17. "She had not had time to mourn him, and it bothered her for many years. She had a dream, however, in which he came to her and told her to move forward; he was not longer in pain.

"She was convinced it was really her grandfather because he was speaking in a level of Romanian that she could not have possibly spoken. It could not have been her imagination."

It is obvious through his interviews, said Rabbi Steinberg, that the revelation of God in people's dreams did not end with the Torah. "It is a continuing practice that goes on as we speak.

"I believe that God is operative through our dreams. It just comes from another dimension of reality than what we normally experience."

Dreams can be interpreted in several different levels, he said, including the emotional, spiritual, physical, intellectual, creative or factual. "When people present a dream to me, I do not interpret it for them; I help them do it themselves. I have a deep belief that my clients can interpret their own dreams."

Everyone dreams between two and 2½ hours a night, said Rabbi Steinberg, "and half of [the dreams] are dreamed in the last 1½ hours of sleep.

"If people are motivated, they can train themselves to remember their dreams. I advise them to put a book beside their bed and jot down the date. Even if otherwise, the book remains empty, it is a message to the unconscious to remember dreams.

"If you tell yourself every night that you will remember your dreams, you eventually will remember. Every tiny fragment of a dream written down, is further reinforcement for your unconscious to retain your dreams."

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Greater Toronto Area

Ont. budget studied for special needs funds

Continued from page 3

Congress fears the move will exclude children with other special education needs, such as learning disabilities, because those needs are covered by the education ministry, and are not available in private schools.

The promise referred to in the budget is one made by Premier Mike Harris to CJC, when he said all special needs children should be treated equally, whether they attend private or public schools.

Last December, Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer promised Jewish communal leaders that up to $3 million a year would be made available for special support services for children with specific medical needs.

Following Witmer's announcement, a 10-member working group representing private schools was established by the health ministry to advise it on policy and implementation. The Jewish community was represented by Congress and Carol Goldman, principal of Zareinu Educational Centre, the community's only school for "complex needs" children – those who are both physically and developmentally challenged.

However, the government's definition of health care provision in schools was narrowed to five areas, all physical: nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetic services and speech or language pathology. No mention was made of other special needs children, such as the developmentally disabled, slow learners, children with attention problems or children with multiple needs.

Simon Rosenblum, director of public policy for CJC's Ontario region, called the announcement a good start, but added that under the current arrangement, much of the funds will be left unspent because they are intended for a small number of children.

CJC region chair Keith Landy said Congress will lobby to access the funds for all special needs children. He said it is difficult, but not unheard of, for governments to transfer funds from one ministry to another.

"Right now, it's buried beneath layers of bureaucracy. It's difficult to fathom what's being offered," Landy said. But sounding a more optimistic tone, he added: "When the dust settles, certain of our community needs will be met. This is something we've never had before, and it will have a significant impact."

Zareinu Centre's Goldman said she is still waiting for clarification from Queen's Park.

"So far, we don't seem to fit into the picture" because the 65 children at the facility have both development and physical needs."The designation [of the funds] isn't clear."

Goldman also fears that the money, as allocated, might not be tapped to its fullest potential. Similar funding to the education ministry would have helped "the vast majority" of Jewish day school children with special needs, she said.

According to Georgeanne Burke, a leading voice within the Ontario Association of Jewish Schools, "almost no" students in Jewish day schools would qualify for the funds as they have been allocated.

Burke said students who require medical care have traditionally not attended private schools in the first place.

She cited research which supposedly shows that of the 90,000 children in private and independent schools in Ontario, only .2 percent, or 180, have the kind of conditions that would qualify them for this sort of funding.

Burke said developmentally handicapped children in religious-based schools would not qualify.

"The intent is good, but the impact is not what it should be," she said of the budget announcement.

BIALIK REMEMBERS: Bialik Hebrew Day School's recent Yom Hashoah program commemorated the destruction of the Eastern European way of life which had the Yiddish language as its foundation. Students also celebrated 1,000 years of Yiddish and paid tribute to the preservation and culture of the language. The six memorial candles were lit by survivors and their grandchildren. Shown, from left, are Ethel Cooper, a Yiddish teacher at Bialik who arranged and directed the program; student David Levy and his grandmother, Paula Mintz, a Holocaust survivor. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

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On Campus

Torah and Vocational Institute takes UQAM to court over cancellation

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Next week, the Quebec Superior Court is expected to hear a request for a permanent injunction filed by the Torah and Vocational Institute (TAV) against the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

TAV, a nonprofit corporation established to provide post-secondary education to the Orthodox Jewish community, is arguing that UQAM broke a contract when it cancelled a degree-granting program it launched jointly with TAV last September.

TAV academic director Eli Meroz said the agreement signed in April, 1999, creating the program, was for three years and either party could cancel only with six months' notice. It is TAV's interpretation that that meant six months before the end of the three years.

Degree-granting program ended

In its motion, TAV claims UQAM terminated the agreement "on the basis of pure discrimination and intolerance, without right and without any default on the part of TAV..."

The TAV-UQAM program, which leads to a bachelor's degree in computer science or a business administration certificate, has about 550 students currently enrolled. Almost 170 of them are Chassidim who attended classes segregated by gender at a second campus in Outremont. Most of the other students are immigrants, Jewish and non-Jewish.

TAV said it projected that 800 new students would have registered for next fall's session. Registration would normally have ended in April.

Last month, the UQAM senate announced it was pulling out of the program after the professors' union complained that too much of the program was taught in English and that the segregation of the sexes was not in keeping with the university's mission.

TAV claims UQAM's cancellation is "a result of discriminatory remarks and pressure from certain of its constituents regarding the use of the English language and respect for cultural traditions in regard to class composition, all of which formed the very basis" of the contract.

UQAM said it would honour its obligations to those students already enrolled until they finish, but no new admissions would be accepted and the segregation of students would cease immediately because that was not part of the contract.

TAV says UQAM was "fully aware of and endorsed the character, purpose, operations, facilities, mode, nature and language of instruction and composition of the student body of TAV..."

In March, UQAM also "without notice...and without TAV's consent" cancelled the program's scheduled summer session, a point also made in TAV's motion to the court.

TAV notes that it invested over $100,000 in upgrading and furnishing its facilities in anticipation of these summer courses and that it lost $72,000 in rental income because it vacated an entire floor that was to be renovated to accommodate the additional students expected to start next fall.

The Superior Court rejected TAV's request for an interim injunction which would have forced UQAM to allow TAV to continue to take registration for next September.

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Orly left us six years ago.
Her sister Tali, mother Gail, grandparents Max & Rose and aunts Pearl and Edyie send these messages to her.

ORLY

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We will always love you.

Bubby and Zaidy
Aunt Pearl and
Aunt Edyie

ORLY,

Six years have passed
Since you left us.
Although it feels like yesterday
Since you were here.

Your spirit lives on in those who knew you.
You touched their lives so profoundly that your impact radiates from them to those who never met you.
That is the special person you were.

I will keep your memory alive forever...

I love you my dearest Orly,
You are with me day and night,
Forever my sister,
Forever "my light".

Love Tali

ORLY,

Six years, six months, six minutes, six seconds
Time has no meaning, it is all yesterday.

Yesterday when we spoke;
Yesterday when I hugged you goodnight.
Yesterday when your phone rang till dawn because you "had to" help your friends.

Yesterday when you told a friend
"I'll call you when I get back from the hospital"

Yesterday when I was told you would never come back.

I cherish you today as I did yesterday.
As I have all the yesterdays.

I ache for you today as I have everyday
Since that first day after yesterday.

Forever Your Mom

On Campus

The year in review at Queen's University

By ROB INY
Special to the CJN

KINGSTON — High school students can look at the Hillel Web site at Queen's as a sign that there really is Jewish life on campus.

Comment

Over the past few years, Hillel at Queen's University (http://www.ams.queensu.ca/hillel) has become an educational and social foundation for Jewish students in Kingston.

This year, Hillel added new events to the traditional mix of activities, allowing it to reach out to a larger and more diverse group of Jewish students.

Our opening barbecue and monthly Shabbat dinners drew on average between 60 and 70 Hillel members.

One of our Shabbat dinners included a lecture given by Gerald Tulchinsky, chair of the department of Jewish studies at Queen's, on the Canadian response to the Holocaust. Adding an educational twist to the dinner was a great hit, bringing out Jews and non-Jews alike to the Hillel House.

One of the executive's most successful initiatives occurred in January when 75 Queen's students travelled to the Holocaust museum in Washington D.C. and toured the city.

The trip was publicized to the whole Queen's community, and not only to Hillel members. Therefore, the museum was a first exposure to Holocaust education for many non-Jewish students.

Queen's Hillel also had a huge representation at the Canada-Israel Committee dinner on March 29. Thirty-six Queen's students jumped at the opportunity to hear Shimon Peres and Jean Chrétien speak, and headed to Ottawa for the committee's parliamentary dinner and policy conference.

Some of the students that went to Ottawa for the conference had just returned from a visit to Israel as part of the Birthright Israel program, an initiative which offers thousands of university-aged students free trips to the Jewish homeland.

Queen's University students came back to Kingston with rave reviews. The general consensus from these students is that they want to return to Israel as soon as possible. Since that option is not immediately possible, many have satisfied their Jewish cravings by becoming more active Hillel members. They shared their experiences with us at our last Shabbat dinner, and came out to socialize with us at our Purim wine and cheese party.

This party was another first for Hillel this year, and it was a huge success. About a hundred students showed up on a Thursday night, and had a great time playing pool and socializing at the Hillel house.

It is important for high school students across the country to recognize that Queen's Hillel, as well as the Kingston Jewish community, are extremely active in supporting Jewish life on campus.

The Hillel executive managed to accomplish more this year thanks to the help of Rosanne Brown, who is our liaison to Canadian Jewish Congress.

With the school year ending, Queen's Hillel is already preparing to welcome new students next fall. The opening barbecue on September 10 will be testament to Queen's growing Jewish student involvement.

If you have any questions about Queen's Hillel, please contact our new president for the 2000-2001 school year, Rob Richler, at 8rjr@qlink.queensu.ca.

Rob Iny was co-president of Queen's University's Hillel in the 1999-2000 school year.

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Coast to Coast

Talks on refugees postponed

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Mideast peace talks scheduled to take place in Ottawa next week have been postponed.

Now is "not the right time" for the talks, Valerie Noftle, a spokesperson for the Foreign Affairs Canada, told *The CJN* last week.

Noftle said she could not elaborate.

The Refugee Working Group (RWG), which Canada has chaired since 1992, was slated to meet in the nation's capital May 16 to 18 to continue trying to resolve the fate of Palestinian refugees – those who were evicted or fled following Israel's independence in 1948 and after the 1967 Six Day War.

Noftle said the talks were put off, but not because members of the working group refused to participate.

She also refused to link the postponement to lack of progress in talks between Israel and Syria.

A possible related development was last week's announcement that Israel and the Palestinians would not meet a May 31 deadline to hammer a framework for a permanent peace treaty.

Reports from Israel indicate that despite a push from U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, the framework for a treaty is behind in four areas: borders, the status of Jerusalem, the future of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the fate of Palestinian refugees.

An outline for a treaty was due Feb. 13, but was pushed back to the end of May. The full treaty is due Sept. 13.

Noftle said the Ottawa negotiations will likely not take place for at least two months.

The RWG is one of five rounds of talks within the multilateral framework of Mideast negotiations. The last time the group met in Ottawa was 1992, but there have been several rounds of talks in other world capitals since. Canada is referred to as the group's gavel holder.

Mideast experts agree that the issue of Palestinian refugees is among the most contentious of the outstanding matters facing Israel.

Over the decades, there has been wide disagreement on the number of Palestinian refugees. The UN puts the figure at 3.5 million; Israel estimates the total is around two million, while Palestinians have said the number is more than five million.

Following the 1948 War of Independence, 726,000 Palestinians became refugees. Only 156,000 remained in Israel proper.

Israel has always categorically ruled out the right of Palestinians to return to their pre-1948 or pre-1967 homes because the resultant influx of millions of Arabs would threaten the Jewish majority – and thus spell the end of the Zionist dream.

But since bilateral and multilateral peace talks began in 1991, Israel has become more receptive to financially compensating Palestinians who lay claim to pre-state property or who have suffered as a result of being uprooted.

Israel's embassy in Ottawa had no comment on the postponement of the talks on refugees.

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Reveal fate of MiAs, vigil told

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Unless Syria reveals what happened to four Israeli soldiers missing in action since the 1980s, peace talks between Israel and Syria should be put on hold, speakers said at a Passover prayer vigil.

Three of the soldiers – Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman – were captured on June 11, 1982. The fourth, Ron Arad, has been missing since October, 1987.

"Every conversation between Israel and Syria has to begin with a demand for full accounting," Rabbi Reuben Poupko told a group of 50 people gathered on St. Urbain Street in front of the building housing the offices of the honorary Syrian Consul-General.

"It's not a precondition. It is a litmus test. Don't talk to Syria unless we know what happened."

His message was echoed by Rabbi Barry Gelman of Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue.

The vigil, comprised mostly of students from Bnei Akiva, was held during Passover to underscore that the "Festival of Freedom" is a time when the liberation of Jews should be occupying the hearts and minds of the Jewish community.

B'nai Brith Quebec director Robert Libman told *The CJN* that with peace talks between Israel and Syria at an important juncture, "the time is ripe to put pressure" on Syria.

As students lit four memorial candles, and held up photographs of the MiAs and make-shift placards reading, "Free Our Soldiers" and "Let Our People Go," Rabbi Gelman spoke of the continuing agony of the MiAs' families, who have been kept in the dark about their sons.

"Imagine waking up without knowing whether your child is alive or dead," he said. "Enough is enough."

Rabbi Gelman, however, held out a glimmer of hope about the MiAs' status.

Coast to Coast

Quebec MNAs stand in silence with community

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

QUEBEC CITY — The national assembly commemorated the first Yom Hashoah on the government calendar May 2 with dignified silence and expressions of sympathy for the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

Yom Hashoah

Premier Lucien Bouchard, Liberal leader Jean Charest and Action Démocratique du Québec leader Mario Dumont spoke about the significance of the occasion. All the MNAs then stood silently for one minute, along with the 55 members of the Jewish community in the parliamentary gallery who were invited to the provincial capital for the historic day by Speaker Jean-Pierre Charbonneau.

"I would like to add my voice... knowing, however, how words are incapable of describing our feelings, faced with what happened in connection with the events of the Holocaust," Bouchard told the assembly during question period.

"I believe what we can do... is to have a duty to remember, to remind ourselves what happened, and [take the] responsibility to make sure that such a thing will never happen again."

Charest said the legislation is a way to express "to our brothers and sisters in the Jewish community of Quebec that the emotion they feel today is shared by each of us."

Also adding their voices were André Boulerice, MNA for Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques, and D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman, who were responsible for tabling the Yom Hashoah legislation passed unanimously by the assembly last December.

Four other provinces have thus far adopted similar legislation. Bergman, who presented a motion reaffirming the day, said the legislation – Bill 198 – constitutes a "moving expression of solidarity" towards Quebec's Jewish community, which includes Holocaust survivors, their children, and grandchildren.

"We are fortunate that we live in a society where... mutual support has existed and continues to exist," he said.

"The public commemoration of Yom Hashoah this year in Quebec strengthens these ties, and speaks with heartfelt importance to the humble words 'never again' and 'never forget.' "

The day of events included a luncheon hosted by Charbonneau at the parliamentary restaurant, where he said that although Quebec's motto is "Je me souviens" (I remember), a more apt one for Yom Hashoah would be "Je dois me souvenir" (I must remember).

At the luncheon, presided over by PQ MNA Rita Dionne-Marsolais, Bergman and Boulerice were presented with mementos.

Dorothy Zalcman Howard, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, presented a Holocaust-themed work of art to Charbonneau painted by Yehouda Chaki. The painting will be hung in the national assembly building.

Premier Lucien Bouchard and Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region chair Dorothy Zalcman Howard discuss the government's initiative recognizing Yom Hashoah. Also seen in photo are (facing camera) Thomas Hecht, Quebec chair of the Canada-Israel Committee; and (at right) former CJC president Goldie Hershon. [Eta Yudin photo]

Following the luncheon, the Jewish community delegation spent 45 minutes in a private meeting with Bouchard and Vice-Premier Bernard Landry, where two Holocaust survivors recounted their personal stories.

One of them, Sidney Zoltak, was quoted as saying that the Holocaust has left him with "a pain I cannot describe."

He said remembering the Holocaust is vital, to make sure "it will not be repeated in the 21st century, the 22nd century, not ever."

Members of the delegation included former CJC president Goldie Hershon; past Quebec chair Bernard Finestone; FEDERATION CJA president Marilyn Blumer; Thomas Hecht, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, Quebec region; Maryse Ohayon, former president of the Communauté Sépharade du Québec; and Israeli consul-general Shlomo Avital.

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Acknowledging a sensitive issue

A few weeks back, we paid tribute to Victor Rabinovitch, who was appointed the head of the Museum of Civilization. Readers will recall we anticipated that Jewish organizations would likely call on him to champion the cause of a stand-alone Holocaust memorial.

Predictably, they did, and as predictably, Rabinovitch offered no comment on Canadian Jewish Congress' publicly voiced expectation for a single Holocaust museum. One can imagine the frustration (chagrin, perhaps?) he must have felt at the time.

Leaving aside the contentious issue of a government-sponsored Holocaust memorial, it does raise a question about the relationship between senior Jewish public servants and the organized Jewish community.

Is it reasonable for the Jewish community to assume or expect that well-placed officials who happen to be co-religionists would always be responsive to the community's agenda?

Obviously, much depends on what is being asked in any particular circumstance. But generally speaking, are such expectations legitimate? Is there a specific line that determines a legitimate appeal, seeking advice or information, for example, from one that is unethical?

Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

What about the impact that such possible relationships could have on the official? Would involvement in any discussions place the official's reputation at risk? Even more to the point, would community approaches pit someone's Jewish loyalties against their professional obligations?

Should Jewish community leaders disqualify themselves from seeking access to policy decision-makers who happen to be Jewish?

These are not idle philosophical musings! Between the PMO and the Privy Council Office there are almost a dozen Jews in senior positions. There isn't a department on the federal level that does not have Jews among its senior staff involved in policy making.

Ultimately, one must assume that Jewish bureaucrats act as professionally in their relationships with Jewish organizations as they do with other lobbying organizations.

Still, it would be nice to know that Jewish organizations acknowledge the sensitive nature of the issue and reflect carefully on how they ought to approach Jewish officials in the pursuit of their agendas.

Clearly, the museum episode suggests that they haven't acknowledged it yet.

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אחרי חורף ארוך וקשה באופן אישי, בא הזמן לטעון את המצברים ולראות מה השתנה. אז ככה: כשאמרו לי שההפקה הבימתית של ההצגה "ליון קינג" היא חוויה שאסור להחמיץ, חשבתי לעצמי: בטח, מה כבר אפשר להוסיף אחרי סרט, וידיאו, תקליט, הצגה בדיסני, בובות, ספרים וכל צורת הפקה אחרת. די, מספיק! עם כל הכבוד לאלטון ג'ון הנצחי, יש גבול לכל תעלול. ואז הלכנו,ראינו, נדהמנו והרמנו את הכובע. הצוות היצירתי של ברידווי יצר תיאטרון שלא היה ערד כמותו. הבובות אינן גלגול חדש של אולפני דיסני, אלא קונספט חדש שמשלב אדם וחיה, אך לא מנסה להסתיר את האדם. אפילו שחקן שמחופש לעץ נראה כמו אדם שהוא עץ, מאד אנושי ומאד שונה. צריך לראות את זה כדי להבין, וכדאי לרוץ מהר לפני שלא יהיה.

East is East

זהו סרט בריטי, זוכה פרס האוסקר הבריטי השנה, שמספר את סיפורה של משפחה פקיסטנית בפרבר של עיר גדולה באנגליה. האב מנסה לגדל את בניו על ברכי המסורת המוסלמית, למרות שנולדו באנגליה והם מנוכרים, ואפילו סולדים מתרבותם. שיא הדרמה מגיע כשהוא מנסה שוב ושוב להשיא אותם בשידוך בניגוד לרצונם.

הסרט מצחיק ועצוב עד דמעות, כמיטב הסרט הבריטי. בי נגע הסרט בצורה מאד אישית, כי כל אדם שעוזב את ארצו מוצא את עצמו לנצח לא פה ולא שם, וחזקה עליו שתמיד חלקים ממנו יהיו מנותקים ממה שהולך מסביב. אז אצלנו זה הבן שמביא הביתה בחורה נוצרית או סיינית, אבל בעיקרון זו אותה דילמה. סרט נהדר, אבל שישאר בינינו.

אליפות העולם בנדמה לי

באחד האמשים של אדר ב נערכה בלוס אנגלס אליפות העולם בנדמה לי, או טקס חלוקת האוסקר, בשמו היותר מוכר. העולם ישב מרותק למכשיר הטלביזיה והשתעמם ארבע שעות כדי לראות את נבחרת העולם ביפני חולפת בריחוף קל מעל שטיח אדום. כבר שבוע לפני האירוע הנוצץ התנחלו אוהדים שרופים ליד הגדרות כדי שיוכלו לראות בעין בלתי מזוינת את קולביות הדור יוצאות מן הלימוזין. כמובן שהתכשיטים, עיצוב השיער ובני הזוג המטוקסדים עוזרים גם הם להפוך את האירוע לאליפות העולם בנדמה לי. וכך, בזכות הוליבוד אנו לומדים מה באמת חשוב בחיים באמריקה, ואיך חברה נעדרת ערכים מלבד צרכנות ואגואיזם משחקת בנדמה לי, כי כך קל יותר לשכוח את אלה שישנים בתוך קופסאות קרטון ברחובות. יהורם פיינצקי

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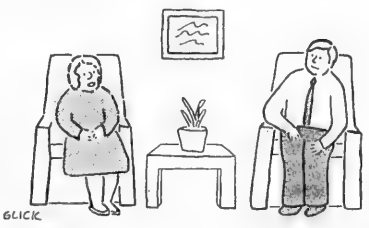

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Coast to Coast

'Memories link generations' at Montreal service

By MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL — As Jews "we choose on Yom Hashoah to remember as a community. Our memories link the generations," said Rabbi Leigh Lerner.

Yom Hashoah

On erev Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – members of the Jewish community, from young children to the very senior, gathered to remember the six million Jews murdered by Hitler's Nazi regime.

Many who filled Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem to capacity were Holocaust survivors joined by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In his opening remarks, Rabbi Lerner, of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, quoted Elie Weisel – to forget the Holocaust would be to let the Holocaust win.

Jews, he said, "are prisoners of memory, but we choose freely to remember."

Shlomo Avital, Israel's consul general in Montreal, said Yom Hashoah reminds us of the link "between the greatest tragedy of the Jewish people and the emergence of a strong Jewish nation that arose from the Holocaust."

Avital also reminded the assembly of the recent trial of revisionist historian David Irving, who said that the Holocaust "was a Jewish invention created to seek profit from the international community."

Our duty, Avital said, "is to perpetually remind the world that the Holocaust must never happen again." The State of Israel, he added, is the best guarantee that the Holocaust will not recur.

Sara Weinberg, co-chair of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre's remembrance committee, reminded Holocaust survivors that their "personal eye-witness accounts," in journals, on audio and video tapes, are of "utmost importance" in preserving our collective memory. "We must remember," said Weinberg, "for those who survived and for those who did not."

Sidney Zoltak, the committee's other co-chair, added that "to remember is to honour." He also called on the community "to remember the righteous among nations" who risked their own lives to save Jews, including Zoltak's own family.

Three generations were represented in a solemn candlelighting service. Six memorial candles representing six million murdered Jews were lit by three people – a Holocaust survivor, a child and a grandchild of survivors.

Following the candlelighting, Marilyn Blumer, president, and Steven Cummings, first vice-president, of FEDERATION CJA, read a few of the names of the six million victims.

Personal memories of the Holocaust were offered by three survivors: In Yiddish by Babey Trepman, in French by Régine Frankel and in English by Liselotte Ivry.

Ivry, who was a schoolgirl in Prague in 1939, recalled the names of some of her classmates and teachers who lost their lives in the Nazi death camps.

There were also readings of Holocaust texts, in French, English, Yiddish and Hebrew, by a group of children and grandchildren of survivors.

As the program drew to a close, the memorial service was sung by Cantor Moishe Yom Shur of Congregation Beth Israel Beth Aaron, Tehillim were read by Rabbi Barry Gelman of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and Kaddish was recited by Joseph Remer, a Holocaust survivor.

Linking the various segments of the program were songs of the Holocaust, sung movingly in Yiddish by the children of the Akiva School Choir, conducted by Alan Iny and accompanied by pianist Stephen Glass.

The service was organized by the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre under the auspices of the Consulate General of Israel in Montreal, with the co-operation of Jewish organizations and congregations in the community.

HOLOCAUST STUDY: Joseph Kichler, a survivor of the Holocaust, spoke to the grade 6 students at the Leo Baeck Day School recently. This was part of their study of the Holocaust and the novel *Daniel's Story*.

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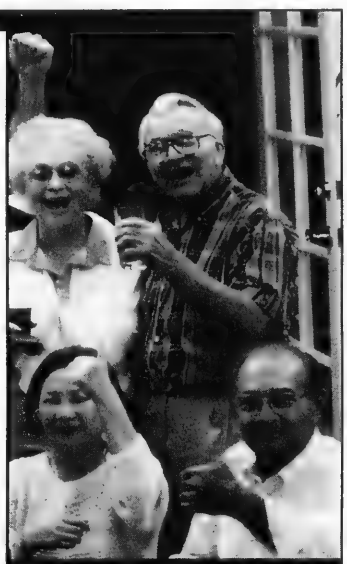

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Nova Scotia recognizes importance of the day

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Philip Riteman choked back tears as he spoke of his experiences at German death camps during Yom Hashoah ceremonies in Halifax.

Yom Hashoah

Before a vast audience of Jews and Christians at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, Riteman, a survivor of Birkenau and Auschwitz, said, "You have no idea" several times as he described the sparse daily food rations, the cramped sleeping quarters, the scant clothing, and the horror of seeing people beaten, brutalized and killed in front of his eyes.

Yom Hashoah in Halifax occurred on the same day the Nova Scotia Legislature passed Bill 27, recognizing Yom Hashoah as Holocaust Memorial Day in Nova Scotia. Holocaust Memorial Day will be commemorated each year on a date determined by the Jewish lunar calendar.

Riteman, interned in 1942 at 14 years of age, lost his parents, five brothers, two sisters and all his aunts, uncles and cousins in the Holocaust. He was selected for labour.

"My heart is broken," he said. "I miss them all terribly."

The armies of the United States and Canada saw the death camps, he said.

"How anyone could deny this is beyond my imagination."

He concluded, "I wish everyone would love each other. There should be no hate on this planet. We must teach our young generation not to hate."

It was also a ceremony where The Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Archbishop of Halifax, begged the forgiveness of Jews everywhere for the anti-Semitism and hatred directed against them "by Christians, at any time or place."

Lt.-Gov. James Kinley, who signed Bill 27 into law earlier in the day in the legislature, read the proclamation aloud for the audience.

Victor Goldberg, president of the Atlantic Jewish Council, asked Archbishop Prendergast to join with him in lighting the first of six candles to remember the six million Jews and others murdered in the Holocaust.

Candles were lit and the names of slain children were read by Cara Tax, president of Shaar Shalom Synagogue; Gerry Mendleson, president of Beth Israel Synagogue; Mike Stern, representing Jewish youth; Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation representative Laura Gergely and survivor Helena Jochel; and Riteman and his son Larry.

Between musical presentations and poetry readings, Jack Silverstone, the executive vice-president and general counsel of Canadian Jewish Congress, stressed that the lessons of the Holocaust have yet to be learned.

"We see genocide in Rwanda, Cambodia, and the former Yugoslavia, and we wonder. Holocaust survivors see the reality better than anyone."

He praised survivors for "unlocking the horrors in their souls every day to recount their time in hell, so we will not forget."

Similar ceremonies were held in other Atlantic communities, including St. John's, Nfld.; Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton, N.B.; and, for the first time, in Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton.

Bonds with different people recognized

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The annual Holocaust memorial service this year served as an opportunity to recognize bonds with people of different backgrounds.

The community-wide event, organized by the Ottawa Shoah (Holocaust) remembrance committee of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir, was opened with a colour party of the Jewish War Veterans, followed by the singing of Tehillim by Cantor Daniel Benlolo of Congregation Beth Shalom West.

The evening included an original dramatic presentation titled We Fought Back, performed by local young people and directed by Shirley Schildkraut and Shoah remembrance committee chair Fuzzy Teitelbaum, as well as several readings. Rabbi Howard Finkelstein of Congregation Beth Shalom West addressed the audience.

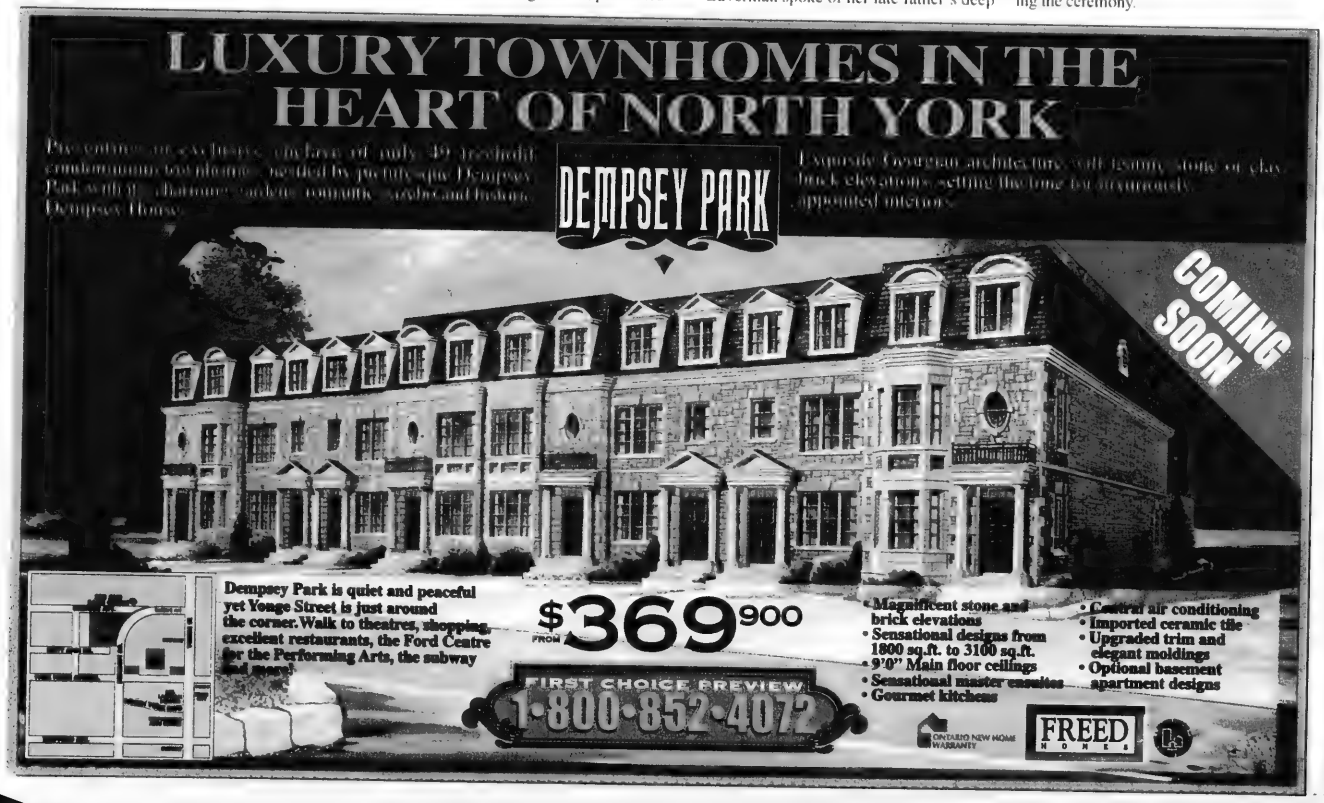
Several survivors and their families lit candles in memory of the relatives they lost in the Shoah and of those for whom there are no survivors.

Ria Euverman, daughter of the late Arie Van Mansum, a Christian who in his youth risked his life to save the lives of many Jews, presented the Arie Van Mansum Memorial Award for Education, 2000 to Malcolm Lawrence.

Euverman spoke of her late father's deep belief in God and his wish that any credit for his good deeds be given not to him, but to God for guiding him to do so.

Lawrence, the award recipient, is a teacher who has taken it upon himself to teach the Holocaust to his students. In accepting the award, he explained the bond he feels between the Jewish and Black communities. He said he remembers how in the '60s, during the civil rights marches, Jews marched along with Blacks and lost their lives together.

The evening ended with the singing of *O Canada* and *Hatikva*. The Shoah Book of Survivors, listing the names and families of local survivors, was on display in the foyer following the ceremony.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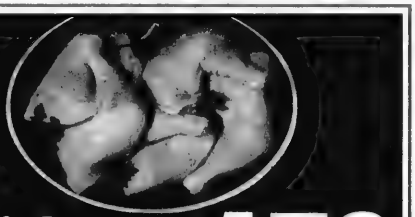

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

YOUNG LEADERSHIP CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM

Guest Speaker
IRENE GUT OPDYKE
Tues., June 6
7:30 p.m.
Ontario Science Centre
(416) 785-1333

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 15, is deadline for May 25 issue and Tuesday, May 23, is deadline for June 1. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, May 11

MULTICULTURALISM

New Generations of the New Israel Fund presents The Changing Role of the Israeli Supreme Court in Shaping the Multicultural Face of Israeli Society, 6:30 p.m., Gardner, Blumberg, 390 Bay St., Suite 1620. Speakers **Ayelet Shachar, Ran Hirschl, Ed Morgan.** RSVP, **Michelle** 781-4322.

Saturday, May 13

SHABBAT AT BETH TZEDEC

Beth Tzedec Congregation guest speaker **Prof. Everett Fox** of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., speaks from the pulpit on How to Read a Biblical Story, at morning service; on The Dual Image of David, at Shabbat Study Luncheon following service; and on Decoding Leviticus, at Minchah service 7:45 p.m.

Sunday, May 14

GALA TRIBUTE DINNER

Congregation B'nai Torah tribute dinner honouring **Rabbi Raphael Marcus** for his 20 years of leadership in the Toronto community, and **Harry Guest** for making kosher food products widely available in the city. Cocktails 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:30, at Regency Banquet Centre, 8400 Jane St. Reserve. 226-3700.

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood and Men's Club Millennium Champagne Brunch honouring Mother's Day and Father's Day, 11 a.m. Music by **Lenny Solomon** and **Bernie Senensky.** Reserve **Florence** 781-3511.

Monday, May 15

BEGGARS IN THE STREET

Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee, Temple Sinai and The Native Men's Residence panel discussion asks Should We Give the Beggar in the Street a Coin?, 7:30 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Panelists include **Gordon Wolfe**, Jewish Family & Child Service, and journalist **John Stackhouse.** Moderator is **Peter Silverman** from Citytv. 964-7698.

ISRAEL & 21ST CENTURY

David Goldberg of the Canada-Israel Committee speaks on Israel at the Start of the 21st Century: Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges, 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Sponsored by the Frances Bitterman Memorial Trust Fund.

SEEING THE LIGHT

Toronto Hadassah-WIZO and members of Atzmaut, Davida, Shachar, and Shoshana chapters host an evening with **Sharon Gottlieb** discussing her new book *Seeing the Light, Eat Well, Be Active, Feel Good About Yourself, Once and For All,* 8 p.m., Temple Kol Ami, 36 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill. Information/tickets **Terry** 635-9002.

RAF – RIGHT AFTER WORK

Meet a group of women (45+) who get together RAF – right after work once a month, for wine and cheese, a tour of Judaica 2000 at A Show of Hands, 1016 Eglinton Ave., dinner at the Ice Cream Patio. Reservations required. Jewish Women International 630-9313.

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

Prof. Adele Reinhartz series concludes with Women in Their Own Houses: The Wise Woman of Abel, the Wealthy Woman of Shunim and Rahab the Prostitute, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation.

NAGILLAH CHAPTER, JWI

Nagillah chapter, Jewish Women

Continued on page 31

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation
3RD ANNUAL CONCERT
Wednesday June 14, 2000 at 8 pm
Cantorial, Broadway, Chassidic and Operatic Music
Vaakov Motzen
Toronto
Moshe Schulhof
Miami Beach
Shlomo Simcha Sufrin
Toronto
Benjamin Warschawski
Baritone (Toronto Debut)
Shaarei Shomayim Choir
Conductor
Stephen Glass
Montreal
Piano Accompanist
Cantor Daniel Gildar
Philadelphia
470 Glencairn Avenue Toronto
For ticket information please call the congregation office at 416-789-3213

Baycrest Centre Foundation
The Women's Auxiliary of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
presents
Baycrest Gala 2000
An Evening with
Joan Rivers

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2000
The star-studded event will celebrate the opening of Baycrest's new Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged and The Louis and Leah Posluns Centre for Stroke and Cognition. Proceeds from the evening will help Women's Auxiliary in its ongoing commitment to programs, services and research at Baycrest.
Location: Grand Ballroom
The Sheraton Centre, Toronto
For ticket information, Please call Mary at (416) 785-2500 X 2049
Corporate and Major Sponsor tables for 10 range in price from $10,000 to $50,000, Benefactor tables for 10, $5,000; and patron seating (two tickets), $1,000.
A very limited number of single tickets at $250 are also available.

Continued from page 30

International (50+ singles) general meeting, 7:30 p.m., National Council of Jewish Women, 4700 Bathurst St. Program following is by **Dr. Michael Davis,** dermatologist, on Skin Care and Changes as We Age. **Norma** 657-8763 or **Helen** 638-4326.

BOOK REVIEW

Beth Sholom Sisterhood presents a review by **Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich** of *The Red Tent* by author **Anita Diamont**, 1 p.m. This novel reveals the traditions and turmoil of ancient womanhood. Light lunch served.

THE JEWS OF FRANCE

The Beth Tzedec lecture series The Jews of France From Voltaire to Vichy with **Prof. Arnold Ages** continues with The Aftershocks of Emancipation, 7:30 p.m.

STARTING WITH TUSCANY

Cranbrooke Friendship Club of the United Jewish People's Order and Winchevsky Centre feature **Giovana Peel**, author of *Starting in Tuscany*, discussing her visit to Italy, 12:30 p.m., 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Preceded by light lunch. 789-5502.

Tuesday, May 16

LOVE YOUR SHVIGGER

Hadassah-WIZO Lev Zahav chapter presents To Love Your Shvigger (mother-in-law) is a Piece of Cake with Montreal guest speaker **Irene Bloomstone** and panelists **Elise Kalles** with daughter-in-law, **Sharon Kroft** with daughter-in-law, and **Carol Seidman** with mother-in-law. 7:30 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. For advance tickets **Debbie Kleiner** 398-9872.

THE DAVID STORY

The David Story and the Beginning of Political Fiction with **Prof. Robert Alter**, University of California, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

CHUG TANACH

Chug Tanach meets 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study Jeremiah, chapters 17-18, with presenter **Rabbi Philip Brumer**.

DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS?

Learn What Does Work! with **Ronald Morrish**, author of *Secrets of Discipline*, 8 p.m. North York City Centre Library, auditorium. Presented by Orah chapter, Jewish Women International. For tickets 785-9792 or 785-81239.

BULLYING OF CHILDREN

At She'arim Hebrew Day School, social worker and family therapist **Dorete Sifkin** tackles the subject of Bullying and the Victimization of Our Children, 7:30 p.m. RSVP **Doris Wexler,** school social worker, 633-8247.

TOUR OF NIAGARA

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood bus tour of Niagara 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. View the blossoms, visit a winery and a chocolate factory. **Rose Haspel** 905-764-8141.

WHAT'S COOKING

What's Cooking with **Norene Gilletz**, sponsored by Beth Tikvah Sisterhood. Boutiques 7 p.m., cooking demonstration 8 p.m.

NFJA MEETING

David Goldberg discusses Israel at the Start of the 21st Century: Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges at New Fraternal Jewish Association meeting, 8 p.m., Lodzer Centre, 12 Heaton St.

MARKHAM/UNIONVILLE

Jewish Women International – Markham/Unionville chapter meeting. Special guest speaker. New members welcome. **Sheryl** 905-305-7026 or **Susan** 905-940-0286.

Wednesday, May 17

COPING WITH LOSS

A workshop on Coping With Loss sponsored by Temple Har Zion caring committee, 7:30 p.m. A panel begins the discussion. 905-889-2252 or **Sim Greene** 221-4227.

SPRING AUCTION

Jewish Counselling & Resource Centre Spring Auction at Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook Ave. Light dinner at 6:30 p.m., view goods, silent auction. Main auction begins 8 p.m. with auctioneer **Bob Gosse**.

DEALING WITH STRESS

Baycrest Wellness Education Group session, Dealing Successfully with Stressful Changes and Decisions with **Dr. Richard Earle**, Canadian Institute of Stress, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Wagman Centre. **Judy Chu** 785-2500, ext. 2340.

LUNCH & LEARN

At Holy Blossom Temple Lunch & Learn in Retirement **Rabbi Yael Splansky** discusses Do We Live in the Diaspora or in Exile? At noon. Bring lunch. 789-3291.

Thursday, May 18

AS FUNNY AS IT GETS

Evening of stand-up comedy to support The Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital, Ezrath Nashim's Alzheimer's research, 7:30 p.m. at Leah Posluns Theatre. Line-up includes **Les Aaron, Steve Levine, Greg Eckler, Jim McAleese, Tim Rykert.** Reception follows. 256-4222.

FIRM ETHICS

Prof. Alex Pomson, York University, speaks on Firm Ethics and an Unclean World, 8 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

And What Else Is New

ART CLASSES

Drawing and painting, all levels, Thursdays 1-3:30 p.m., May through July at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Call **Terri,** instructor, to register 487-7244.

LIVELY AFTER FIFTY

Wednesday, May 31, Lively After Fifty (LAF) lunch at Windfields Restaurant and then on to Graydon Hall Manor for Designers' Showcase of interior designs and landscape architecture. Reserve by May 17. RSVP to **Betty Raibmon** 905-881-4213. LAF is a Jewish Women International group.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. May 11, Yom Ha'atzmaut party, 7:30 p.m.; May 18, Israeli comedy movie; May 25, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday dance May 21; Casino Rama May 18, 31; Thousand Islands June 11-15; *Vaudeville* at King's Wharf Theatre, June 14; Catskills Paramount Hotel, July 23-30, $1,280; Soaring Eagle Casino, Michigan, Aug. 20-23; a.m.; 395-7881.

LZA Senior's Club: For tickets to *Hello Dolly* and *Fiddler on the Roof* call office 630-9444. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. and Senior's Cultural Club Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre 272 Codsell Ave. For information, **Libby** 782-2059 or office.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: *Vaudeville* at King's Wharf Theatre June 14; *Second Time Around* Gryphon Theatre July 14; *Damn Yankees* at Drayton Festival Theatre Aug. 22. **Lena** 785-5773.

Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m., 4266 Bathurst St., B'nai Brith Building, singers/pianists **Ella Krylov** and **Roman Aizenshtat,** also Israeli flag ceremony, Israeli songs and poetry arranged by **Dora Posluns**.

New Image 50 Plus dance for single seniors Saturday, May 13, Earl Bales Community Centre. **Mollie** 733-3634.

Sunrise Group free bus tip to Casino Rama, complimentary buffet or $10 voucher, light meal, Monday, May 15. **Esther** 223-9165.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Healthy Cooking with dietician/nutritionist **Andrea Sturk** Tuesday, May 16, 1:15 p.m.

Parkinson's Support Group Tuesday, May 16, 1:15 p.m., Creative Movement class **Karen Shuster**, fitness motivator. **Ruth** ext. 105.

Put a spring in your step and dance to the Golden Oldies Sunday, May 28, 7:30 p.m. ext. 145.

Israeli Club Etrog meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo. May 16, political lecture; May 23, sing-along with **Itzchak Argaman**; May 30, picnic in the park. **Anna** ext. 110.

Sunday movie May 14, *Shakespeare in Love*. 2:30 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre May events, 55 Ameer Ave. 785-2500.

Thursday Night Men's Club May 11, Stories of Our Past; May 25, Speak Your Mind, 7-8 p.m. **Mara** ext. 2275.

Lecture by **Inge Israel**, playwright/author, Tuesday, May 16, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by League of Canadian Poets.

Bus ride to Niagara-on-the-Lake Thursday, May 25. View the flowers, take your lunch or purchase food. Bus leaves 10 a.m., returns 5 p.m. Register at Service Desk.

Lunch & Learn Tuesday, May 30, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lecture and kosher lunch. Reserve at Service Desk. **Mara**, ext. 2272.

May Speakers' Bureau, 7-8 p.m., is planned. Contact **Mara**.

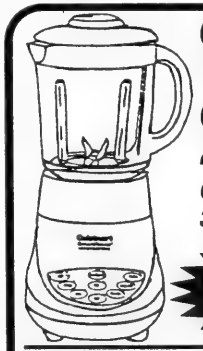
BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Spring Craft Show, Sunday, May 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. includes 50 artisans and crafters, children's art circle, raffle draw, clowns. Proceeds from raffle, art circle and the door go to Shalom Food Project.

Trip to Casino Rama, Monday, June 12, leaving 8:30 a.m. Bus, one-hour boat excursion on Lake Couchiching, buffet lunch, casino. Tickets at front desk.

Seniors Calendar: Tuesday, May 16, 2:15 p.m., Writing About Our Lives: An Interactive Workshop with **Judy Weinryb,** Seniors co-ordinator; Thursday, May 18, 2 p.m., award-winning poet and writer **Inge Israel** reads from *Rifts in the Visible*, a collection of poems that evoke the life and work of Russian-born painter **Chaim Soutine**.



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Bella Snow, Alan Snow,
Margot, Irv, Teddy Jay, Sari & Noah Feferman

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Notice of
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION
Wednesday, June 28, 2000 at 7:00 p.m
Beth Tzedec Synagogue, Mezzanine 1700 Bathurst Street
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Nominations must be received by Wednesday, May 31, 2000
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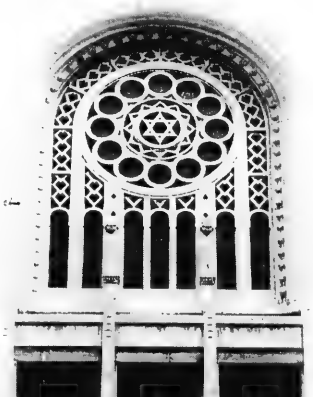

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Coast to Coast

Young Winnipegger travels to Poland to volunteer with Jewish community

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG – Poland! "To most Jews living outside the country, merely uttering the word seems to bring to mind a sense of lost memories, a temple of thought destroyed, a civilization decimated," wrote Sol Nagler a couple of months back in an American Joint Distribution publication.

For the young Winnipegger who is actually working in Poland, the reality has turned out to be quite different. Rather than finding himself in a mass Jewish graveyard, he has found himself part of a small but growing Jewish community.

Whereas the community was estimated to be about 4,000 just a few short years ago, since Poland threw off the yoke of Communism, numerous Jews have come out of the closet.

"The best current estimate is that there are about 13,000 Jews in Poland," says Sol's father, Winnipeg businessman Murray Nagler. "A lot of them are young Jews who are just starting to discover who they are and what being Jewish is all about. There is a lot of interest in Judaism."

Nagler's role is to foster that interest on behalf of the JDC and the Lauder Foundation. He first traveled to Poland early last year, says his father.

Nagler had graduated from the University of Manitoba with an honours degree in philosophy and was traveling through Europe. His intention was to go to Poland to learn about where his maternal grandparents, Holocaust survivors, came from.

The rabbi in a synagogue he attended in east Berlin encouraged him to contact representatives of the Lauder Foundation. (The foundation is headed by Ron Lauder, son of cosmetics queen Estee Lauder.)

Fate quickly took a hand for Nagler. While sitting in a restaurant shortly after his arrival in Warsaw, he spotted two men wearing yarmulkes coming into the restaurant. One of them was the president of the Warsaw Jewish community.

The gentleman encouraged Nagler to visit him in his office the next day and subsequently persuaded the young Winnipegger to stay in Warsaw for a while and donate his time to working with the community, in conjunction with JDC staff.

Before Nagler left Poland, his new friends from the JDC took him out to dinner and encouraged him to apply for the Jewish Service Core (JSC) program run by the JDC out of New York.

The program recruits people to work with Jewish communities overseas. Last September, Nagler returned to Poland for a year as a JSC volunteer. His work entails helping members of the Jewish community develop projects, such as seminars related to holiday and Shabbat programs.

He works closely with the Polish Union of Jewish Students on outreach programs and leadership seminars.

Murray visited his son in January. "It is an interesting country," he says. "Sol is learning Polish and has made a number of good friends. He loves the country and has become part of the Jewish community."

SINGLES EVENTS

is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*
For rates or to place an ad, please call
MICHAEL at (416) 391-1836
Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.
***The CJN* encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.**

2 GREAT PARTIES
DM&A Presents:
May TwoFour Bash, **Sun. May 21st. Doors open: 9pm.** Hotline: 416-760-3771. **Shark City Bar & Grill** 117 Eglinton Av. E. $12 w/ ballot filled, $15 w/o. ID req'd. Dress code, DJ, dancing, sheltered patio.

'Round 30 Executive class presents: **A Blast from the Past**, Dance music from '60s to the '90s, at **Capitol Event Theatre, 2492 Yonge St.,** (4 blks. N. of Eg.) Victoria Day wknd. $13 w/ ballet filled, $15 w/o. **Hotline: 416-760-3772.** ID. Dress code or dress from any era. Tons of pkg.

Beth Sholom Singles & Intersynagogue Singles invite you to an **ONEG SHABBAT** with guest speaker **Michael Skobac** ***"Today's Quest for Spirituality and the lure of the East"*** Desserts Served **Friday, May 12, at 8pm.** Beth Sholom Synagogue, 1445 Eglinton Ave. W. at Allen Rd. **$6 in advance only** No money taken at door. Reserve until May 12, noon. **416-783-6103, Visa/MC**

Beth Tzedec Cong. & Intersynagogue Singles are pleased to again offer you **COFFEE, TEA & TORAH.** Socialize, have choice of coffees, enjoy Torah tidbits with Rebbetzin Tanenbaum, **Wed.'s, May 17, 24 & 31.** $5. 7:30pm. 1700 Bathurst St. **Call 781-3514, ext. 34.**

Co-ed Softball rec. intermediate and competitive 3 pitch and slo-pitch divisions. 416-222-7111. Register now!

DYNAMIC SINGLES OF ADATH ISRAEL in conjunction with the Intersynagogue Singles presents Jazz by: ***"ANY TIME NOW"*** at our Sunday Brunch for singles 35 or better at **11:30am on Sunday May 21st, 2000** $10 if prepaid by 5pm on Thursday, May 18 or $15 at door. *We accept cash, Visa & cheques.* **Dress code - Casually elegant.** Please call the Synagogue office at: **416-635-5340.** Adath Israel Congregation 37 Southbourne Ave., Toronto, ON. M3H 1A4

Meet Jewish Singles of all ages. Free to be picked! Call J.R.N. inc. 416-492-5394.

Metro Toronto Sports and Socials proudly presents "I am Canadian". Victoria Day long weekend party at **Berlin Nightclub, 2335 Yonge St., 1 1/2 blocks north of Eglinton. MONDAY, MAY 22ND.** Starting at 8pm - 2am. $100 door prize for best written version of "I am Canadian" commercial. Cover : $10, with questionnaire filled out, $12 w/o. Questionnaire may be filled out at door. 416-222-7111, ages 25+.

Mother's Day Singles Party, Friday, May 12, 8pm. Hava Nagila Nightclub, 1118 Centre St. Live band, low cash bar. All ages welcome! Just $10!

www.jmatch.com 1350+ Tor. Jewish Singles. **Free to join!**

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Coast to Coast

Outremont councillor tries to block construction of new shul

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Councillor Céline Forget is once again battling the Amour Pour Israel Congregation.

The small chassidic group in Outremont is going ahead with construction of a synagogue, even though the city councillor has gone to court to revoke the congregation's building permit.

As a result of Forget's earlier legal action, the congregation moved last September from its premises at the corner of Durocher and Lajoie avenues, where it had been located for almost 10 years.

As a private citizen back in 1997, Forget had sued the congregation for operating a synagogue in a residential zone, which was a violation of city bylaws. Forget had been a tenant in the building, which had two floors of apartments above the street-level synagogue, since 1995.

Just before the case was to come before Quebec Superior Court last June, the congregation of about 40 members announced it would leave and convert a mixed commercial and residential building a block away into a synagogue and apartment complex.

Forget, who was elected to council as an independent last November, is now suing Outremont. She is asking Superior Court to quash the permit the city gave the congregation because she claims the project does not conform to the regulations.

Jack Hartstein, spokesperson for Amour Pour Israel, said Forget's action will not halt the project. Work began on schedule in March on the four-storey building on Van Horne Avenue, at the corner of Durocher, which is within Forget's district.

Work began on schedule

The work involves converting the ground and second floors into a synagogue, adding a half-storey above, and extending the building into a neighboring lot, Hartstein said. The upper floors will be rented out.

He expects the project to be completed in about a year. The legal case could take anywhere from two to five years to make its way through court.

Hartstein said it is clear to him, with this new legal foray, that Forget's motive is to make life difficult for Chassidim in the area. "It's obvious now what her goal was all along. We gave in to her demand to leave (from Lajoie) and moved a long city block away, and she is still trying to get rid of us.

"I am surprised that she actually came out and did this."

Last year, tensions between Forget and Amour Pour Israel and some other chassidic groups were made public when Hartstein alleged that his community felt it was being harassed and intimidated by Forget.

Besides the earlier lawsuit, he claimed Forget was making numerous complaints to the police against the community for parking, noise and littering infractions that were either petty or unfounded.

No rezoning was required for the work on the Van Horne building, because at the time it was bought by the congregation in September, it was permissible to use it as a place of worship. However, since the construction permit was granted, Outremont adopted new zoning bylaws prohibiting more places of worship on that street.

"We have acquired rights [for that site]. We have legal opinions to that effect. We're 100 percent on solid ground," Hartstein said.

The congregation was granted a construction permit in March, over Forget's demand that the council delay the project for further study.

Forget says she is merely doing the city's job by seeing that its bylaws are enforced and is using the courts as a last resort. She issued a press release stating she doubts the current project is in accordance with municipal bylaws and regulations.

Mayor Jérôme Unterberg said the city obtained a legal opinion before issuing the permit; he does not think Forget will win her case.

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From Coast to Coast

Filmmaker expresses personal protest to Iran

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In an unmistakable gesture of disgust over the current espionage trial of 13 Jews in Iran, filmmaker Joseph Koenig has returned an award he won at an Iranian film festival several years ago.

Last week, as the suspects charged with spying for Israel glumly filed into a Revolutionary Court in the city of Shiraz convened to determine their fate, Koenig packed a trophy and a diploma into a box and dispatched it by courier to Mohammed Lavasani, Iran's ambassador to Canada.

Joe Koenig

Koenig is a former National Film Board of Canada writer and producer whose production company made *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. He won the Golden Book Trophy at the 1993 Roshd International Film Festival for *Energy and Matter*.

His 1966 educational documentary explored the relationship between these forces in a way that could easily be understood by elementary and high school students, Koenig explained.

"I wanted to express my dismay over this staged affair, this political show trial," he said with a touch of anger.

Not a shred of evidence has been presented against the Jews, noted Koenig, currently the chief executive officer of Electronics Workbench, a Toronto software company.

In his estimation, the trial is little more than a crude attempt by Islamic hardliners to undermine the leadership of President Mohammed Khatami, widely regarded as a moderate committed to the rule of law and the democratic process.

"I don't think the defendants will get a fair trial," he observed. "There's a commitment to convict them in this cooked-up, spurious trial. It's so shameful when people do these kinds of things. I'm trying to show my disgust."

Koenig, who did not personally attend the Roshd film festival, was pleasantly surprised to receive the Iranian prize, consisting of a 10-inch high trophy and a diploma, signed by Minister of Education Mohammed Ali Najafi.

As he put it in a letter to Lavasani: "It made me feel that doors long shut (in Iran) were perhaps reopening and that there were renewed opportunities for people of good will to share ideas for the benefit of all.

"It also made me feel that in some small way, this little educational film, made 27 years earlier, had played a small role as a cultural bridge builder in our complex world, where it is so hard to create and so easy to destroy.

"Although educational films I have helped to make have won over 20 international awards, this is one of the very few I kept in my office because of the special positive message it conveyed to me."

Koenig, who specialized in live action and animation films while at the Montreal-based National Film Board of Canada from 1955 to 1969, informed the Iranian envoy that he was returning the trophy and the diploma with much sadness.

"It is the only way to add my voice to those who protest the long delayed 'spy' trial in Iran, in which the majority of the accused are Jews, as I am.

Describing the trial as an "immoral event," Koenig said that its instigators are "doing their best to embarrass and intimidate the people and even the government of Iran and to undermine the growing relationship between Iran and other societies."

He ended the letter with the following phrase, "Kindly convey this personal message of profound disappointment and sorrow to your colleagues in Iran."

During his tenure at the National Film Board of Canada, Koenig developed a large program of short experimental films for children with a variety of learning difficulties, in collaboration with two psychologists, Sam Rabinovitch and Margie Golick of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

First Jewish lieutenant-governor

Continued from page 1

Freeman, whose husband Larry, served as president of the Atlantic Jewish Council for two, two-year terms, has served on community committees and boards such as the World Figure Skating Championships in 1990, the Kidney Foundation, Grace Maternity Hospital, and the Atlantic Theatre Festival. She is still on the board of the Nova Scotia Division Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Nova Scotia Talent Trust.

A strong believer in Jewish tradition, she will decide soon about changing the Government House kitchen for kashruth purposes.

"I'm a traditional Jew and have no intention of giving up those traditions.

I fully intend to maintain my Jewish practices. I certainly won't compromise my values."

But she says she's just learning about the job and is unaware of all the demands.

"When I think back to our ancestors fleeing pogroms to come here, with just the clothes on their backs, and leading a sheltered life in Canada, speaking little English, but working hard to provide a better life for their children, I realize it's our generation who must contribute to the country that accepted us."

Her three college age children, Princeton-graduate Daniel, now working in China, fourth-year McGill student Jonathan and sophomore McGill student Debra, are thrilled, she says.

"But Debra will be the only one to live in our new home this summer. The others are away. They'll all be home for the installation, though."

Freeman's new job pays $97,500 per year with another $25,000 for expenses.

She will have aides-de-camp to attend her every need while on duty, including driving the vice-regal car.

"Anyone who knows me knows I love to drive. I find it very relaxing. It may be difficult for me not to drive," she laughed.

Israel Bonds supporting liver research at U of M

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

Gala planned for May 18

WINNIPEG — While the main purpose of the State of Israel Bonds is to help the State of Israel, a secondary purpose is to contribute to the community as a whole, said Shoshana Shalev-Minuk, executive director of the State of Israel Bonds office in Winnipeg.

The organization's gala Celebration of Life evening will be held May 18 at the Lombard Hotel and will raise close to $500,000 toward the establishment of an endowed chair in liver diseases research at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, Shalev-Minuk said.

"That is 25 percent of our total goal. This is just the kickoff dinner," she said. "It is a great start to our 2000 & Beyond Campaign."

Israel Bonds is launching the campaign in conjunction with the Health Sciences Centre Foundation.

Highlights of the Celebration of Life evening include a performance by tenor Michael Burgess, star of *Les Miserables*.

Presentation of the Celebration of Life Awards will be made to Drs. Gerald Minuk, Kelly Kaita, Ari Cohen, Jeremy Lipschitz, Yuewen Gong and Barry Rosser, the physicians who are part of the HSC liver department, the leading liver department in Canada.

Minuk, the founder of the 10-year-old department, just returned last week from a sabbatical doing research at the Technion Institute in Haifa. He is a graduate of the medical school at the University of Manitoba and received his training as a liver specialist at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

He began his career in 1977 in Calgary where he started a liver program. He came home to Winnipeg in 1987 to start a similar program here. He personally recruited the other physicians working in the unit.

Liver disease is the fourth most common cause of death among Manitobans.

Minuk is particularly concerned about finding a cure for Hepatitis C which afflicts 300 million people worldwide and has a high morbidity rate. The endowed chair is intended for the recruitment of a world-class researcher.

Mazel Tov

מזל טוב

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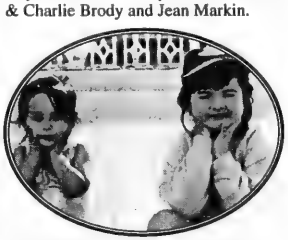
Mazel tov to Renee Blustein who celebrated her 75th birthday on March 18. Love, your five children, 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov Murray & Stacy Markin and sister Shayna on the birth Joshua and Kayla, Nov. 4. Grandparents are Rhoda & Charlie Brody and Jean Markin.

Ruth Fox received the Toronto Volunteer Centre Volunteer Service Award for her work with Meals on Wheels, from Lt.-Gov. Hilary Weston on April 10.

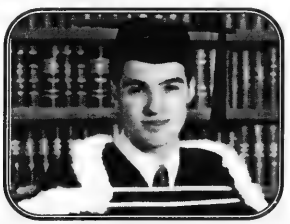
Zavie & Gail Yablonsky, Annette Levy, Ernie & Judy Levy are pleased to announce the engagement of Audrey & Kevin. Mazel tov!

Mazel tov to Freda & Harry Schwartz on your 50th wedding anniversary. We love you very much, your children and grandchildren.



Happy second birthday to Alexa, daughter of Jennie & Monty Sheriff and sister to Tiffany Rebecca. Love, Bubbie Dorothy and Zayde Hy Fish.

Congratulations Shirley & Aaron Horwitz, Windsor, on their 50th anniversary. From Larry & Dana, Peter & Harriet and Joshua, Benjamin, Adam, Daniel, Noah and Aiden.



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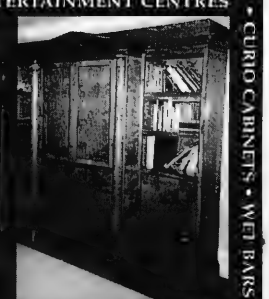

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About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I am finding it very difficult to come up with school lunches for my children. They are restricted to bringing only non-meat and nut-free lunches, but deli sandwiches are their preference. Do you have any advice?

A. First, think beyond the typical sandwich. Great lunches can be made from last night's leftovers, like pasta, rice, vegetables, soups, salads, casseroles and potato dishes. Also if your children like deli sandwiches, try the soy deli slices. They are available in a variety of flavours, and may resemble such meats as bologna, salami and turkey. These really do taste, smell and look like the real thing, and they are much healthier in many cases.

Q. I have a fabulous recipe for a sour cream coffee cake, but I know that it is high in fat and also has lactose. My daughter just found out that she is lactose intolerant. Is there a reasonable substitution that will not compromise the flavour or texture?

A. Plain yogurt is the perfect solution. It is both lactose free and low in fat, and the cake will taste and turn out exactly the same. I use yogurt in place of sour cream all the time in coffee cake recipes.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, send them to The CJN.

Tissue engineering research being used to create an artificial heart

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — And you thought *Star Trek* was science fiction!

Michael Sefton, director of the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, and a professor in the department of chemical engineering and applied chemistry at the University of Toronto, told *The CJN* that research is being done now to combine live cells with plastics to create artificial organs such as the heart, a technique known as tissue engineering.

The idea of developing an artificial heart using this technique, he said, came to him at 3 a.m., when he was trying to figure out "what comes next" in the field.

"Scientists have been working on creating skin replacements for burn victims, and artificial muscles to treat incontinence in the elderly," he said. Logically, then, large organs, such as the liver, kidneys, or lungs, could be tackled as well.

It would entail an "ambitious, large-scale" effort such as the human genome project, in which institutions around the world collaborated to map the genetic code.

"It would be the same with the heart – the different parts of the research would be combined into the final result.

"The key premise is that it is a global project. The steering committee includes researchers from the United States, Canada, Japan, and Europe, and soon from Israel."

He chose the heart as a research subject for several reasons. One of the major ones was the fund-raising possibilities, he said. "We realized we would have to appeal to governments around the world."

A meeting in Toronto last summer launched The L.I.F.E. Initiative (Living Implants From Engineering). At the moment, it is in the organizational phase.

While a formal program to create an artificial heart is not yet underway, Sefton said, research is being done that will be integrated into the project. For instance, he said, researchers at U of T are trying to grow heart muscles.

"The L.I.F.E. Initiative will fill in the gaps between the research that is being carried on at different universities.

One of the major obstacles to overcome is that of the body's rejection of foreign matter. One way to deal with that problem is to use the patient's own cells, an approach he calls "the least likely." Another, is to biopsy some cells and genetically modify them to make them immunologically neutral, so that they can build heart cells, for instance.

The most exciting approach, said Sefton, is to use embryonic stem cells, cells harvested at a very early stage of gestation. These stem cells, he said, can grow into any other kind of cells.

While the much-heralded cloning technology is "unlikely" to be used to clone a whole person, said Sefton, he believes that it will be possible to clone individual cells which would be used in various kinds of biomedical techniques.

The use of man-made materials, such as in the Jarvik artificial heart, has not proved terribly successful, Sefton said. "A quasi-natural heart would be more adaptable and, unlike plastic, would be able to grow, which is especially useful in children."

Sefton, like most scientists, he said, is conscious of the ethical concerns that arise from medical research. For instance, he said, is it ethically and halachically correct to tissue engineer organs at all, or is it "playing God?"

The concern boils down in large part, he says, to "what you are trying to accomplish, rather than making a blanket decision on the issue."

Most scientists feel that they are not qualified to make these judgements, and are happy to have ethical discussions going on apart from scientific work, Sefton said, adding that all research is considered by ethics committees.

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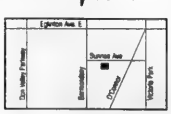

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See Page 47

Iranian "confessions" follow predicted pattern

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — While the events unfolding 8,000 miles away in the espionage trial of 13 Iranian Jews have shocked many North American Jews, the trial is following a script prepared earlier this year, said a Jewish leader monitoring the events.

Last week Wednesday, a second and third prisoner "confessed" to spying for Israel and its foreign intelligence agency, Mossad, "out of love" for the Jewish state. Western observers, however, charge that the confessions were either extracted under duress, or with promises of leniency – or both.

"We were told this would happen several months ago – they would not have their own lawyers, the trial would be behind closed doors with no foreign observers let in and there would be confessions," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"We are expecting a fourth confession, and perhaps statements from other defendants."

Hoenlein, who has spearheaded efforts to secure the release of the "Iran 13," said he receives his intelligence from Iranian sources close to the hardline authorities who control the court system.

Ramin Nemati, one of the accused, speaks to Iranian media. [Murray Kahl photos]

Following last week's proceedings, one of those who "confessed," part-time Hebrew teacher Shahrokh Paknahad, told reporters waiting outside: "We were told by Israeli intelligence that if any of us under any circumstances were arrested, we must deny everything and they would help to get us out by bringing to bear international pressure. But that was just lies."

Paknahad, 23, described by one judiciary official as one of the alleged spy ring's "ideologues," added, "What I can say on behalf of myself and the others is that we are unhappy and sad and repentant."

The third man to "confess" was Ramin Nemati, 23.

Shakrokh Paknahad

Their statements came after the purported confession of the alleged leader, Hamid "Dani" Tefileen. A devoutly religious man from the southern city of Shiraz, Tefileen admitted to visiting Israel in 1994.

Interviewed by state television after last week's hearing on Monday, Tefileen reportedly also admitted to being trained and paid by the Mossad. After the hearing, the authorities assailed him of carrying out this work for "the love of Israel" – and for the money.

Israel, for its part, steadfastly denies the link.

"We don't have anything new to say from what we have said in the past," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Aviv Sharon told reporters in Israel.

"We don't have any connection with any of those who stand trial now in Iran."

But it was Tefileen's trip to Israel that seems to be, from Iran's perspective, the smoking gun for the entire case, said Hoenlein.

"Without him, there's no case," he said. "Getting him to confess was crucial."

Tefileen has not yet been sentenced, though state television said he had asked for clemency.

Observers believe that Tefileen, an impoverished trader, may have been facing other trumped-up charges, like drug possession or smuggling.

He may have been offered leniency if he confessed to the spying charge. Or perhaps the freedom of his brother, Omid, was dangled before him.

Omid is one of three accused Jews who was released on bail in February, and is likely to be pardoned.

Either way, said Hoenlein, Tefileen and the rest are innocent.

"If this doesn't give all the appearances of a setup, I don't know what is," said Hoenlein. "Listen, you sit in jail for a year, in conditions no one knows about. How can we judge someone in that situation?"

Faramarz Kashi, also a part-time Hebrew teacher, was scheduled to be brought before the Revolutionary Court on May 8, when the trial was to reconvene.

One issue that remains unclear, said Hoenlein, is whether those who "confess" will take the fall for the rest or if the entire group will be punished. The sentence for spying ranges from six months to death.

PM, Arafat try to break deadlock

By AMNON BARZILAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met last Sunday night in Ramallah to try to bridge the differences between the sides and advance the talks on the framework agreement for a permanent settlement.

U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross met with Barak on Sunday; he had met with Arafat on Friday.

Political sources in Jerusalem said before the meeting that only talks between the two leaders can bring about a meaningful breakthrough on the issues in contention. At the same time, they said it was doubtful that Sunday's meeting would produce such a breakthrough.

The meeting was described by the Prime Minister's Office as a "natural step" in the peace process.

According to the revised peace timetable, the framework agreement between the two sides was supposed to be signed by the end of this month. The current assessment, however, is that it will not be signed before the end of June or July.

The next significant date is Sept. 13, when Arafat intends to declare an independent Palestinian state.

Sources in Jerusalem said no real progress will be made in the talks on the Palestinian track until Barak's forthcoming visit to the United States for talks with President Bill Clinton.

Sunday's meeting came in the wake of 10 days of talks in Eilat. Following the talks, the Palestinians accused Israel of stalling and said virtually no progress had been made.

Political sources in Jerusalem said the Palestinians were trying to generate a crisis atmosphere in an attempt to make the Americans increase their involvement in the process.

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Custody battle raises issue of religious heritage

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A bitter custody battle with echoes of the Elian Gonzalez case has prompted an outpouring of solidarity among Orthodox Jewish organizations internationally, as well as anger at Italian authorities for allegedly permitting two young sisters to be deprived of their religious heritage.

Organizations including the U.S.-based Ohr Somayach, the Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel have sided with the mother in the case involving Nitzan and Danielle Dulberg. In Europe, the Conference of European Rabbis has joined the fray, supporting the mother's position that she should raise the girls in an Orthodox environment.

Tali Pikan-Rosenberg

In Canada, businessman Mark Mandelbaum has undertaken an informal fund-raising campaign to raise money for the mother's legal costs, while Kurt Rothschild, chair of Mercaz Olami of World Mizrachi, has written to Israeli Attorney General Eliyakim Rubenstein, asking that Israel intervene to "stand up for the rights of Jews wherever they may be." The Beth Jacob girls school in Toronto has raised awareness of the case among students and organized the recitation of Tehillim (psalms) in solidarity with the sisters.

The case has even involved Pope John Paul II, who was asked by Israel's chief rabbis during his recent visit to Israel to help in protecting the girls' religious rights.

Like the Gonzalez imbroglio, the Dulberg case touches upon issues of parental rights and the child-rearing environment. Unlike the Gonzalez case, which involved a six-year-old, the Dulberg sisters are 11 and 14, and have expressed a desire to be with their mother, Tali Pikan-Rosenberg.

Pikan-Rosenberg, a baalat tshuvah who lives in Israel, alleges her former husband, Moshe Dulberg, has converted to Christianity and is preventing their daughters from living an Orthodox lifestyle.

The allegation concerning her husband's alleged conversion has been repeated by various Jewish groups on their Web sites, though the evidence is scanty and Dulberg's lawyer has denied it.

The case, meanwhile, is winding its way through the Italian legal system, with several courts adjudicating a variety of issues.

The Venice Juvenile Court has granted Moshe Dulberg sole guardianship of the daughters while limiting Pikan-Rosenberg's access to her daughters. Jewish organizations contend that the Italian courts relied, at least in part, on a prejudiced view of traditional Judaism to support decisions that favoured the father.

Rabbi Sriel Rosenberg

In an angry statement on behalf of the Conference of European Rabbis, the late lord and rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits wrote last year that the courts have rejected the mother's claim "because it is alleged she belongs to 'a religious cult', i.e. Orthodox Judaism. This assertion is libelous and utterly untenable...

"We assert that in Jewish law children assume the faith of their mother and must be raised accordingly...The injustice of placing these children into an impossible situation, including the restricted manner in which they are allowed to communicate with their mother, is a total denial of their human rights as well as of their Jewish tradition."

Chief rabbis asked Pope to intervene

In Toronto, Mandelbaum echoes those sentiments. "It's a situation that is offensive, that she lost her rights to her children because of her faith."

Mandelbaum, who by chance met Pikan-Rosenberg during a visit to Italy last year, said "it's a very explosive case in Italy."

Orthodox groups believe there is evidence the father has been baptized, and the Italian courts believe the children should remain with the father in Italy and "be brought up in an Italian atmosphere."

"It seems to me, the courts in Italy deprived her of her rights as a parent. They look at her and see her as an Orthodox Jew and they see it as almost a Medieval practice."

Mandelbaum acknowledged that the couple, who are originally from Israel, were secular Jews when they married.

From a distance, the facts of the case remain murky and depend on which version of events you accept. The Orthodox organizations have devoted kilobytes of space to the case on their Web sites (www.ohr.org.il/special/misc/dulberg.htm or www.orthodoxunion.org/public/statements/1999/dulbergcaseinbrief.htm are two examples).

In one decision that was overturned on jurisdictional grounds, the Juvenile Court of Genoa painted a less than sterling portrait of Pikan-Rosenberg. Reciting the facts of the case, the court found that in 1982 the parents were married in Israel, where their first daughter was born. They moved to Italy where the second daughter was born. In 1991 the parents separated and entered into a separation agreement that provided for joint custody. The girls' primary residence was with the mother, and she agreed not to move without her husband's consent.

From 1991 to 1995 she moved seven times in Italy. Eventually she married a man belonging to the Lubavitch movement.

In August 1996, Moshe Dulberg asked Juvenile court for custody of the girls. In December 1996, while the case was still before the courts, Pikan-Rosenberg took the children on a visit to Israel with the permission of her husband. While she was there, she informed the court she did not intend to

Continued on page 39

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Ottawa groups oppose Italian courts' decisions

Continued from page 38

return to Italy. The Juvenile Court of Genoa granted custody of the girls to their father.

Pursuing remedies under the Hague Convention, which limits the right of a parent to move a child without the consent of the other parent, Dulberg received an order of the Court of Tel Aviv to return the children to him.

By this time, Pikan-Rosenberg had divorced her second husband and had moved to Buenos Aires, and later to Sao Paulo. Afterwards, she returned to Israel and married Rabbi Sriel Rosenberg, who already had 13 children of his own.

Israeli police eventually located the children and with an Israeli court order, returned the children to their father.

In rendering its decision last year, the Genoa Juvenile Court rejected suggestions the issue was one of religious upbringing. "The primary purpose of this investigation is to assess which of the parents is better fit to function as such," the court stated. "Rarely has the Juvenile Court seen such a harmful behaviour to the interests of the children such as that of Tali Pikan-Rosenberg."

The court found that the mother "abducted her daughters" and that before settling with her third husband in Bnei Brak, Pikan-Rosenberg changed addresses 12 times. As a result, the children "lived in isolation from the rest of the world," relied almost exclusively on their mother and were psychologically dependent on her everything.

The court also found:

- that the mother engaged in "the systematic destruction of the paternal figure" – in effect, poisoning the girls against their father;
- that the girls' religious upbringing was made "without the approval of the father and is a severe violation of parental duties;"
- that "the religious community to which Pikan-Rosenberg belongs is indeed...a closed group which keeps contact only with homogeneous groups characterized by similar lifestyles."

The court ruled "the mother to be absolutely unfit for adequately carrying out her parental function, both with regard to education and to whatever concerns the care of her children, in the light of universally accepted pedagogical and psychological principles: namely, respect for the individual, for personal potentials; acquisition of a critical mindset and of adequate tools to interpret the real world; plurality of behavioural models; constant role models, also with regard to affectivity and the possibility of establishing social relations; respect of pluralism of ideas and behaviour; need for an affectively warm environment which cares for the girls' needs, also in terms of a proper diet and a healthy and active life."

The Week in Israel

May 1

• The IDF began tearing down two outposts in southern Lebanon to prepare for its planned troop withdrawal.

• Prime Minister Ehud Barak held a late-night meeting with Rav Ovadia Yosef in an effort to secure his support and the support of Shas for the government's peace talks with the Palestinians.

May 2

• Yom Hashoah V'gvurah

• Talks with the Palestinians taking place in Eilat were put on the back burner because of Yom Hashoah.

May 3

• Intel is seeking to expand its microchip plant in Israel at a cost of between $2.5 and $3.5 billion (US).

• An official from India's commerce ministry, in Tel Aviv for a trade fair, said his country could use Israel's expertise in irrigation, solar energy and fiber optics technology. The current $1-billion (US) level of annual trade is "just the tip of the iceberg," the envoy said.

May 4

• The Ministry of Finance unveiled recommendations for sweeping tax reform. The centrepiece of the reforms is a 25 percent capital gains tax.

• IDF forces bombed infrastructure installations in Lebanon in retaliation for the firing by Hezbollah of dozens of rockets into Kiryat Shmonah that killed one soldier and injured some 27 people.

May 5

• Sri Lanka announced it would resume official ties with Israel as of next week.

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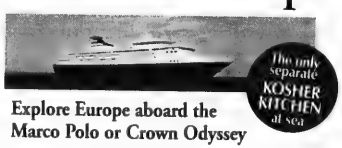

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Yom Ha'atzmaut greetings

On the occasion of Israel's 52nd Independence Day

Ehud Barak
Prime Minister
of the State of Israel

Dear Friends,

It is with tremendous pride and a great deal of optimism that we celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. We are on the cusp of an exciting period in the history of our country.

We continue to travel the difficult road to peace with vigour and determination. Our finest security experts and negotiators are dedicating a great deal of time to this task. We are hopeful that our neighbours will join us in taking the courageous decisions necessary to bring real and secure peace to our people and to the region.

With the ingathering of so many new immigrants, we are rapidly integrating not only wonderful gifts of culture and diversity, but also the human resources of intelligence and creativity that are benefiting our society in many ways. We are excelling in the field of research and development, in medicine and science; we are on the cutting edge of high-technology; and, we are revitalizing artistic expression.

Today, as has been true since the founding of the state, we remain committed to the close partnership and common agenda that we share with Jewish communities around the world. We are playing an active role in Jewish education and renaissance in those places where Jewish life was threatened. We encourage through innovative programs more and more Jewish youth coming to Israel to cement their connection to the Jewish homeland and to their own Jewish identity.

We know that together, in Israel's 52nd year, we will meet the challenges that face us as a community and as a state. It is for us to provide our children with a better, secure and more prosperous future. Let us pass the torch of Jewish responsibility and love for Zion with an enthusiasm that reflects the beauty of our tradition and the tremendous promise that Israel at peace and a strong Jewish people can bring.

Shalom and Chag Samayach.

At 52, Israel suffers identity crisis

By AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

As Israelis celebrated Independence Day, there is a feeling that Israel's 53rd year will bring an intense debate about the nature of the Jewish state and the future evolution of Zionism.

Yom Ha'atzmaut

"The attempt to find a middle road between a Jewish and democratic state will be the essence of the ongoing public debate over Jewish and Israeli identity," said Moshe Lissak, professor emeritus of sociology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"But I don't think that Israeli society is ripe for these discussions because as long as diplomatic arrangements with her neighbours have not been secured, it will be difficult to address these issues in a rational way."

Experts say the debate about the nature of the Jewish state will proceed along two main paths.

First, the very fundamental definition of Israel as a Jewish state is likely to face sharper challenges than ever before from Israeli Arabs, who make up 20 percent of Israel's population of 6 million.

Second, the struggle between religious and secular segments of society toward defining what it means to be a Jewish state will be played out in new ways.

The impetus for the Arab challenge was provided nearly two months ago, when the Qadan family from the Galilee won the right from Israel's High Court of Justice to build a home in Katzir, a Jewish community established by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

With that landmark decision, the Supreme Court shattered one of the fundamental tenets of modern Zionism, which sought to secure land exclusively for Jews. While ruling that it was illegal to discriminate against Arabs in land allocation, the court insisted this did not clash with the Jewish nature of the state.

In fact, Justice Aharon Barak argued that the "Jewish character of the state did not permit Israel to discriminate between its citizens. In Israel, Jews and non-Jews are citizens with equal rights and responsibilities."

Mohammed Baraka, a Knesset member and leader of the predominantly Arab Hadash Party, said Israeli Arabs will now step up their struggle for equal rights; they will also press ahead with a campaign to remove the Jewish symbols of the state: from the Star of David flag to the national anthem Hatikvah to the Jewish Agency itself.

Though Baraka said he understands this strikes at a raw nerve of most Jewish Israelis, he added, "The state can express Jewish national aspirations, but it cannot be a Jewish state if one of every five citizens is an Arab," he said.

At the Jewish Agency – an organization Baraka wants dismantled – the chair, Sallai Meridor, who opposed the Supreme Court ruling, believes Israelis are up to the challenge of the coming debates, even in the face of "post-Zionist" trends that have some history books rewriting what once were sacred beliefs about the heroism of Israel's founders.

"After having built the state physically, we are now moving on to the phase of adding the spiritual content of what it means to be a Jewish and democratic state," he said. "I think this is a very exciting challenge."

While Meridor believes the Jewish state must be particularly sensitive to its non-Jewish population – even using affirmative action at times – he also foresees a growing Arab trend to "de-Zionize and de-Judaize" Israel.

In addition, there will be groups of Israelis who join in and want Israel to relinquish its identity as a Jewish state. Such a threat, he said, could indeed galvanize mainstream support in the opposite direction for a more Jewish state.

"But the true challenge is to choose to be Jewish or to stay Jewish without the external impetus of anti-Semitism, and to be united without enemies," he added.

At the same time as Arab Israelis are driving one aspect of the identity debate, Jewish Israelis are likely to experience a contradictory tug from within as the different cultural, religious or political sectors engage each other too. This will make internal cohesion a difficult task.

Continued on page 41

A new type of Israeli emerging: high-tech capitalist

Continued from page 40

Many Israeli Jews believe the same court that gave its nod to the land challenge brought by the Qadan family will also present a different set of challenges for religious and secular Jews.

Yom Ha'atzmaut

Secular Jews feel increasingly threatened by the rising political power of haredi parties. Many see the Supreme Court as a last line of defence against religious politics.

Haredim meanwhile, feel defenseless against an increasingly activist judicial system. On all sides, the rhetoric is ugly.

Ironically, the Haredim, who largely do not attach theological significance to Israel as a Jewish state, are battling harder than ever to maintain the state's relation to Judaism.

Sallai Meridor

Jonathan Rosenblum, director of the Israel office for Am Echad and a commentator for the *Jerusalem Post* newspaper, explains the paradox.

On the one hand, he said, an increasingly materialistic, secular society with a shrinking connection to Judaism, vindicates the classical haredi rejection of secular Zionism as a replacement for Judaism.

"At the same time, we are fearful that to the extent that people lose any awareness of themselves as Jews as a distinctive entity, it will make it much more difficult to reconstitute the Jewish people around its natural center, which is the Torah," he added.

Rosenblum rejected accusations that Haredim want to create a Jewish theocracy. He sees the group's attitude toward religion and state as performing the role of a teacher.

Meanwhile, beyond the ideological struggles between Jew and Arab and Jew and Jew, there is yet a new type of Israeli emerging: the high-tech capitalist, a breed apart from the socialist-Zionists who were dominant among the founders of the state.

These new entrepreneurs see themselves as redefining Zionism for the new millennium.

Lissak says Israel's high-tech boom and prosperity have not had a mitigating influence on the ideological conflicts as might have been expected, because only a small number of Israelis actually have a direct stake in the profits.

Aharon Barak

However, Neil Cohen, a partner at Israel Seed Partners, a venture capital fund that raised $180 million last month from top U.S. investors and leading Internet figures, said he believes the high-tech boom is affecting the country in bigger ways – and creating new challenges.

"We have created hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs," said Cohen, who immigrated from London 11 years ago. "It gives us a degree of satisfaction and a feeling of pride that we wouldn't feel if we were in the U.K. or the U.S."

Cohen sees the building of Israel's new economy to be as important a Zionist task as the work of the pioneers was decades ago.

Yet as the money to create jobs flows in, sweeping Israel with it into the trends of globalization, Cohen knows that the ideals of those founding pioneers will be lost on the new Israeli generation.

The first challenge is to bridge the gap between the haves of the new economy and the have nots of the old economy.

"The second is maintaining Jewish identity," he said. "We have been so good at what we've done that all the things that have differentiated us from just any other nation have broken down and we run a risk of becoming just like any other nation."

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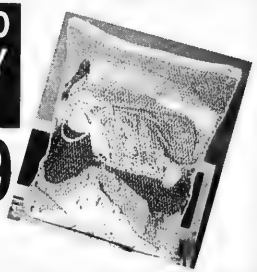

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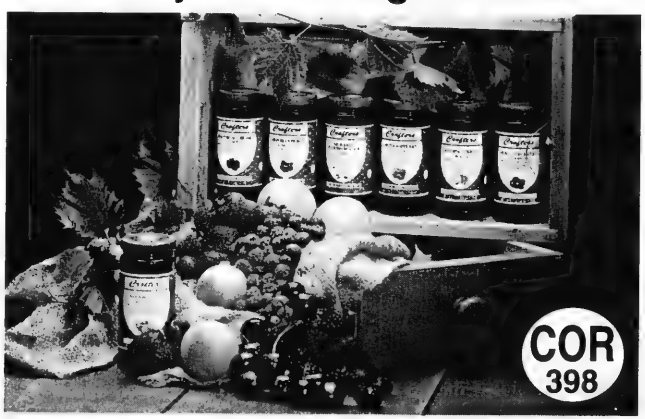

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Special to the Canadian Jewish News

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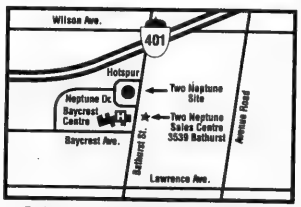

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Alzheimer fund-raiser still a laughing matter

At last year's fund-raiser are (from left) Les Aaron; Steve Levine; Dan Cole; Simon Rakoff; Adam Growe.

By ADAM BELLO
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Funny how things can sometimes come together.

In 1997, stand-up comedian Les Aaron set out to give greater exposure to Jewish stand-ups in community events.

At the same time, the Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital was seeking to reach Toronto's then largely untapped young Jewish adult audience. The fund-raising organization for the Jerusalem hospital was looking for less-than-traditional activities in its local campaign. In Aaron, they found an ally.

The result was As Funny As It Gets, an evening of stand-up Jewish comedy. Now in its third year, the annual event returns to the Leah Posluns Theatre on May 18 at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the Herzog Hospital for its continuing work in Alzheimer's research.

"You could find Jewish comedians performing individually in venues such as Yuk Yuk's and Comedywood, but there was nothing in the community as a theme night that would bring these headlining acts together in one show," he says.

As funny as it gets

"Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital was the first organization in the Jewish Community to warm up to As Funny As It Gets as a form of outreach.

"The event also has an appeal to young Jewish adults, both single and married, as a community outing other than dances and the bar scene," adds Aaron, who is the host of the evening.

In addition to Aaron, this year's roster features veteran stand-up comedians Steve Levine (Just For Laughs Comedy Festival), Jim McAleese (Evening at the Improv), Greg Eckler (Open Mike with Mike Bullard) and Tim Rykert (Comics!).

In its short mirth-making history, the event has yielded some serious returns. Last year's near sell-out raised more than $3,000 for the hospital's research. Jan Babins, executive director of the Toronto branch, says the current response has given rise to even higher expectations.

"This event continues to help us grow for the future, both in fund-raising and in community development," she says.

"The Toronto office is growing, and we need to heighten the involvement of young people to help champion this cause, to ensure a strong Canadian presence with the hospital's mandate."

Turning to Herzog Hospital's efforts with Alzheimer's disease, Babins says its work in research and rehabilitation has previously been done in conjunction with other international efforts, including Canadian institutions. Major collaborations involved the University of Toronto, Mount Sinai Hospital and McGill University in Montreal.

For more information on As Funny As It Gets III, call 416-256-4222.

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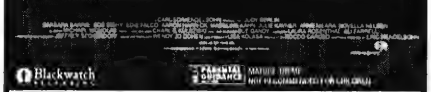

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Crown Heights, Brooklyn

Touring the chassidic neighbourhood

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

BROOKLYN – "Lubavitch started giving tours of Brooklyn, because there's a lot of misinformation out there about the chassidic community," says Rabbi Beryl Epstein, our tour guide.

On this day, he is leading a bus load of visitors leaving midtown Manhattan for 770 Eastern Parkway, headquarters of the Lubavitch chassidic movement in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

During the 45-minute trek to Brooklyn, Rabbi Epstein, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., describes the two-century-old chassidic movement, its charismatic founder, the Baal Shem Tov, and the present Lubavitch sect, which has some 250,000 followers worldwide.

Lubavitch is one of more than 200 chassidic movements still operative today, remnants of a devastated European Jewish community that was once at least 60 percent chassidic.

A cluster of 10,000 to 15,000 Lubavitchers live in Crown Heights, a burgeoning community in which children outnumber adults by two to one. The neighbourhood is already crowded to capacity: the demand for living space is so high, and local vacancy rates so low, that competing ethnic groups have a tug-of-war over each newly available house and apartment.

Rabbi Epstein discusses the seventh Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who died without a successor in 1994, but he expertly dodges the controversial question of whether he is the Messiah, as many Lubavitchers believe.

"Let's leave that until later," he suggests. A wise and congenial host, he's conducted this tour for 15 years, and he knows where the potholes lie. He also knows the locations of famous synagogues, delicatessens and other Jewish landmarks, which he points out as we cross the Lower East Side.

Soon after we cross the Brooklyn Bridge, we reach 770 Eastern Parkway, a large elegant brownstone in which the Rebbe had his office. Once, the Jewish multitudes would line up outside to receive his blessings; he also gave out dollar bills, which the recipients understood they were to supplement with dollars of their own and give to charity.

We enter the vestibule. Rabbi Epstein says Rabbi Schneerson called 770 Eastern Parkway "the Beit Hamigdash of the Exile," because he saw it as the most holy building for the Jewish people anywhere, at least until the rebuilding of the Temple.

He talks about Rabbi Schneerson's great powers of prophecy – relating, for instance, that he correctly predicted when and how the Gulf War of 1991 would end.

"Who is the rebbe now?" someone asks.

"That's an excellent question," Rabbi Epstein replies. "I'll save that question for later."

The doorway of 770 Eastern Parkway.[B. Gladstone photo]

A large building next door is the organizational home of the Lubavitch movement and the nexus of its vast outreach network. Some 2,500 Lubavitch representatives bring Torah, charity and Yiddishkeit to many outposts around the globe.

Inside is a large prayer sanctuary. From the visitors' gallery, we look down and see about 100 worshippers arranged in several groups; new services begin whenever a necessary quorum of 10 men is reached.

A banner on the wall proclaims Rabbi Schneerson as the Messiah in big Hebrew letters, but fortunately for Rabbi Epstein, nobody requests a translation.

Around the corner is a remarkable library featuring display cases that hold a yarmulke of the revered First ("Alter") Rebbe, Schneur Zalman of Liadi, and many documents in his handwriting. Also under glass are several extremely rare handwritten copies of the Alter Rebbe's holy mystical tome, the Tanya. The library also holds the world's largest collection of Haggadot.

Collection of Haggadot

The tour concludes with a kosher lunch at a local deli. Understandably, we do not visit the Rebbe's grave site some 15 kilometres away in Queens. The site has become a shrine for the faithful; it is not for tourists.

During the return trip to Manhattan, our host answers more questions, including one about the Satmar of Williamsburg. Briefly, he talks about these Chassidim, who are as introverted as the Lubavitch are extroverted. The Satmar do not recognize the Jewish State of Israel.

Why, someone else asks, does Rabbi Epstein always refer to the late Rabbi Schneerson in the present tense? "We talk about all great Jewish leaders that way, including Moshe Rabbeinu," he explains. "It's because they are still living for us."

The Hassidic Bus & Walking Tour costs $36 (US), including lunch, and leaves Sundays from the New York Public Library and other spots in Manhattan. Departure is at 9:30 a.m. and the return time is 1:30 p.m. Weekday tours are also available. Reservations are highly recommended. 800-838-8687; www.jewishtours.com; or e-mail JewishTours@Juno.com.

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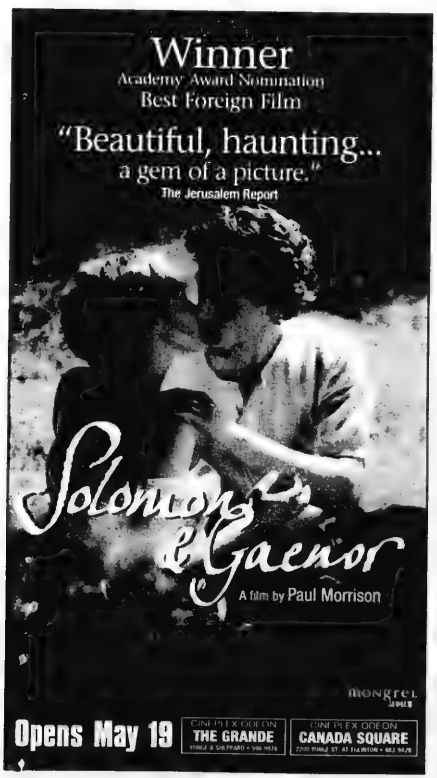

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ALBERTA DRAMA TEACHER WINS PLAYWRITING CONTEST

University of Alberta drama instructor **Vern Thiessen** has won first prize in the 1999 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Contest for *Einstein's Gift*, a dramatic look at the life of the Nobel Prize-winning chemist and Nazi victim, **Fritz Haber**.

The prize is sponsored by the Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto and the Bloor JCC. Thiessen, the first non-Jew to win the award, saw the dramatic possibilities in Haber's story after reading a review of a recently published biography of Haber.

Seeing that his opportunities would be limited by his Jewishness, Haber converted to Christianity. A prodigiously talented chemist, he won many professional awards and was even given his own research institute by the German government. Eventually, Hitler's anti-Jewish decrees forced him to make some wrenching choices.

"I was fascinated by the moral and religious dilemmas that Haber confronted," Thiessen says, "mostly unanticipated and with incalculable consequences."

A longtime drama instructor at the University of Alberta, Thiessen was born to Prairie Mennonite stock and grew up, he says, in the shadow of religious prejudice and discrimination, which gave him insight into Haber's dilemma.

Vern Thiessen

His research took him to the Haber Institute archives, where he gained access to the newly deposited letters exchanged by Haber and **Albert Einstein**. It is this relationship that forms the leitmotif of the play.

The play premieres in two staged readings directed by **Corinne Copnick**. Bloor JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. May 28, 2 and 8 p.m. Members free; non-members $10. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Musical Events

• An Evening of Jewish Song and Music, featuring **Dave Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner** of the **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band**. $12 in advance, $15 at the door. Winchevsky Centre, May 13, 8 p.m.

• Members of the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** perform a Caring for Kids concert in aid of the Campaign Against Child Poverty. Featuring the High Park Choirs of Toronto. Toronto Centre for the Arts, George Weston Recital Hall, 5040 Yonge St., North York. May 14, 2 p.m. Free, but reservations required. 416-322-5188.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

* * *

The Play's the Thing

• *A Bed of Garlic*, by **Annemarie Lourenco**, is a fast-paced comedy that explores the lives of three women of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace. May 10 to 14. 416-504-7529.

• **Alexander Singers and Players** presents *Sweeney Todd (The Demon Barber of Fleet Street)*, the brilliant, black-hearted musical by Stephen Sondheim. $20-$18. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. May 13 to 21. 416-785-0333.

• Theatre Columbus presents *Doubt*, a dark comedy about the costs of love and art, by Toronto playwright **Michael Redhill**. Opens May 10, runs through May 28. $22-$12. Factory Studio Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. 416-504-9971.

* * *

Literary Events

• **Judy Feld Carr** and **Dr. Harold Troper**, subject and author respectively of *The Ransomed of God: The Remarkable Story of One Woman's Role in the Rescue of Syrian Jews*, engage in a public discussion on The Power of One. Chapters Bookstore, Bayview Village, 2901 Bayview Ave. May 11, 7:30 p.m.

• An Evening of Poetry features **Ron Charach**, **Malka Litovitz**, **Morris Granatstein**, **Simcha Simchovitch** and **Inge Israel**. Refreshments; free admission. Israel's Bookstore. May 14, 8 p.m. 897 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-256-1010.

• The Cranbrooke Friendship Club (a seniors' group affiliated with the United Jewish People's Order) and the Winchevsky Centre present **Giovanna Peel**, author of *Starting With Tuscany*. Peel, who is of Italian Jewish descent, will speak of her experience when she returned to her homeland, Italy, after 30 years. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. May 15, 12:30 p.m. $5, includes lunch. 416-789-5502.

* * *

At the Galleries: Work by Seattle glass artist **Sonja Blomdahl**, and new works by Canadian glass artists **Darren Peterson** and **Jeff Goodman**, are on view at Sandra Ainsley Gallery, 130 King St. W., now until May 30. 416-362-4480. The Web site is www.sandraainsley gallery.com.

WTN serves up delicious serving of Loving Spoonfuls

By JOYCE SINGER-D'APRILE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Allan Novak has discovered the secret recipe for a successful television show and it's bubbie-licious!

Combine several Canadian grandmothers of various backgrounds, including Jewish, Italian, Japanese, Cree and Armenian, and add to the mix one charming, hilarious host. Feature a different bubbie every week – they range in age from their 60s to their 90s. Showcase them in their own kitchens, where they recount their life stories and whip up their favourite recipes. Then name the show *Loving Spoonfuls* and sell it to the Women's Television Network. Presto! Sweet success.

"Whatever I do, it's got to be funny, and it's got to have some edge. The fact that it's cooking, the fact that it's grandmothers, I call this a docu-comedy. Everything I do gravitates towards the comedic," Novak says.

Allan Novak, his aunt Ruth Zimmer, and his sister Carol Sevitt. [WowFactory Events photo]

Our grandmothers are a treasure trove of time-honoured recipes passed down through the generations, he says of the stories they tell flavoured with heavy dollops of bittersweet humour.

This whimsical cooking show was inspired, Novak says, by the kitchen banter between him and his Auntie Ruth, who is a grandmother.

"I was looking around and thinking about my next project, and everyone seemed to be going crazy for cooking shows. So I thought, 'OK, I'll do a cooking show.' Then I was sitting around the kitchen one day with my Auntie Ruthie, who was cooking perogies, and I was thinking, 'It doesn't get any better than this!' "

"My nephew Allan seems to love my cooking," says Ruth Zimmer, 72, "And that's how it started. Nothing was rehearsed! I was an amateur stage-actress. I'd done a lot of plays. So I wasn't camera-shy. It really came naturally. We went to the kosher butcher, as my house is kosher. Then we came home and we worked.

"It's about 10 hours of hard work, for about 20 minutes on the show. But David is a wonderful host, he's a sweetheart. It really makes it easy when you have someone like that."

Ruth hails from Poland, and chicken soup with knaidlach, is a sure bet as one item on the menu.

The Jewish connection is quite extensive in *Loving Spoonfuls*, because Novak enlisted his pals – David Gale, the zany, irrepressible host; director Gail Singer, famous for her award-winning documentaries; and Bob Wiseman, formerly of Blue Rodeo, who composed original music for the series. (Fun fact: These Torontonians are all former Winnipeggers.)

Gale has been buddies with Novak as far back as Talmud Torah elementary school in Winnipeg. "We're always looking for a project we can do together", Gale says. "When he came up with this marvelous idea for *Loving Spoonfuls*, and since I've done a lot of hosting and I love women and I especially love grandmothers…we really felt we had this teamwork going. It's perfect!"

"This was one of my most pleasurable working experiences," Singer says. "It's such a good idea and everyone enjoyed themselves so much. It's so unusual for things to go so smoothly, to turn out so well, to have so much fun – and it's all about food!

"One of the shows I directed was with Pearl Geneen, 84, who is a very sophisticated bubbie and a very sophisticated cook. She used to own a shop called the Complete Kitchen. Unlike the other bubbies, who are mostly home cooks, she had cooked professionally."

Pearl Geneen says, "My mother was an Irish Jew although I was brought up in Scotland. In Toronto, I started a cooking school in the '60s, then I opened my shop in the '70s. I sold it, but it still exists today, in Yorkville."

Geneen has had other interesting professional adventures. "I've done a commercial for Sprint. I did a video for some singing group. I don't know who…they were, but I was in the background."

On *Loving Spoonfuls*, "I did a trendy, up-to-date version of a sweet and sour salmon. It's a Jewish-Scottish dish."

Each cook prepared several different dishes at the taping, but only some recipes made it to the final cut. Geneen appeared on the show May 8. Ruth Zimmer appears May 29. The show runs Mondays, 6:30 p.m. on WTN, with frequent repeats throughout the week.

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Hot Docs Film Festival

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Hot Docs, the Canadian International Documentary Film Festival, took place in Toronto last week. Several of the films were of specifically Jewish interest. Following are capsule reviews of three of them.

A decade after her father's death, New York filmmaker Pola Rapaport was rifling through his desk. She found a pocket-size black-and-white photograph of a boy who resembled her dad, Ionel, a Romanian Jew who had settled in the United States in 1954.

From the moment she laid eyes on that photo, she was convinced that he, Pierre Radulescu-Banu, must be her brother. She was almost right.

Years later, Rapaport's mother, Marjorie, received a letter from Bucharest which began: "I am looking for the trace of Doctor Ionel Rapaport's family." It was signed Pierre Radulescu-Banu.

The letter opened a Pandora's box of emotions and was the genesis of Rapaport's affecting film, *Family Secret*.

In fact, there is more than one secret in the movie, shot on location in the United States, Romania and France.

Ionel Rapaport, a psychiatrist who died in 1972 at 63, was a secretive person. He never disclosed he had a son out of wedlock in France with a Romanian woman, a medical doctor who raised Pierre, Rapaport's half-brother.

Pierre, in turn, did not learn he was Jewish until he was 18.

Family Secret, which is not as convoluted as it may sound, is a touching drama which encompasses such 20th century themes as dislocation, resettlement, war, persecution, anti-Semitism and East-West ideological struggles.

Rapaport draws a nuanced picture of Ionel, a complex man who left Romania in 1926, studied medicine in France, survived the German occupation in the French resistance movement, and immigrated to the United States after meeting Marjorie, an artist, in Paris.

It is quite a story, and fortunately, Rapaport tells it with panache.

***

Chatzkel Lemchen, 93, has witnessed it all: the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, two world wars, the Kovno ghetto, the Dachau concentration camp, and Lithuania's startling transition from vassal state to independent nation.

A linguist and a lexicographer in Vilnius (Vilna), Lemchen is a celebrated figure in contemporary Lithuania who has received his country's highest awards. But he is a lonely soul, being the last one in his family to remain in Lithuania.

Uncle Chatzkel, written and directed by Lemchen's grand nephew, the Australian filmmaker Rod Freedman, is an affectionate portrait of Lemchen from his boyhood in the shtetl of Papile to his present status as an esteemed academic and intellectual.

Lemchen's life is a microcosm of one man's triumph over oppression, genocide and personal adversity.

During World War I, Lemchen, his six siblings and their parents fled to Russia. Seven years later, they returned to their home, only to find it in ruins. Lemchen became an assistant to Janos Jablonkas, widely regarded as the father of the modern Lithuanian language.

During World War II, Lemchen's two sons were taken away by the Germans, never to be seen again. Eventually, he was reunited with his wife, Ela, who died in 1979.

Uncle Chatzkel, clearly a labour of love, raises pertinent questions about the nature of identity and the quest for family roots.

***

Gary Ogin's British short, *The Worst Jewish Football Team in the World*, basks in a time-honoured maxim. It doesn't matter whether you win or lose, but how you play the game.

The subject of Ogin's whimsical film is a winless soccer team, composed of fervently Orthodox boys, whose spirit never flags. The players, all of whom are 11-years old, are no match for any of their opponents. But they like the sport and what they lack in ability they make up in enthusiasm.

"We enjoy ourselves," says a player. "The result doesn't really count."

A practical philosophy, to say the least.

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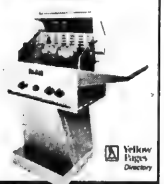
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SHAPIRO, Ida - on Apr. 17, 2000, late of 85 George Ave.
EINSTOSS, Jason - on Apr. 18, 2000, late of 187 Lyndhurst Ave.
IZEN, Esther - on Apr. 18, 2000, late of 21 Mayfair Ave., #511.
APPLEBAUM, Louis - on Apr. 19, 2000, late of 1210 Don Mills Rd., #214.
MALKIN, Lil - on Apr. 19, 2000, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
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Jews are once again pawns in Iran's game

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

The case of 13 Iranian Jews accused of spying apparently began as a power struggle in Iran's Jewish community.

But it wasn't long before the dispute was sucked into the greater drama that has convulsed Iran during the past few years – the pitched battle for supremacy between Iranian hard-liners and their reformist rivals.

And if history serves as a guide, presumably this won't be the last time Iran's 2,700-year-old Jewish community will be a pawn in the country's political struggles.

Since the Islamic Revolution of 1979 – even as Iranian Jewry has shrivelled from 100,000 to some 25,000 – 17 Jews have been condemned to death, primarily for being accused spies, according to Jewish groups in the United States. Two Jews were executed in Tehran three years ago.

The next one sentenced to death could be Hamid "Dani" Tefileen.

After facing the Revolutionary Court, Tefileen, 29, was seen on Iranian state television confessing to having been trained in Israel by the Mossad, the foreign intelligence agency of the Jewish state.

But American Jewish observers, human rights groups and foreign diplomats denounced the hearings that began last week as a political show trial. They assumed Tefileen, who said he had visited Israel, was coerced to confess.

For 16 months, he had been in solitary confinement, with human contact limited mostly to his interrogators.

It is unclear whether Tefileen will be the fall guy or if his confession is a harbinger for the entire group. A conviction could bring anything from six months in prison to a death sentence.

Tefileen, a clerk in his father's shoe shop, is said to be a devoutly religious man, as are all the accused.

And that, in part, may have been what landed them in this predicament.

The steady emigration of Iranian Jews since 1979 has left a vacuum in leadership, as many top religious and community figures were among those who headed to Israel and the United States.

The Jewish leadership was traditionally based in Tehran, the capital. Jews have been more or less allowed to maintain a communal life, as long as it was low key and it was not seen as a threat to the Islamic state.

Appeasing the authorities ensured a modicum of security, said Sam Kermanian, secretary general of the Los Angeles-based American Iranian Jewish Federation.

However, recent years have seen Jews in the southern city of Shiraz – a bastion of religious conservatism in general – grow more committed and energetic in their religious life, Kermanian said.

Most Iranian Jews are Orthodox, but the Shiraz community appeared to be growing more fervent in its practices, which many young Jews in the region found appealing.

Because of that growing appeal, the Shiraz Jews soon became a source of irritation to the Iranian authorities, who presumably preferred dealing with the leadership in Tehran.

The Shiraz Jews allegedly ignored warnings from both government officials and Jewish leaders in Tehran to tone down and limit their activities, Kermanian said.

The arrests in January and March 1999 of 13 Jews – most of whom are from Shiraz – may have been meant to send a message.

"The Iranians implicitly mentioned that the arrests were related to the warnings," said Kermanian. "They needed to make it clear to the people that they were serious – basically to punish them and scare them off – and that they were going to be released shortly."

Other observers, however, suggest that the hard-liners, who are working to maintain a grip on power in the wake of political victories by reformists, had already fingered the Jews as the engine to whip up Islamic fervour and undermine the liberalizing efforts of moderates like Iranian President Mohammad Khatami.

Jews are second only to Iran's Baha'i minority as favourite targets of the authorities to rally the public against a common enemy, according to observers.

The intracommunal dispute "played some role at the beginning, but we shouldn't exaggerate it or exonerate the Iranian authorities for pinning this on the Jews," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Once the arrests became public, the situation was apparently exacerbated, say observers, with Iranian hard-liners becoming more adamant about punishing the "Iran 13."

The situation prompted debates among advocates about whether public or private diplomacy would be more effective in securing their release.

"We gave the Iranians many opportunities to negotiate and it all came to naught," said Hoenlein, who has been at the forefront of negotiations on the detainees' behalf, working through his network of contacts in Iran, Europe and America.

Before launching the campaign to secure their release, Hoenlein said his organization conducted its own investigation into the spying charges. Consultations with officials from the CIA, the FBI and the Mossad confirmed that the allegations had been fabricated, he said.

The Muslim fundamentalists who control Iran's judiciary are out to sabotage the small steps taken by their reformist rivals to repair relations with the West, say U.S. observers. At this point, anything less than convictions of some or all of the "Zionist spies" would mean losing face among their followers.

In such an atmosphere, some wonder why any Iranian Jew remains wedded to the land. Some suggest that everyone who remains has at least one or two relatives in the United States. However, while those who left generally had the financial means to do so, those who remain are said to be either too poor, too old, too complacent – or simply too stubborn to sever a long tradition.

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Single divorced female, 38 yrs, 5' 4", attractive, sophisticated, warm hearted, romantic, professional. Enjoys music, the arts, tennis, dancing and traveling. Seeking male, 37-48 yrs, who is intelligent, sincere, emotionally and financially stable. AD#1175

LET'S BECOME FRIENDS
Optimistic, fun loving, attractive, professional, brunette, green eyes. Enjoys reading, travel, music, dancing, movies, theatre, walks, evenings at home. Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, who is compassionate, honest, has integrity, strong family values, humourous and enjoys good conversation. AD#1571

LOVES LIFE
Divorced female, 55 yrs, semi-retired professional, green eyes, blonde hair, attractive, caring, good sense of humour. Enjoys music, sports, dining and dancing, cottage life. Seeks male, 60-69 yrs, established, non-smoker, sincere, loves life and laughter. AD#1159

FAMILY ORIENTED
Single female, attractive intelligent, professional, warm hearted, sincere, spiritual modern orthodox, wide variety of interests. Seeks male, 39-45 yrs with similar interests and qualities for family oriented relationship. AD#1158

LET'S FALL IN LOVE
Single Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm, good sense of humour. Seeking a male, over 47, secure, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat a lady. AD#1463

LET'S MEET
Single Jewish female, divorced, 38, 5'4", professional, attractive, slim, enjoy music, theater, philosophy, psychology, tennis, dancing, travelling. Seeking a Jewish male, 37-48, intelligent, honest, sincere, financially secure. AD#1226

FAMILY ORIENTED
Single female, divorced, 41, with 2 teenagers, fun, spiritual, sensual, happy, humorous. Seeking a mensch who is family oriented, humorous, sincere, enjoys outdoors, movies, dining out, having fun, to share good and bad times together. AD#1329

UNIQUE LADY
Single Jewish female, 50ish, 5'6", attractive, thoughtful, loving, caring, sensual, fit, professional, non smoker, positive outlook, enjoy sports, ballet, jazz, countryside. Seeking a male, non smoker, down to earth, secure, to share life's treasures with. AD#1119

JAU DA VIVE
Single female, 58, writer, intelligent, attractive. Seeking a Jewish male, 60ish, who has strong ties with Israel. AD#1247

FAMILY VALUES
Divorced female, 42, 5'2", cute, slim, smart, 2 children, passionate, energetic, fun. Seeking a male, well educated, has good values, non smoker. AD#1016

LOVE LIFE
Single Jewish female, 28, adventurous, ambitious, outgoing, friendly, enjoy sports, working out, reading, music, theater. Seeking a Jewish male, never married, ambitious, trustworthy, honest, outgoing, ready to live life to the fullest. AD#1564

COMPANIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, late 40's, attractive, professional, no dependents, enjoy movies, long walks, theater. Seeking a Jewish male, 49-60, with similar interests. AD#1390

FRIENDS FIRST
Single Jewish female, intelligent, honest, educated, kind, religious, wide variety of interests. Seeking a male, 69-75, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, possible future developments. AD#1050

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single Jewish female, 37, brown hair, hazel green eyes, smoker, slim, cute, petite, honest, sincere, down to earth, enjoy cooking, singing, dining, dancing. Seeking a Jewish male, 35-43, spontaneous, romantic, ambitious, ready for marriage and children. AD#1280

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, widow, attractive, 50, intelligent, European. Seeking a male, honest, kind, well established, to share love and life. AD#1522

MAN OF MY DREAMS
Single Jewish female, petite, brown eyes, cute red hair, intelligent, fun loving, enjoy theater, movies, music, travelling. Seeking a Jewish male, 54-65, professional, non smoker, financially and emotionally stable, honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests. AD#1256

LET'S TALK
Single Jewish female, 29, attractive, long straight hair, brown eyes, enjoy travelling, the outdoors, love all animals. Seeking a male, established, good sense of humour, easy to talk to. AD#1049

SEARCHING FOR SOULMATE
Divorced professional female, 50, long brown hair, hazel eyes, attractive, charming,m strong headed, twin girls age 22, enjoy dining, country on weekends, camping, travelling, movies, reading. Seeking a male, family oriented, or has a family, understanding, happy for soulmate. AD#1347

KIDS ARE WELCOME
Divorced Jewish female, non practicing, tall, dark hair and eyes, honest, secure, independent, sense of humour, love cottage life, beach, cooking, theater, travelling. Seeking a tall, handsome male, employed, emotionally available, sincere, spontaneous, for serious long term relationship. AD#1436

BE MY SUNSHINE
Single Jewish female, attractive, 5'5", brown hair and eyes, fit, non smoker, kind, sincere, emotionally stable, good natured. Seeking a single Jewish male, traditional, 45-55, around 6', handsome, exiting, established, honest, sensitive, kind, funny, caring, non smoker, children welcome

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LOVE & LAUGHTER
Single Jewish male, 33 yrs, good sense of humour, honest, nice, intelligent, happy, warm hearted, energetic. Seeks female, happy go lucky who's wants some good laugh. AD#1442

TIMELESS LOVE
Single male, 49 yrs, 5'11", Brown hair, Brown eyes, handsome, successful, caring, supportive, romantic, passionate, sensual, open honest with feelings, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cooking quiet evenings at home. Seeks attractive female 35-45 yrs, affectionate, emotionally healthy, passionate about herself and the man in her life #AD1377

WANTS FAMILY LIFE
Divorced male, 53 yrs, a writer, no children, good hearted, good looking, good humoured and good brain. Seeking female to have children with and start a family. AD#1151

TO SHARE LIFE
Single male, 41 yrs, seeks female who's attractive, nice, good sense of humour, lives in the Toronto, enjoys theatre, having a good time and the great outdoors to share my life with. AD#1265

SCHOLARLY MYSTIC
Attorney and international entrepreneur, cultured, aereodrite, talmud, chachim, kaballist, thaumaturgical healer, violinist, poet, parachutist, scuba diver, wishes to a new period. Seeks slender, intelligent, attractive, adventurous lady who's emotionally/financially secure as my queen. AD#1386

WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS MOST
Single male, 47 yrs, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies-especially Hitchcock, and drives in the country. Seeking female, professional or non-professional, non slim okay, children okay, smoker on non-smoker, a basically nice, down to earth person. AD#1055

GOOD IN EVERY WAY!
Divorced male, 53 yrs, no children, good hearted, good humoured, good looking. Seeks female for loving relationship. AD#1600

WARM & CARING
Single white male, 57 yrs, warm, caring, romantic, self-employed. Enjoys travel, movies, quiet romantic evenings, good conversation. Seeks female with similar interests and qualites. AD#1565

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single male, young looking, 45 yrs, 5'11", brown hair, brown eyes, cute smile, university educated, employed professional, good manners. Enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, sporting events. Seeks female 30-42 yrs, for casual relationship, possible long lasting relationship. AD#1598

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 35 yrs, 5' 10", honest, sharing and caring, down to earth, enjoys movies, dining, and dancing, concerts, quiet romantic evenings. Seeks female with similar interests. AD#1660

LOVE AWAITS
Single Jewish male, late 40's , 5' 10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, loving, good sense of humour. Enjoys the theatre, long walks, bowling, tennis. Seeks female, 32-33 yrs, single or widowed, orthodox preferred but not required, intelligent, with similar interests. AD#1161

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER
Single Jewish male, widower, blue eyes, brown hair, medium height, good looking, non smoker, very fit, work out, enjoy movies, dining, travelling, beach holidays, skiing. Seeking a female, attractive, good natured, to enjoy life with. AD#1393

GOOD MAN
Divorced male, 53, no children, good hearted, good looking, good sense of humour. seeking a female to share life with. AD#1178

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
Single male, unique and special, with traditional values, attractive, young looking, healthy, successful, enjoy life. Seeking a female with similar qualities AD#1212

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, sincere, no children. Seeking a physically fit and sincere female, 25-35, for serious relationship. AD#1189

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single Jewish semi-retired business man in beauty supply, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, short dark hair, mustache, traditional, family oriented, enjoy swimming, bicycling, lot of educational reading. Seeking a Jewish female to have children and a family. AD#1322

TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME
Single Jewish male, traditional, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, well educated, semi-retired, in the beauty supply business, handsome, short dark hair, mustache, enjoy swimming, cycling, educational reading, family life, ready for marriage and family. Seeking a single Jewish female, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1008

LIVE LIFE FULLY
Single male, divorced, father of 2, 48, 5'7", slim, fit, generous, Family Physician, enjoy philosophy, cultures, Latin dancing, cross country skiing. Seeking a younger female, attractive, slim, highly intelligent, passionate, giving, sincere, emotionally and financially secure, likes children. AD#1318

HOUSE OF TORRAH
Single male, Canadian born, divorced, caring, professional, enjoy Torrah and phycology. Seeking a female, attractive, Jovio, 32-44, easy going, warm, gentle, spiritual, compatible for love, marriage, family. AD#1222

FAMILY ORIENTED
Single Jewish male, Canadian born, lawyer, Sabth of servant. Seeking a very intelligent and attractive female who wants children and family. AD#1608

SOULMATE
Single male, 58, 6'1", 160lbs, Israeli origin, Canadian citizen, young looking and feeling, tolerant, compassionate, love nature, country side, animals, reading, dining, glass of wine, anxious for a real soulmate to enrich and fulfill my life. AD#1424

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Divorced male, professional, originally from Eastern Europe, 5'10", handsome, slim, fit, down to earth, non smoker, hopeless romantic, enjoy movies, sunsets on the beach, healthy lifestyle. Seeking a female, affectionate, slim, attractive, late 30's, for long term relationship. AD#1317

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, fit, non smoker & drinker, little shy, adventurous, enjoy movies, sports, dancing, walks. Seeking a nice female, friendly, similar interests, non smoker, for friends first relationship. AD#1083

CULTURED SCHOLAR
Divorced male, 50's, attorney, handsome, author, poet, musician, pilot, parachutist, sky diver, scuba diver, lived all over the world, classical music enthusiast. Seeking a female, attractive, intelligent, slender, gracious, compassionate, financially & emotionally secure, to share love & life. AD#1124

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MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 6'3", 195lbs, fairly intelligent, enjoy running, reading, major goal is to get married and have a family. Seeking a female, enjoys reading and has goals. AD#1631

I BET ON YOU!
Single male, tall, young, 6', medium build, enjoy good music, good food, dining. Seeking a female who enjoys going to sporting events, wagering at the races, having a good time. AD#1483

OPEN YOUR HEART
Single white male, 57, warm, loving, romantic, self employed, business man. Seeking a female, similar qualities and interests. AD#1426

VERY ACCEPTING
Single male, conservative looking, humorous, 46, enjoy dancing, old movies, especially Alfred Hitchcock's, drives in the country. Seeking a female, 40-50, non slim OK, non professional OK, children from previous marriage OK, smoker OK, someone nice! AD#1591

OCEANS OF LOVE
Single Jewish male, 37, handsome, down to earth, fun to be with. Seeking a female, lovely, attractive, down to earth, 25-35, for compatible and understanding relationship. AD#1177

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single Jewish male, late 40's, 5'10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, compassionate, gentle, good sehse of humour, enjoy the theater, long walks in the part, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking a female, single or widowed, intelligent, with similar interests and qualities, Orthodox preferred but not required. AD#1552

BE MY SPECIAL SOMEONE
Single Jewish male, 34, dark brown eyes, brown hair, 5'10", handsome, down to earth, kind, loving, caring, financially secure. Seeking a Jewish female, petite, 25-33, sincere, attractive, 5'1"-5'6", love to wine and dine. AD#1413

IT TAKES TWO
Single male, 50ish, fair, blue eyes, 160lbs, great body, personality, talent, easy going, humble, warm, spontaneous, enjoy the outdoors, movies, art, cuddling, Israel. Seeking a female, honest, warm, caring, sensitive. AD#1059

SHARE MY WORLD
Single Jewish male, 30, 6'2", 185lbs, tall, slim build, handsome, non smoker, enjoy walks, swimming, camping, cooking, music, reading, conversations. Seeking a Jewish female, early 20's - 30, attractive, fit, outgoing, non smoker, with similar interests. AD#1298

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
Single male, tall, dark handsome, 6', 185lbs. Seeking a female, professional, understanding. AD#1028

CULTURED AND AERODITE
Single male, early 50's, dark handsome, divorced, lawyer, author, musician, pilot, parachutist, skydiver, scuba diver, lived throughout the world, love classical music, art. Seeking a female, highly intelligent, slender, attractive, gracious, compassionate, financially and emotionally secure, to share love life. AD#1238

LET'S TALK
Single male, 42, enjoy taking long walks, skiing, skating, plays, movies, dining. Seeking a female, 35-44. AD#1725

WINE AND DINE
Single male, 44, look younger, 5'8", brown hair and eyes, fairly fit, honest, sincere, loyal, open minded, love to wine and dine, travel, movies, comedy shows, dancing, music, long walks. Seeking a lovely female, 35-48, loyal, honest, humorous, attractive. AD#1537

ARE YOU FOR ME
Single Jewish male, 30, 6'2", handsome, non smoker, enjoy camping, taking walks, swimming, cooking, music, reading, conversations. Seeking a Jewish female, 23-30, attractive, fit, outgoing, non smoker, with similar interests. AD#1130

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The Canadian Jewish news

Student games aim at friendship, understanding

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Imagine being part of a team of athletes who hail from the Middle East, Europe, and North America – yet none of your teammates are from the same country.

Hundreds of high school students will experience just that scenario at the Middle East/Mediterranean Scholar-Athlete Games in Tel Aviv this summer.

"The objective is to foster understanding and friendships," said Wally Halas, commissioner of the Middle East/Mediterranean Scholar-Athlete Games.

There will be no national teams, making it conceivable that 10 players on a basketball court could be from 10 different countries.

The event is organized by the Institute For International Sport, a Rhode Island-based organization that promotes good sportsmanship and improved relations among nations.

The institute introduced the World Scholar-Athlete Games in 1993 and since then has organized scholar-athlete games for Ireland, Australia/Pacific Rim and the United States.

Participants of the Middle East games must be scholastic achievers and either super athletes or excellent artists.

"Excellent students who also excel in extra curricular activities tend to be leaders when they become adults," Halas said.

The institute hopes that if it can foster solid relationships among young leaders, there may be a pay off in the future. Leaders of two countries who were on the same team or who competed against each other are less likely to go to war and are more likely to co-operate on mutually beneficial ventures, he said

Halas cited the example of a girl from Burundi, East Africa who played with a doubles tennis partner from Japan at the 1993 World Scholar-Athlete Games. If the Burundi native becomes minister of agriculture and the Japanese girl becomes head of a bank, the minister may remember her old doubles partner and phone the Japanese bank president to ask for help in financing agriculture projects, Halas suggested.

Another aim is to integrate artists with athletes.

"In the United States, there has always been a mythical barrier where 'jocks' don't like theatre kids," Halas said.

During theme days, the 400 to 500 participants will meet in small groups to discuss issues of international importance, such as peace in the Middle East, ethics and sportsmanship. Experts on each topic will also deliver keynote addresses.

Halas believes that by spending time with each other, the athletes and arts students will develop mutual respect.

"Both sides will find out, 'wow, these kids are pretty talented in what they do'," he said.

The sports competitions will include basketball, beach volleyball, chess, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field and volleyball tournaments. Arts competitions will include writing, poetry, theatre, dance, symphony, art, cinema and TV.

The games will be held from June 24 to July 3 at Tel Aviv University and the Wingate Institute for Physical Education and Sport.

The event is open to Canadians 15 to 20 years old. Up to 20 spots are reserved for Canadians, said Candice Elliott, director of enrollment for the games.

The application deadline is June 1. For more information, check out the games' Web site at: www.internationalsport.com.

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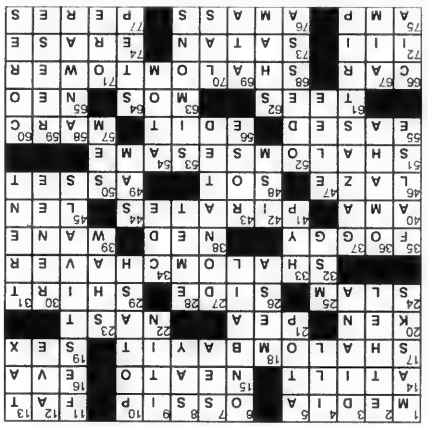

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Maccabi Canada gearing up for Israel

TORONTO — The 16th Maccabiah Games are fast approaching and Maccabi Canada is getting ready to go for the gold.

Recruitment for the Canadian team is well under way, with trials for most of the spots set to kick into high gear this summer.

"Canada will be sending a contingent of 350 or more to the Games," said Allen Gerskup, national athletic chair and head of Maccabi Canada's selection committee. "We are in the process of building the biggest and best team ever. We have selected the majority of our coaches, managers, medical staff and chaperones. Applications for athletes who are interested in representing Canada at the Games are now available. We intend to select our teams earlier than ever and trials are set to take place during this summer."

The 16th Maccabiah Games is scheduled to run from July 16 to 26, 2001 in Israel. More than 5,500 athletes from over 50 countries are expected to participate in the first Games of the new millennium.

Open competition is invited for the following sports: hockey, badminton, basketball, beach volleyball, fencing, golf, gymnastics, judo, karate, lawn bowling, rowing, sailing, squash, swimming, tae kwon do, tennis, ten pin bowling, track and field, triathlon, archery, body building, bridge, mini football, half marathon, rhythmic gymnastics, rugby, table tennis, water polo and wrestling.

Canadian juniors, born in 1985, '86 or '87, are invited to compete in baseball, basketball, soccer, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, squash, swimming, tennis, track and field and volleyball.

Canadian Masters competition – age categories vary from sport to sport – are expected to include golf, squash and tennis.

Disabled athletes will be able to compete in tennis and swimming.

Each sport's inclusion is conditional on the participation of four countries.

In chronological order, the following trial dates have been confirmed for the coming months. Not all venues are yet known.

- May 18-22: Montreal regional open trials in outdoor soccer;
- May 26-28: Toronto regional open trials in outdoor soccer;
- May 30 (and June 4): Montreal regional trials in junior soccer;
- June 3-4: Western Canada regional trials in junior boys basketball (to be held in Calgary);
- June 7-8: Central Canada regional trials in junior boys basketball (in Toronto);
- June 10-11: Eastern Canada regional trials in junior boys basketball (in Montreal);
- June 15: entry deadline for golf;
- June 18: (tentatively): Toronto regional trials for junior soccer;
- June 25: national trials (in Montreal) in junior soccer;
- Aug. 3-7: national trials (in Montreal) in open outdoor soccer;
- Aug. 5-7: men's and women's open tennis trials in Toronto (at Valleywood Tennis Club);
- August 26: national trials in tae kwon-do in Toronto (at SkyDome);
- Sept. 8-10: men's and women's golf trials in Toronto;
- October (date to be confirmed): national trials in 10-pin bowling in Toronto.

The following coaches/managers should be contacted for their respective sports: Men's Open Basketball: John Dore 514-848-3854, 514-952-7400; 10-Pin Bowling: Phil Sroka 416-495-7802, 416-630-3933 or Howard Yancovitch 514-992-9627; Outdoor Soccer: Pat Raimondo 514-881-9156; Junior Soccer: Yeftach Levy, 514-489-6336; Junior Basketball: Ted Badner 905-707-7556; Golf: Richard Marsh 514-487-0350, Danny Zack 604-270-9571; Tennis: Bob Bregman 905-638-1010; Tae Kwon-Do: Corey Mincovitch 416-793-1105.

For more information, contact Maccabi Canada's national office at 514-483-5503, e-mail to maccabi@total.net or visit their Web site at www.total.net/~maccabi.

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

מעבר לאופק: לזכרה של אמי

בדברי החספד לאמי שנפטרה בחג חפסח, ביקשתי שתמחל לשתי בנותיה. ביקשתי שתסלח לא על שחרענו לה במודע, חס וחלילה. גם לא על האפשרות שחיינו בנות לא מסורות; חיינו נאמנות לה. ביקשתי מחילתה על שאולי לא ידעו להקל מהסבל שידעה כבת לחורים ובני משפחה ענפה שנרצחו על-ידי הנאצים. משקע האסון חיה כה עמוק שלא ידענו כיצד מושיטים יד, מה בכלל אומרים.

מיום שאני זוכרת הבנו, אחותי ואני שעם כל היותה אם אוהבת, חלק ממנה לא היה אף פעם ממש עמנו. אותו החלק שלא ניתן לגישור; החלק שהושמד באושוויץ עם הוריה.

דודתי, אחות אמי, הייתה גרה בקיבוץ מעיין צבי. לא אחת, בימי חקייץ הלוהטים היינו נוסעים לביקור ומשם "קופצים" לחוף הים. אמי (בניגוד מוחלט לשתי בנותיה) הייתה שחיינית מעולה. בצחלה הייתה מזנקת לים ובבלעת במשובה בגלים השקטים של חוף טנטורה; צוללת, נעלמת ושוב מגיחה. נדמה היה שהיא מאושרת באותם רגעים אלא שכמעט תמיד, כאשר הייתה יוצאת מהמים ומתיישבת לצידי בחול החם הייתה שוקעת אט, אט בחזייה רחוקה. בדאגה חייתי מזווית עיני בוחנת אותה שכן ידעתי מה צפוי עתה. בעוד אמי בוחה למרחקים, כאילו היא תרה אחר אבדה שירדה למצולות, הייתה אומרת לי להביט לשם, לאופק. בדרך כלל הייתה גם שואלת אותי: מה אני רואה? ותמיד הייתי עונה: מאומה. וכמדי פעם היא הייתה מתקנת ואומרת: לא נכון, רואים שם מעבר לים, מהיכן שאני (אמי) חייתי מחכה שהורי יבואו.

אמי שכמעט בכל מובן אחר חייתה חיה בקצב מסחרר וכל כולה מקרינה עוצמה ומרץ חיים, עיצבה את חייה גם על-פי מוטיב חוזר: לו רק הם (הוריה) היו יודעים ועוזבים לפני השואה.

מוטיב נשנה זה של לו רק היינו יודעים, מצוי בספר זכרונותיו של אלי ויזל שהופיע עתה בעברית. בכל הנחלים חולכים אל הים (החלק השני, והים איננו מלא, יופיע בקרוב) חוזר ומשנן הניצול המזוהה בכל העולם עם השואה: "לא ידענו". היו פליטים בורחים, היו שידורי הבי-בי-סי והיו דיווחי עיתונים, אך יהודי עיירת מגוריו של ויזל, סיגט שבהונגריה, לא האמינו. גם לאחר שבסיגט הוקם גטו קטן וגם לאחר הטרנספורט הראשון, נשארה המשפחה במקומה, ממתינה לרוצחים.

אלי ויזל שואל: מי אשם שלא ידענו? אך הוא שואל ואיננו שופט. "ידעתי כי יום אחד יהיה תפקידי להעיד, לא לשפוט". ועוד אומר ויזל, ניצול שואה רשאי להיות מאושר. צריך לנסות ולתת לחיים שנותרו את מלוא חמשמעות.

אמי זכרונה לברכה, אכן נתנה לחיים את מירב המשמעות אך אני אזכור שהייתה גם מחפשת את התשובה שם, מעבר לים.

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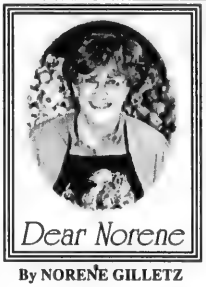
12 sheets filo dough
1/2 cup melted butter
8-11 apples, peeled, cut in 1/4's
1/2 cup white sugar
juice of half a lemon
1 tsp. cinnamon
3 tblsp. bread crumbs
icing sugar

Brush 9" pie pan with melted butter. Lay in 1 sheet of filo, press into pan allowing sides to hang over. Brush with butter. Repeat with 4 sheets of filo. Sprinkle with half the bread crumbs.
Toss apples with sugar, lemon, cinnamon and remaining crumbs. Spoon apples into pan pressing firmly. Fold in overlapped ends of filo. Brush 1 filo leaf with melted butter (buttered side up) and place on top of apples; repeat. Cut remaining leaves into 9" circles, brushing each with butter. Place these filo leaves on top of apples. Score pastry through to apples to allow steam to escape.
Bake 40-50 minutes at 350°F. Cool. Sift lightly with icing sugar.

About Food



By NORENE GILLETZ

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14. Why not treat Mom to breakfast in bed, or maybe a family brunch with the whole mishpachah?

Here are some simple suggestions for brunch or lunch. To minimize clean-up, use paper plates, cups, disposable cutlery and napkins. Buy fresh flowers and don't forget those Mother's Day cards! If you're culinarily challenged, don't panic. Keep it simple and enjoy the celebration.

Fill a bread basket with muffins, rolls and bagels. Serve lox, cream cheese, sliced tomatoes and onions. Other ideas include smoked whitefish, carp, pickled salmon, herring, chopped egg, salmon and tuna, party sandwiches, or a cheese tray garnished with grapes. If you're short on time, buy ready-made spreads (i.e., hummus, tzatziki, eggplant, babaganoush, tofu spread). Serve a vegetable and/or grain-based salad, or veggies and dip. Quiches, kugels, blintzes and vegetarian lasagna are reliable standbys.

Some suggestions to sweeten up the day include a fresh fruit platter, assorted squares, brownies, cookies and a Mother's Day cake with ice cream or frozen yogurt. Don't forget coffee, tea, orange juice – perhaps even a splash of champagne!

The calcium-packed casserole below can be assembled in advance and popped into the oven before your guests arrive. Enjoy!

BAKED CHALLAH PUFF

12 slices challah
2 cups grated low-fat cheese (cheddar or Swiss)
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
3 tomatoes, cored and cut up (optional)
4 eggs (or 2 eggs plus 4 whites)
3 1/2 cups milk (skim or 1 percent)
1 tsp. salt
Freshly ground pepper
1/4 tsp. each dried basil and oregano

Cut challah into 1-in. pieces. Layer half in a sprayed 13x9-in. casserole. Add half of cheese and tomatoes. Repeat once more. Blend eggs, milk and seasonings. Pour evenly over bread-cheese mixture. Cover with foil; refrigerate at least 1 hour or preferably overnight.

Remove casserole from refrigerator. Preheat oven to 350. Bake covered for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 30 minutes longer, until puffed and golden. Serve immediately. Yield: 12 servings. Do not freeze.

Tuna Cheese Variation: Place half of challah, cheese and tomatoes in casserole. Top with 4 chopped green onions and two 6 1/2-oz. cans drained tuna. Add remaining challah, cheese and tomatoes; pour egg-milk mixture over. Continue as directed.

Norene Gilletz, a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at gourmana@total.net*

The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Hello, Goodbye

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

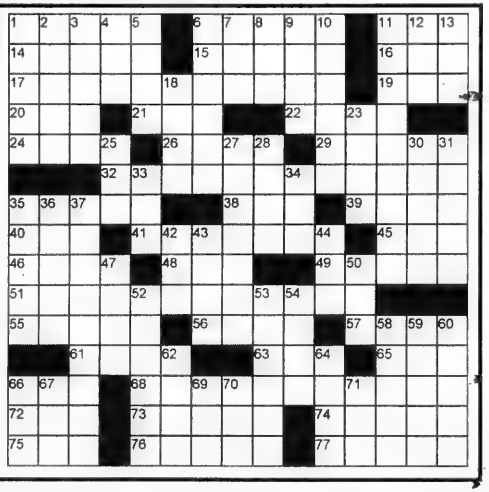
Across

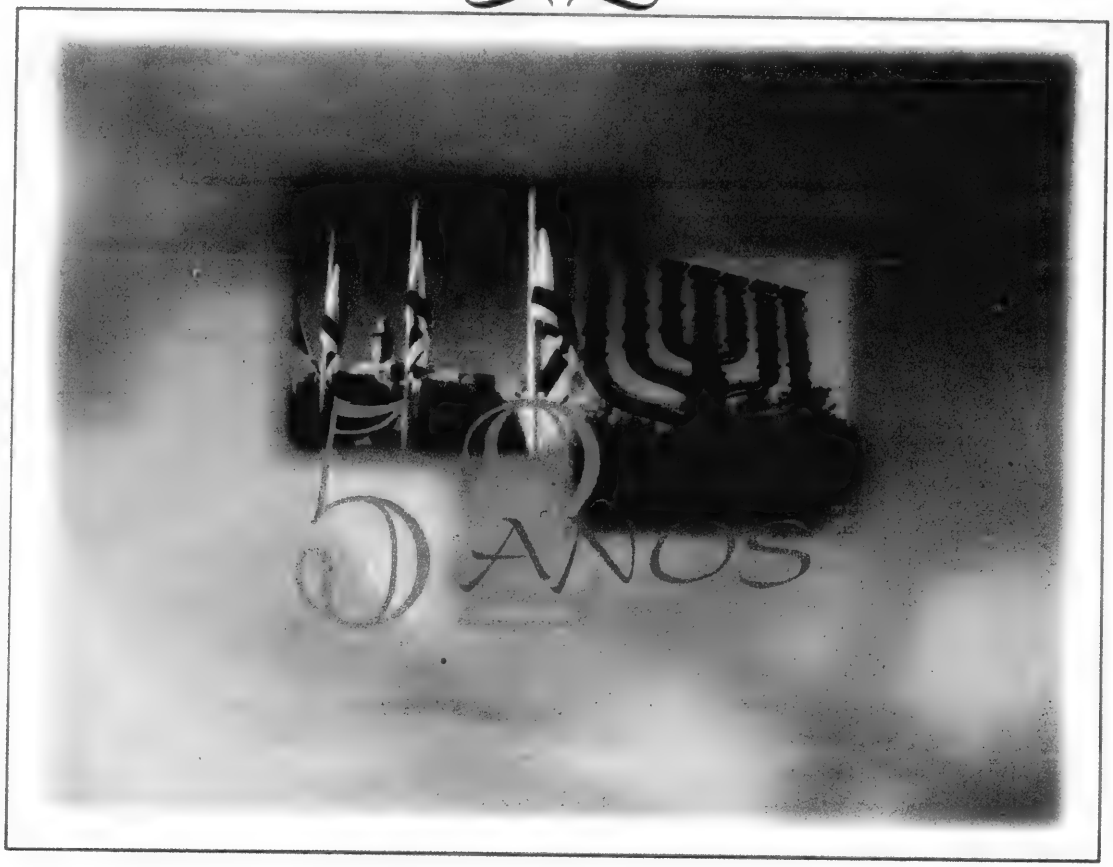
1 Barbara Walters' fraternity
6 Chess great Bernstein
11 Bagels have none, supposedly
14 Slanted
15 Really cool
16 Adolf's mistress
17 Jewish "family values"?
19 Frequent "Seinfeld" subject
20 He's a doll
21 Green veggie
22 Cartoonist Thomas
24 Criticize sharply
26 Lower East ___
29 Chest cover
32 Clinton's words at Rabin's funeral
35 Like London, often
38 Homer's neighbor
39 Ebb
40 "I ___ Camera"
41 Steals software
45 Spy Novelist Deighton
46 Hang around
48 Drunkard
49 Plus-column entry
51 TV show with an Israeli Ernie and Bert
55 Lessened, as pressure
56 Make some changes
57 Painter Chagall
61 Golf course equipment
63 Adar and Kislev, e.g.
65 Prefix for Nazism
66 Motown product
68 Highest building in Israel
72 "Poltergeist ___"
73 Evil force
74 Undo pencil marks
75 Roadie's equipment
76 Accrue
77 Two-time Israeli PM

(Answers are on page 54.)

Down

1 Covers
2 One of the Barrymores
3 Bernie Taupin called her "England's Rose"
4 With 8-down, "Amen to that!"
5 Seated upon
6 How some criminals get out
7 Elie Wiesel's *All Rivers Run to the* ___
8 See 4-down
9 "Put ___ writing!"
10 Fertilizer ingredient
11 Shavuot and Succot
12 Hello, to Caesar
13 Word with sales or state
18 "Road Runner" background
23 "Pygmalion" playwright
25 Chinese restaurant additive
27 Gave to the J, maybe
28 ___ *V'Emunah*
30 Telejournalist Poussaint
31 Senator Lott
33 Philosopher's abbr.
34 B followers
35 True counterpart
36 Nebraska's biggest city
37 "Land for Peace" bargaining chip
42 School of thought
43 Talk-show host Charlie
44 Late Comic Kinison
47 General Robert ___
50 Brandeis time frame: abbr.
52 Where Eisenstein's "Battleship Potemkin" is set
53 Neil and Paul
54 Tiny particle
58 Menachem's co-Nobelist
59 Piece maker?
60 Apple centers
62 Dreyfus's trial, some say
64 Process part
66 KGB opponents
67 Prepare to fire
69 ___ standstill
70 Notes for Sills
71 Miner's goal





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This Week

National

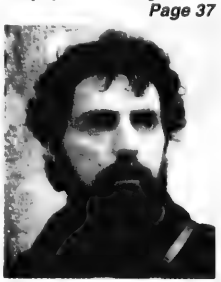
Community response urged on affordable housing. *Page 3*

Giving to beggars may not be a mitzvah, rabbi says. *Page 14*

Quebec joins Israel, PA in creating industrial park. *Page 23*

Arts & Travel

Hora Galgalim: A dance troupe you won't forget. *Page 37*



Paul Peregal inaugurates unique drawing and painting course. *Page 38*

Sports

Toronto teen suits up with Maccabi Haifa. *Pages 46*

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Who 'owns' use of menorah?

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In a small room in the Federal Court of Canada's Toronto regional office, lawyers have begun a battle over one of the most recognizable and potent symbols of the Jewish people.

At centre stage is the seven-branched menorah, first constructed as a golden candelabrum and used in the Tabernacle during the 40 years in the wilderness, according to God's instructions. A menorah was kept in the inner sanctum of both the First and Second Temples, and kindled each night by kohanim. Shapes and sizes may vary, but the menorah remains a paramount theological symbol of the people of Israel and its mission, according to the Book of Isaiah, to be a light unto the nations.

The menorah is also Israel's official state emblem, appearing on coins, banknotes and all government correspondence.

Missionaries want symbol as protected logo

Later this year, the Federal Court will hear a custody battle over the emblem.

More accurately, it will be the court's task to decide whether the menorah – even a stylized, modern-looking one – can be used as a protected symbol of a group whose members call themselves Jews but who worship Jesus as the messiah.

Chosen People Ministries, a Jews for Jesus-type organization whose adherents number barely 100 in Toronto and Montreal, says it is merely trying to formalize a logo it has been using for years on its stationery, books, brochures and even baseball caps.

But this is a case, it argues, that goes beyond symbols, extending into legally guaranteed freedoms of religion and expression.

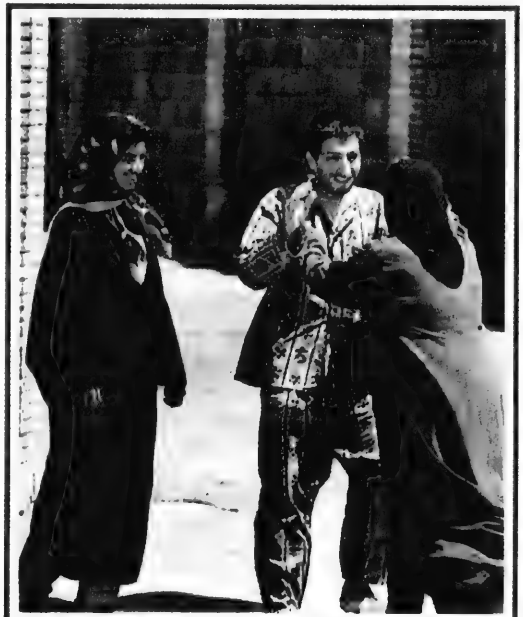
Indeed, the battle is likely to spill over into heated discussions of theology, of why – and whether – accepting Jesus as messiah disqualifies one from being Jewish.

On the other side is Canadian Jewish Congress. It alleges that Chosen People Ministries' stock-in-trade is deception and the aggressive proselytizing of Jews. CJC contends it and other so-called Hebrew-Christian groups routinely appropriate Jewish symbols and customs to intentionally blur the line between Judaism and Christianity. Allowing Chosen People Ministries to use a menorah as its logo, CJC claims, would sow confusion among Jews and gentiles alike, not to mention cheapen the symbol's significance.

"The menorah is a universal Jewish symbol, akin to the cross being a universal Christian symbol," asserts Manuel Prutschi, CJC's national director of community relations. "Have you ever seen a cross used by anything other than a Christian group?"

Larry Rich, the Toronto-based Canadian director of Chosen People Ministries, sees it this way: "The real issue here is whether a Jewish person can believe that Jesus is the messiah. Our having the logo is routine. Far more significant is our freedom to practise our beliefs."

Continued on page 19



ON TRIAL IN IRAN: Above, Fazad Kashi, one of the 13 Jews accused of spying for Israel, is visited by his mother-in-law and his wife, left, last week outside the Revolutionary court in Shiraz. Kashi, a religious teacher, has denied the charges against him. In the photo below, we see Nasser Levi Haim standing at the far right. The court reported that Levi Haim "confessed" to the charges of espionage on behalf of Israel. *Please see related story on page 34.*

[Murray Kahl photos]

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Behar
Candlelighting: 8:22
Havdallah: 9:27

Israel and PA miss latest 'deadline' — please see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

Stabbing Incident

TORONTO — Toronto Police are seeking witnesses to a recent stabbing in an area of the city heavily populated by Russian-Jewish émigrés. On the evening of May 7, a 22-year-old male was attacked from behind while walking on Rockford Road near Torresdale Avenue. He was taken to Sunnybrook Hospital where he was treated for his wounds, none of which were life threatening. The suspect is described as a white male, 18 to 22, with a medium build. The stabbing was the third attack in 18 days within the same few blocks. The first incident occurred in the Torresdale and Fisherville area and the second near Torresdale and Robingrove Road. All three took place between 9:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 416-808-3204 or Crimestoppers at 222-TIPS (416-222-8477).

ISRAEL

Survey Says...

JERUSALEM — A majority of Israelis say they are dissatisfied with Prime Minister Ehud Barak's performance, according to a Gallup poll published in the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*. Only 39 percent of those polled said they would vote for Barak if elections were held now.

Sri Lankan Ties

JERUSALEM — Israel and Sri Lanka have resumed diplomatic ties. The South Asian country, which broke off relations with Israel in 1970, is expected to send a delegation to Israel in the coming days.

WORLD

Survivors Cleared

BERLIN — Two Holocaust survivors who in 1946 tried to poison thousands of Nazi officials in an Allied prison camp can no longer be prosecuted for attempted murder, a German court has ruled. The two survivors, now living in Israel, confessed recently to putting arsenic in bread supplies for the Nuremberg-Langwasser camp in southern Germany, where some 12,000 Nazis were held. Some 200 inmates were hospitalized, but not enough poison was used to kill anyone. Although attempted murder is not covered by a statute of limitations in Germany, the court made an exception "because of persecution experienced" by the two during the Holocaust.

British Accounts

LONDON — Jewish leaders have praised a plan by British banks to enable Holocaust survivors and heirs of its victims to claim funds that were frozen during World War II. Earlier this week, the British Bankers' Association published the names on 10,800 dormant bank accounts holding a total of some $3.5 million (US).

Polish PM Apologizes

WARSAW — Polish Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek last week apologized for anti-Semitic incidents witnessed by thousands of Jewish youths on the March of the Living. The inscription "Jews to the Crematorium" appeared in Lublin, a city close to the nearby former death camp of Majdanek. The incident occurred a day after the presidents of Israel and Poland led thousands of Jews and Poles in the annual march commemorating the Holocaust. More than 400 youths from Canada are on the march.

Irving Told: Pay Up

LONDON — Holocaust denier David Irving has come a step closer to financial ruin since a British judge ordered him to start paying off millions of dollars in legal costs. The judge ordered Irving to make a down payment of some $250,000 to Penguin Books by June 16 following his failed libel action against the publisher and American historian Deborah Lipstadt.

Mikvah Unearthed

RIO DE JANEIRO — Archeologists have discovered an ancient mikvah in northeastern Brazil. The mikvah was hidden under Kahal Zur Israel, which is believed to be the oldest synagogue in the Americas. The temple fell into disuse after Jews were expelled from the area in 1654.

O'Connor Mourned

NEW YORK — Jewish leaders have expressed condolences following the death of New York's longtime Catholic archbishop. John Cardinal O'Connor died May 3 at the age of 80 after battling brain cancer.

Team Makes Progress On Vatican Papers

LONDON — A team of Jewish and Catholic scholars says it has made "substantial progress" in examining published Vatican documents relating to the Holocaust.

The team, which includes University of Toronto Holocaust historian Prof. Michael Marrus, also renewed a call for the Vatican to open its unpublished wartime archives to outside researchers.

"We remain committed to full openness in the examination of the archival record," the International Catholic-Jewish Historical Commission said last week in a statement issued following its four-day meeting in London.

The commission, which has met once before, includes three Jewish and three Catholic scholars and was jointly established last fall by the Vatican and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations.

Its mandate was to review the 11 volumes of World War II archives published by the Vatican between 1965 and 1981, in order to clarify the role of the Roman Catholic Church and of the wartime pope, Pius XII, during the Holocaust.

Deschenes Dies

MONTREAL — Jules Deschenes, the Quebec jurist who authored a landmark report on Nazi war criminals in Canada, died last week at the age of 76. His 1986 report that listed more than 200 war crimes suspects and 20 cases requiring urgent action prompted legislation that allowed Canadian courts to try suspects. Deschenes served as a Quebec Court of Appeal judge from 1972-73 and as chief justice of the Quebec Superior Court.

Jules Deschenes

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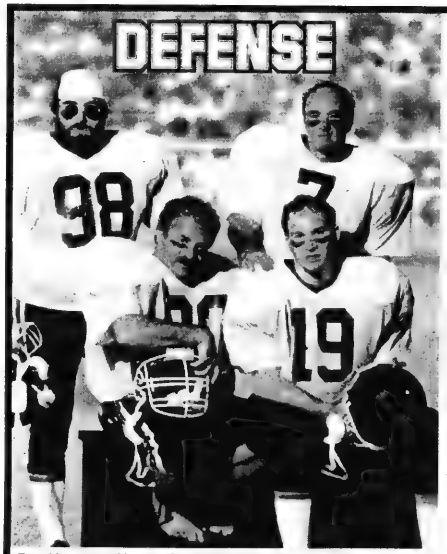

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Community response urged on affordable housing

16% of Toronto's Jewish children live in poverty

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The concept of Jewish communal responsibility must be extended beyond the Jewish community to everyone in the community in which we live, said a local Orthodox rabbi at a recent one-day conference on affordable housing.

Judaism has a "mandatory good Samaritan law," said Rabbi Moshe Shulman, spiritual leader of Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. "It's not enough to say, 'It's not my problem.'"

The rabbi was speaking last week at a day-long conference on affordable housing aimed at housing professionals and Jewish agencies involved in housing-related issues.

Anne Golden

Rabbi Moshe Shulman

The event was hosted by the Kehilla Residential Program, at North York Memorial Hall.

Stephanie Olin-Chapman, executive director of Kehilla (the housing arm of UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto), outlined the extent of the problem in both the Jewish and general communities of Toronto.

Thirty-five percent of Toronto's children live in poverty, she said. According to 1996 data, she added, 16 percent (3,615) of Toronto's 22,600 Jewish children under age 18 lived in poverty.

Among the points Olin-Chapman made:

- One in four renter households are a single paycheque or illness away from homelessness.
- Over 29 percent of Jewish seniors live below the poverty line
- Of the 430 households in Jewish Family & Child Service's caseload with issues of domestic violence, 75 percent remain at risk due to lack of alternative housing arrangements.
- Over 57,000 households are on waiting lists for subsidized housing in Toronto. Waiting lists for Jewish community buildings number over 3,000.
- The challenges of maintaining a Jewish lifestyle are sometimes greater for the middle class who are less likely to qualify for or apply for subsidies for schools or camps.

Continued on page 12

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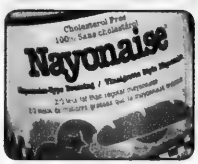

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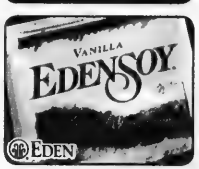

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Tuesday May 30, 2000 at 8:00 p.m.
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Two significant issues

From the editor's desk

Across my desk each week, I receive many articles, journals, submissions, newspaper clippings, letters and essays.

The opportunity to share some of that material with readers is one of the many wonderful aspects of being editor of *The CJN*.

Two items caught my attention on the weekend. Each raises significant issues. I bring them to our readers' attention.

* * *

The trial in Shiraz of the 13 Iranian Jews is deeply troubling. It is a trial unlike any that we know in the west, conducted under a cloak of secrecy, behind closed doors and away from the watchful eye of independent observers.

Many apologists for the regime in Tehran and for the Revolutionary Court, under whose strict Islamic procedures the trial is being conducted, condemn westerners who criticize the judicial "process" unfolding there.

They accuse critics of the trial of demonstrating typically condescending, western, colonialist bias toward a third world country. Simply because their trial process is different, the apologists charge, does not make it unjust, and certainly not inferior to western justice.

A letter published in the Sunday *New York Times* (May 14) from Lawrence Kuznick provides a poignant commentary on the trial:

"Your…news article… stated that one of the defendants made a full confession outside the courtroom, saying, 'I admit to spying on behalf of the Zionist regime.'

"I, as a Jew, have never heard another Jew refer to Israel or its government as 'the Zionist regime.'"

"If this matter were not so serious, with extremely dire consequences awaiting these unfortunate men, the whole affair would be laughable. It is not. But it is an insult to everybody's intelligence."

We of the west need feel no compunction or restraint in demanding fairness for our fellow Jews suffering from the grotesque, politically motivated, state-sanctioned brutality in Iran.

We must not let Tehran think that we are being fooled by the charade they attempt to pass off to the world as justice, or that our watchfulness is slipping or that we weary of calling attention to their persecutions.

* * *

As readers know, I generally avoid commenting on editorials in other newspapers or journals. But an editorial in Sunday's *Toronto Star* (May 14) caught my eye.

It warrants comment, but not for the substance of the opinion it expressed. The editorialist essentially expressed pleasure that the date, May 13, established by the Israelis and the Palestinians as a target for a completed framework agreement had come and gone without incident.

Rather, it was a specific, seemingly innocuous, but so very significant, reference that deserves our attention.

"The signals coming out of *Jerusalem/Al Quds* in recent days have been encouraging." (My emphasis)

I do not recall another instance of a mainstream newspaper coupling, *in this manner*, the name Jerusalem with the Arabic name for it, Al Quds.

We have all seen the use of the name Al Quds in the context of inter-Arab relations, of Arabs speaking in their own language to other Arabs about Jerusalem, or in the context of intra-Palestinian politics regarding Jerusalem.

Indeed, there is certainly nothing inappropriate about that.

But the use of Al Quds by the *Toronto Star* editorialist was a departure from generally followed canons of newspaper writing style. Nor do I believe it was an unintentional departure.

Rather, the reference was undoubtedly laden with symbolic and ideological intention.

Jerusalem is the long-accepted, long-established western reference to the city. Inasmuch as it is English terminology and not Hebrew, it is a neutral nomenclature for the city.

The use of Al Quds however, is decidedly not neutral.

Al Quds is the identity for the city in Arabic just as Yerushalayim is the identity for the city in Hebrew.

Defenders of the reference will undoubtedly say there is nothing wrong with the use of Al Quds, for after all, it is the name used by the Arabs for the city. That the writer did not also use the Hebrew name, Yerushalayim, would be seen by the defenders as mere nitpicking because, in any event, the city – in which a great many Jews live – is known by everyone as Jerusalem.

But the issue with the editorial is not that it attempts to do something wrong, but rather that it attempts to do something sneaky and devious.

By using the Arabic term for the city, the editorial writer is affirming the Arabic identity of the city alongside its "other" identity. And by affirming the Arabic identity of the city, the editorial is tying that identity to the Arabic claim for sovereignty over the eastern part of the city.

The reference to Jerusalem/Al Quds in the editorial makes it very plain for all to see and read, where the Toronto Star stands on the issue of the future status of Jerusalem.

–MBD

SEE JN

TAKING A BALLOON BREAK: David Miller and Janna Miller, both 9, enjoy their balloons at this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at Associated Hebrew School's Atkinson branch. The event was sponsored by UJA FEDERATION, El Al Airlines, and the Consulate General of Israel. The program included musical performances by Shelly Ovdat, Limore Twena, Maytal Golan, and the Associated choir, a flag ceremony, dancing, an Israel Fest, and lots of food. [Beverley Abramson Photography]

Ont. bill would set up college for Jewish women

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — If passed in its current form, an Ontario bill will create a degree-granting college exclusively for Jewish women.

Bill Pr16, which calls for the creation of Talpiot College in Toronto, passed first reading in the legislature recently, and was approved in committee hearings.

The bill's sponsor, Liberal MPP Mike Colle, who represents the heavily Orthodox riding of Eglinton-Lawrence, would like to see the legislation pass second and third readings before Queen's Park shuts down for the summer at the end of June.

Royal assent making the bill law would then follow.

Colle has sponsored the bill on behalf of Beth Jacob High School for Girls, on Lawrence Avenue near Bathurst Street, and its associated Jacob Perlman Seminary, which trains teachers.

The bill, also known as the Talpiot College Act, would accredit the school to grant bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees in eight areas: divinity; Jewish education; family and community services; Jewish law; Jewish philosophy; Jewish women's studies; Judaic studies; and theology.

The college would operate under the auspices of Beth Jacob, in a special wing of the school.

Beth Jacob pursued the creation of a college for Jewish women because "there is a need to provide further education [for them]," Beth Jacob's principal, Rabbi Akiva Stefansky, told *The CJN*.

"Many girls get married. Many go to Israel. Some teach. But many also want to continue their studies. We felt the need to provide a post-secondary education [for women] in a religious environment," Rabbi Stefansky added.

The high school, founded in the early 1960s, enrolls about 360 girls up to Grade 12. The teacher's seminary, founded in 1973, is training 14 women this year.

The five-page bill sets out the legal requirements on how the college will incorporated, who will serve on its board and how it will be run. Among its objectives are "degree, diploma and certificate programs and courses of study based on an Orthodox Jewish perspective."

Colle told *The CJN* the degrees granted by Talpiot College would be fully recognized in Ontario and other jurisdictions.

He said the bill is modeled on a similar piece of legislation that passed into law last year. It allowed Redeemer College, an evangelical Christian school in Ancaster, to grant college-level degrees.

Despite the fact that the degrees would have to comply with provincial standards, Beth Jacob and Talpiot College would retain their independence and would not receive public funds, Colle stressed.

The legislation is a private bill, and not a private member's bill, Colle pointed out.

Private member's bills are the result of individual legislators' concerns, and they rarely become law. A private bill is put forward by a particular group or institution, and is sponsored by the MPP in that riding.

Rabbi Stefansky said if the bill passes before the summer recess, the college could be operational as soon as this September.

He said the curriculum would consist of secular as well as religious studies. Depending on the course, "it could be 50-50; it could be 70-30." Tuition would cost $400 per credit.

Talpiot is a suburb of Jerusalem, but is also what King Solomon called the Temple Mount, he pointed out.

In 1969, the Ontario government incorporated Maimonides College as a university degree-granting institution. Today, the college maintains two campuses, one in Hamilton for men, and the other for about 25 women in the B'nai Brith Canada building in Toronto.

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Israel's victims of war remembered in ceremony

By ANNA TURKIENICZ
CJN Staff

TORONTO — "We pass from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut. Without one there wouldn't be the other. Without the bravery of the heroes of Israel we couldn't celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut. Not 52 years ago and not today.

"From 1948 to today, over 19,000 people have lost their lives fighting for the State of Israel," Israeli Consul General Meir Romem said at the Yom Hazikaron Assembly held at Beth Tzedec Synagogue last week.

The assembly was sponsored by the Consulate General in memory of Israel's fallen.

"Yom Hazikaron is especially significant this year because it falls on May 8 – VE-day," he said, "which marks the end of World War II in Europe.

"In three years, our people moved from the biggest tragedy of the Jewish people, the Holocaust, to the greatest day of the Jewish people in 2,000 years, the establishment of the Jewish state.

"We could only do this because of the people who lost their lives."

With memorial candles burning under the ner tamid, a short story titled *The Same Son* by Mordechai Ekstain was read in English by Ira Marcus, the Israeli cultural affairs officer.

The story was written last February to commemorate five years since the death of Ekstain's son, Assaf.

In the story, a photographer has developed two pictures of Assaf.

"Yes, it's the same son," Ekstain tells the photographer. "This is a picture of him as a child, and in this one he is an adult.

"Yes, it's the same son," Ekstain says to God in the story, "the one you gave me and the one you took away."

Ekstain then asks the photographer, "Can I exchange later and move the picture from the hanging frame to the standing frame?"

In the story, God answers Ekstain and says, "I created the familial frame that protected your son from the day he was born and his grave is the frame that protects him today."

Ekstain then turns to God and asks, "Can I exchange later and move my son from the frame of the grave to the frame of the family?"

"Yes," says God, "when you come to me, first chance you get."

"And until I get to God, first chance I get, I miss you child, I miss you man, I miss you son."

Meir Romem

In the hushed sanctuary, memorial candles were lit by Avi Cohen and Sarah Barak.

Cohen's brother, Lieut. Yaacov Cohen fell in 1991 during his military service in the Genin area. Barak's brother, Lieut. David Feldman was killed in the Yom Kippur War in Ramat Hagolan.

Kaddish was read by David Arzam in memory of his brother Yosef Yazamsky, who was killed in November 1949.

"They were the only two in their family who survived the Holocaust," Romem said in an interview after the assembly. "They came [to Israel] as refugees after the war. There were so many who came straight from the boat to the battlefield, where many of them died.

"Some of these soldiers were buried in graves with no names. They too are part of our heritage," Romem said.

"We are grateful to all the volunteers who have helped Israel, including those who came from Canada."

During the ceremony, a letter was read by Yonaton Kessel, the Dror Habonim shaliach. It was written by Offer Feniger, an artist, teacher and nature guide, to his girlfriend, Yael.

Feniger fell in battle, at the age of 24, in the fight for Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem during the Six Day War.

In the letter, Feniger wrote, "We visited the Holocaust Memorial at Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot. I looked at the pictures – and I understood – others didn't, they didn't get it...

"I want to know that never again will bottomless eyes stare out from behind electrified fences. They will never stare out again if I am strong! If we will all be strong!"

In the English version of the poem, *Parade of the Fallen*, Young Judaea shaliach Ryan Hass read that the dead "come from the mountains, from the valley, from the desert... They emerge from the shattered planes and from the burnt tanks... and they pass one by one between two rows of angels... and I look at them... These are my brothers, these are my brothers...

"And the Lord alone passes among them, with tears in his eyes he kisses their wounds, and he says in a trembling voice to the white angels: 'These are my sons, these are my sons!'"

Cantor Paul Kowarsky sang K'El Maleh Rachamim and Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl asked "How is this night different from all other nights?

"On all other nights, we remember our beloved ones – those who live and those who have died. But tonight we remember those who were killed in battle."

This night, like Passover, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said, symbolizes our journey from humility to praise.

We begin by recalling the wars and the battles and the struggles and we end in the celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said.

"Jews all over the world can be strong and free because of the State of Israel and those that have fallen," Romem said.

"Thanks to those who have given their lives, we shall also be able to achieve peace, so that nobody will have to sacrifice his or her life again," Romem said.

In the song, *The Winter of Seventy-Three*, which was sung at the assembly, "the children [who were born] in the winter of seventy-three... have grown up to be soldiers," and say, "'You promised a dove and an olive branch, You promised us peace – at home. You promised us spring and blossoming – You promised to keep promises!'"

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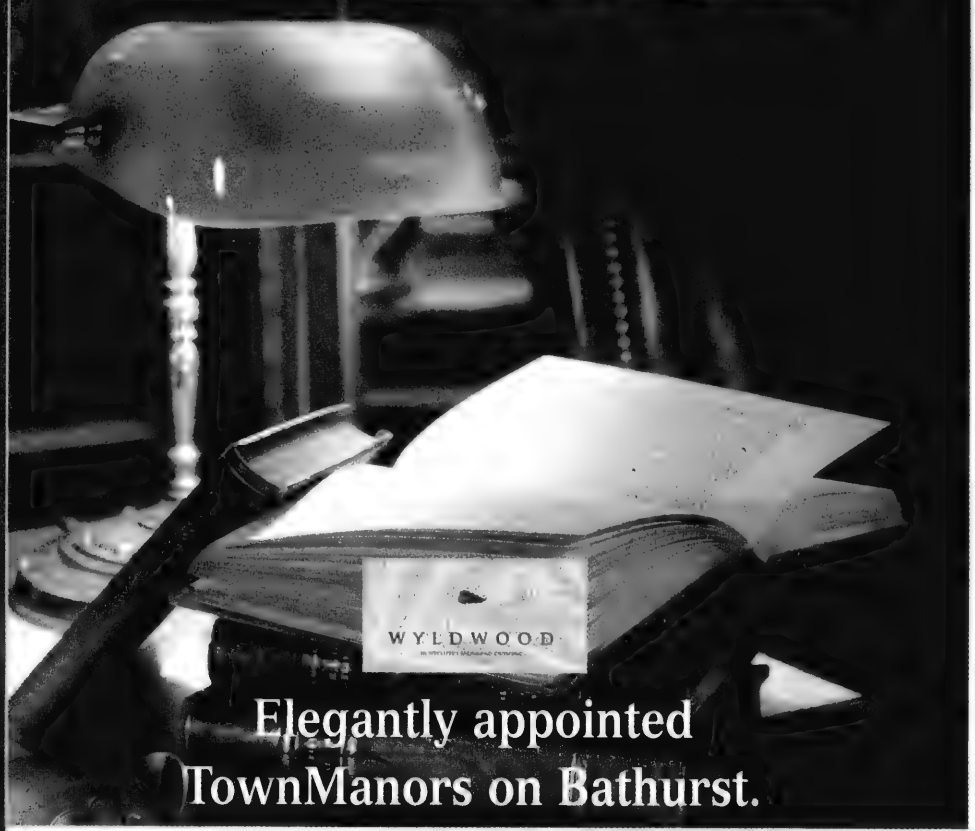

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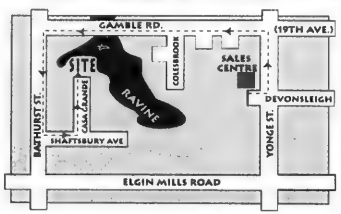

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The Canadian Jewish news

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A bill that the premier must quash

Democracy is the supple spine at the centre of our way of life. It carries, without buckling, the full "burden" of our values. It is the sustaining brace of all our institutions, supporting the weight of their gravity, anchoring them lest they sway with the inconstant tides of public opinion.

The core column in that spine is the rule of law. Without it, as we all know, the majority would dominate the minority rather than govern with it, and the will of the people would merely be an obfuscating slogan for nothing less than tyranny over the people.

Among the many interweaving cords in the rule of law, one of the most important is the independence of the judiciary.

In our democracy, judges have never had to fear the reach of the interfering hand of politicians. In return for the freedom from political interference, we have always demanded integrity of our judges, that they be incorruptible, that they comport themselves in a manner consistent with the seriousness of their responsibilities, that they be fair and if possible, wise, but above all else, that they be human. Thus, while we have always hoped for best judgment, we have never expected, nor have we demanded, perfect judgment.

In our system, imperfect judgments can be made more perfect only by other judges.

But there is a private member's bill, having passed second reading earlier in the month, now on the agenda of one of the legislative committees at the legislature in Ontario. It threatens to snap one of the key interweaving cords of the rule of law: the independence of the judiciary.

Last month, Marilyn Mushinski, a member of the governing Conservative party introduced a bill that purports to make judges "accountable" for the sentences they impose in certain criminal cases. "If judges were too lenient," Mushinski said, they might be subject to a "performance review."

However sincere the honourable member's desire to see judges impose penalties on criminals more in keeping with her framework of values, her legislative initiative is wholly inappropriate. At best, it betrays a lack of understanding for the sanctity of the independence of the judiciary in the hierarchy of democratic principles. At worst, it suggests a contempt for them.

It is therefore alarming in the extreme that both the premier and the attorney general of Ontario have thrown their support behind this bill. In the name of the democracy from which they draw their authority and on behalf of which they are purporting to act, we urge them to withdraw support for the Mushinski bill.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Teffilin, Omed Teffilin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

Dry Bones
MICROSOFT WILL BE CUT INTO TWO COMPANIES
WHAT WILL THE FIRST ONE BE LIKE?
WHO KNOWS!?
BUT THE SECOND WILL BE LIKE MY LAST CLEANING LADY...
IT JUST WONT DO WINDOWS!

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Wagner's anti-Jewish sentiments

Henry Srebrnik's feelings in his Letter to the Editor (*CJN*, May 4) were written with a deep understanding of Richard Wagner's anti-Jewish sentiments.

Some leaders in the music field in Israel are either naive about or oblivious to the sensitivities of survivors and many other Jews, in dealing with this subject. Richard Wagner started from two premises in his treatises: that Jews were alien in thought and feeling, and therefore could not express themselves in German art; and that even if Jews thought and felt like Germans, they would have succeeded no better.

Wagner maintained that "it is necessary for us to explain the involuntary repugnance we possess for the nature and personality of the Jews."

He proceeded to castigate Jews' outward appearance, "which has something disagreeably foreign about it," and Jewish speech, in which "our attention dwells involuntarily on its repulsiveness."

This philosophy is further exhibited in his operas, such as *Das Rheingold*. There, the evil, ugly, hook-nosed dwarf Albrecht appears, and from him emanate grotesque sounds and grunts in Wagnerian-style "Jewish inflections."

In the 1869 version of *Judaism in Music*, Wagner states that the alternative to Jews casting aside their racial heritage would simply be "the uprooting, expulsion and destruction of these people." The closing sentence of this essay suggests the solution of *der Untergang*, meaning the "going under," or more accurately, "annihilation."

When Wagner applied anti-Semitism to the structure of German nationalism, he swept along the millions of Germans predisposed to hate Jews. Wagner's contribution was "proof" that Jewish blood was incapable of producing creative work.

Shevah Weiss, a Holocaust survivor and former speaker of the Knesset, stated that "every orchestra has a right to play what they want, but personally, I feel that as long as we survivors are here on this earth… then Wagner should not be played."

It is not only to Jewish survivors of the Holocaust that Wagner's music represents a vivid reminder of the Nazi regime, it is a reminder to all of us who value decency, respect and integrity.

Judy Feld Carr, Mus.M., Mus.Bac.
Toronto

* * *

Holland's horrible truth

As a former Dutch man I am deeply ashamed, and as a Jew I am deeply disturbed, but I am grateful to Manfred Gerstenfeld for exposing the horrible truth about the Dutch war record and the hypocrisy that has been shown for more than 50 years (*CJN*, April 28).

Whenever I related to people the story of the real actions that took place in Holland during the war, and the actions of the Dutch collaborators, they could not believe that this could have happened in Holland.

I still remember when the Germans held their victory parade in The Hague on the Laan van Meerdervoort on or about May 20, there was another group of civilians joining them. Many of those "civilians" were officers and NCOs still wearing their Dutch army uniforms. When I asked my mother why they were doing this, she could not answer me.

Besides the guilt of having survived, I feel an enormous shame that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Edward Charles
Oakville, Ont.

* * *

PM owes apology to Canadians

Re: "Jewish leaders unconcerned over PM's gaffes" (*CJN*, April 19).

With all the due respect to Moshe Ronen, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, and Rob Ritter, executive director of the Canada-Israel Committee…Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's gaffes were stupid, insensitive and counterproductive, and I cannot understand why Jewish leaders feel compelled to kowtow so as not to offend Chrétien.

His so-called joke about not knowing the difference between east, west, north or south Jerusalem could hardly be expected from any other leader of a western democracy who arrived armed with dozens of advisors. The suggestion that the Palestinians should threaten to unilaterally create their own state surely made the separatists in Quebec laugh with glee.

He embarrassed his hosts and demonstrated a profound ignorance of the important issues in the Middle East. He owes all Canadians an apology.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

An appeal to Reform rabbis

As a gay Jew, when I first heard that Reform rabbis could perform gay commitment ceremonies, I was thrilled. When I read in *CJN* (April 13), that many Canadian Reform rabbis will not do this, it was hard not to feel betrayed. Speaking for myself, my money and volunteer time will only go to the temples where the rabbi would perform a commitment ceremony for me and a Jewish partner.

For the last two years, I have volunteered for Congregation Keshet Shalom (CKS), Toronto's gay chavurah. We do not have the population base to support a rabbi or a building, as do gay Jews in cities such as New York and Los Angeles. My activities with CKS have been at times rewarding, at other times extremely frustrating. The challenge of being gay and a practising Jew is material for a doctoral thesis.

This is an appeal to the Reform Jewish community to go beyond levels of "tolerance" and "acceptance" of gay people, to the level of embrace and support, which would be evident through the performance of same-sex marriages in the temple, and to recognize we are all mishpachah.

Mordecai Drache
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

The silver brooch

By ROMA GELBLUM BROSS
Special to the CJN

My late mother once owned a silver brooch that she treasured above every other piece of jewelry, even though as jewelry goes, it was not that valuable or impressive. It consisted of an oblong woman's face embossed in silver.

When I first saw it as a child, it was coated with the gray patina of time and was rather dark, but I was fascinated with the thoughtful, gentle expression on the woman's face. If I had known the word at the time, I would have said that her smile was enigmatic. She was beautiful and mysterious. Later in life, it reminded me of Modigliani's portraits.

My mother kept the brooch wrapped in a piece of fabric along with her other jewelry, in a leather pouch she carried on her body when our small family escaped the town of Lodz, Poland, in September 1939, shortly after the German invasion. We fled to the town of Krzemieniec, not far from the U.S.S.R. border.

During our escape from the advancing German front, most of the pieces were gradually sold or bartered for food or transportation, except for the silver brooch and a small triangular diamond ring which had belonged to my great-grandmother; these items remained with my mother.

When I was a little older, Mother showed me the initials V.B. engraved on the brooch and told me they stood for Vincent Brauner, one of the most talented Jewish painters in the town of Lodz. He also dabbled in sculpture and jewelry.

Lodz was an important textile manufacturing town and boasted a large and vibrant Jewish community, animated by the presence of a great number of Jewish artists. Brauner was one of the city's luminaries.

Brauner was a close friend of the family. My mother was an amateur artist and passionate about art and artists. In her stories, Vincent Brauner or, as he was called by friends, Vicek Brauner, stood out prominently as larger than life and an artist of exceptional talent.

She often repeated to me the story of how he came to our house one day, and in one flowing movement of his pencil, sketched my portrait. She was sorry that she hadn't been able to salvage this portrait as well. She was convinced that one day, when the war was over and things returned to normal, her friend would become world-famous.

At that time, we lived in the remote city of Samarkand in central Asia, where we had found shelter. We did not know then that many of our friends and relatives would not survive the war. My mother was quite secretive about her past and she never revealed to me on what occasion she received the brooch from Brauner.

After the war ended, we returned to Lodz and discovered the awful truth. Of a huge family that numbered about 200 people, only a handful remained. I do not know whether my mother ever found out what had happened to Vincent Brauner. It was assumed that if someone didn't surface on the main street of the city or in one of the central coffee houses, he or she had perished.

The brooch travelled with us to Israel, and when my mother followed me to Montreal, in the '60s, the brooch came with her. My mother lived to the age of 93. She died in 1994. For the last few years of her life, I didn't know what had happened to the brooch. After her death, I found it in her safety deposit box.

Here ends Chapter 1 of the story.

***

Chapter 2 begins with the publication of my first collection of stories, *To Samarkand and Back*, based on my life as a child-refugee during World War II and its aftermath.

Some time after the book was published, a pleasant woman named Andrea Axt entered my life. A chemist and polarity therapist, Axt is about my age and is also of Jewish Polish origin. We are friends now, but prior to 1992, I didn't know her.

One afternoon, in the fall of that year, I received a telephone call. The woman on the other end, who sounded a little anxious, asked whether I was the author of *To Samarkand and Back*. When she found out she was indeed at the right place, she was relieved.

She told me that she had borrowed an autographed copy of my book from a neighbour and was very careful not to lose it. She was so careful, as a matter of fact, that she promptly lost it without a trace!

She was very anxious to acquire at least two copies, one for herself, the other for her neighbour, and she was calling me and not the store because she needed my autograph. I invited her over to my house and thus began our friendship.

Actually, Axt bought three books. One was destined for her sister Katarzyna Lipshitz, who lives in Warsaw. Katarzyna, a professional translator, was one of the few Jews who chose to stay in Poland when all the others emigrated.

She requested my permission to translate one of the stories in the collection. Was I ever pleased to have a story translated into my mother tongue!

Lipshitz did a marvelous job. The story sounded better in Polish than in English. Last year, when the re-establishing Jewish Community in Warsaw began publishing its magazine *Midrash*, they published the story.

In the interim, I began an e-mail correspondence with Lipshitz, an intelligent and well-read woman, and a few months ago, when Axt was going to visit her in Warsaw, I sent her a small present.

Lipshitz reciprocated by sending me a book titled *Polyn*, written by a well-known chronicler and storyteller, Yehiel Yeshaya Trunk, who used to live in prewar Lodz. The book has been translated into English and Polish by a member of his family, Anna Clarke, who presently resides in Ottawa.

Trunk escaped to New York in 1941 and while there, wrote in Yiddish an informal history of Polish Jews, composed of short accounts and anecdotes. To my delight, I discovered in his book the portraits of a few people I had known or known about.

One of them happened to be the painter, Vincent Brauner! The writer dedicated a separate chapter to him and described him as an idealist, a man of great talent and boundless imagination. Also included was Brauner's photograph – a handsome young man with an intense expression.

This is what Trunk wrote about Brauner in a chapter titled *The Don Quixote of Art*: "Among the most daring of the Lodz artists were Vincent Brauner – a painter, and Loy Zuntik – a musician. Inseparable, they relentlessly paced the streets of Lodz.

"They were always in a hurry, as if they had been entrusted with some immensely important mission. Brauner's coat collar was always unbuttoned. Pale-faced and tense, he was considerably taller than Zuntik. He wore his blonde hair long, crowned by a wide-brimmed artist's hat; his piercing eyes stared back at the world defiantly.

"Both artists weaved golden fantasies and had ambitious plans for the future. Often, late at night, when the city was deep in slumber after its daily toil, its streets dark, when even the stores seemed to be asleep, you would meet Brauner and Zuntik, still immersed in their endless conversations and in as much of a hurry as if it were daytime and the streets were filled with rushing pedestrians.

"They were beyond the limits of day and night. They were ruled by their own visions and their own private timetables. Brauner spoke of his future works. His visions featured enormous mass-scenes for which he was unable to find a large enough canvas or a big enough wall in all of Lodz. This did not deter Brauner, however. Obstacles never deterred him. He was a citizen of Lodz and therefore the impossible was possible.

"Brauner was strongly convinced that one day an art lover would knock on his door, an art lover who would be as excited about his visions as he was. His patron was not going to be your average Jew either. No, he would be a multimillionaire, the owner of palaces and infinite riches, who would build him an atelier big enough to accommodate his visions.

"He would surround Brauner with comforts and beautiful women. Then he, Vincent Brauner would roll up his sleeves, fetch his brush and turn the entire art world on its head by pouring out on his canvas all the wild imaginings and visions that had been smoldering inside him like lava inside a volcano.

"The entire world, even Paris would then tip their hats to him and admit that they had never seen works such as his, he told his friend Zuntik excitedly and his pale face became suddenly animated and flushed with delight and excitement."

When I next met Axt, I told her about my discovery and about the silver brooch made by Brauner that I had in my possession.

She gasped. "It's really quite unbelievable," she said, repeating it over and over. "It's unbelievable."

Then she told me that Brauner's only surviving niece, Carolina Elly, was her very close friend, that they were almost like sisters. After the war, Elly lived for a while in Axt's home. She now lives in Israel, in the northern kibbutz of Sha'ar Ha'amakim.

Axt rushed home, to e-mail the news to Carolina.

Elly's response came swiftly. She was greatly touched and excited. She asked me to send her a photo of the brooch. She told me a little more about her uncle and about herself. As a matter of fact, she had just finished compiling a book titled *Traces*, her own family history, she wrote, which was about to be published in Israel.

Perhaps it would be best to quote the letter she wrote: "I am the only daughter of Vicek Brauner's youngest sister. It was a huge family. As far as I know, my grandparents had 17 children. A few died very young. One died in the Polish army during its war against the Russians in the '20s.

"In 1939 they were 12. Only two survived. One of them was the sculptor Ida Wolman-Brauner, to whom I owe my life. She died in 1949 and it was only a short time before her death that she told me we were Jews."

Elly found herself orphaned for the second time in her young life, burdened with a difficult-to-deal-with revelation. For a while, she stayed with Axt's family, then found her way to one of the Jewish organizations and went to Israel.

"In two or three weeks," Elly wrote, "I'll be able to send you a book in which I reconstructed my own history and that of my family. I knew almost nothing about my past until I actually sat down to solve this riddle of my origins and personal history and I managed to delve deeper and deeper.

"The longer I am at it, the more comes to light. Now, when the book is completed, I am literally inundated with information from various sources. In my book, you'll find reproductions of all the works of Ida and Vincent known to me, as well as their photographs.

"I have even found two of my uncle's photographs from the Lodz ghetto, where he perished. Three of the 12 siblings died, separately, on an amazing date, the December 31, 1944, two weeks before the liberation. Vincent died three months earlier, but also a very short time before the end of the war."

I was touched in a strange way by Elly's story. It was a little as if I had found the traces of a lost family member. It was all so sad, so wonderful and so unexpected. It was as if an unseen hand was turning another page in the history of the brooch.

I went to my safety deposit box and took out the lovely brooch, from which the unknown woman was again smiling at me her enigmatic smile. To speed things up, I took a photocopy of the brooch and sent it to Israel.

A few days later, something made me open the book *Polyn* to the page where, next to the text, there was Brauner's photograph. I placed the brooch next to it. Yes, there was a resemblance. The same longish nose, the oblong face, slightly slanted eyes. The brooch seemed different now, as if it had acquired a new life. They say that an artist recreates himself in each of his works.

In the evening, when I opened my e-mail, there was a very short note from Elly, who has just received the photograph. Like many survivors of the Holocaust, she doesn't express many emotions in her letters, and e-mail messages are less personal than handwritten notes. And yet I detected deep emotion in her few words.

"It seems to me," she wrote, "I'm quite convinced that the woman on the brooch is my mother."

Roma Gelblum Bross is a writer who lives in Montreal.

Opinions

Internet trash

By this time, many readers will have learned of the accusation levelled against Amazon.com and Barnes& Noble.com that they promoted anti-Semitic trash on their Internet Web sites. I have not visited the sites recently, but if in fact *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* are being advertised there, some serious questions must be asked.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Booksellers will generally assert that they cannot act as censors, but they know, or should know, that they have some responsibility to let their potential readers know of the dubious quality of some of their offerings.

This is especially true with regard to *The Protocols*, a forgery that for a century and more has done enormous damage to our people and has contributed to making the Holocaust palatable to all too many.

Since both Amazon and Barnes & Noble have a worldwide clientele, the damage of advertising *The Protocols* can be potentially devastating. Therefore it is good to learn that both companies have tried to find a middle way between their freedom to let readers judge the value of their offerings and the damage that such books might do.

Abraham H. Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, has issued the following statement concerning the latest developments: "We are pleased that Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com have responded positively to our concerns and those of the public, and have instituted ways to alert their customers to the fact that *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* is a fake.

"Since we are not in the business of banning books, no matter how reprehensible they may be, we sought and achieved the best solution to inform book buyers. Both Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com have demonstrated corporate responsibility and we commend them for it."

Foxman further says that both companies will publish the following statement with regard to *The Protocols*: "Circulated by the czarist secret police at the turn of the 20th century, it is plainly and simply a plagiarized forgery. *The Protocols* has been a major weapon in the arsenals of anti-Semites around the world, republished and circulated by individuals, hate groups and governments, to convince the gullible as well as the bigoted that Jews have schemed and plotted to take over the world."

In addition, Barnes & Noble bookstores will no longer shelve *The Protocols* under "Judaica," but under "World History."

That helps a little, but not a lot. In my opinion, the two companies have no obligation to carry *The Protocols* at all; *however*, many people would like to read it. They do not list all the books ever published, and thus they choose what to offer their customers. It is not a question of censorship, but of prudence and good sense.

The great tax debate

Israeli Finance Minister Avraham (Baiga) Shochat has put his reputation on the line with a proposal for comprehensive tax reform. The current Israeli debate on taxation echoes many of the themes familiar to Canadians and citizens of other western countries.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Over the last two decades, Israel has slowly modernized its tax system and brought it closer to the norms in comparable economies. But while its highest tax level has been reduced, it has retained a complex web of outdated tax exemptions. The most glaring of these has been the absence of any tax on stock earnings, and the absence of any demand for annual reporting on earnings for individuals.

The Ben-Bassat Commission's recommendations are far-reaching. They reduce income tax on middle-class wage earners, while capping the maximum tax level at 50 percent. At the same time, they address numerous activities that have been tax exempt. These include inheritance tax, tax on large financial gifts, rental and sale of real estate, and most importantly, an imposition of 25 percent tax on stock market earnings.

For Shochat, the proposed reform is politically significant and symbolic. Less than a decade ago, as finance minister in Yitzhak Rabin's government, he was forced to retract a proposal for taxation of stock market profits as a result of intense pressure from the business community. At the same time, Shochat agreed to a series of new wage agreements with public sector unions that promised them hefty increases, thereby pushing the country into the recession of the Netanyahu years. His mistake had been ignoring the necessary political groundwork for what had always been a controversial concept.

Although it was clear to all that the exemption from stock taxes dated back to a time when encouragement of investment in the capital markets had been a national priority, a consensus had developed in favour of retaining the privilege. By now, that consensus has shifted to a more realistic assessment of the need for such a tax. If he succeeds, Shochat will regain much of the political ground he lost.

There are a few instructive precedents in the long history of Israeli tax commissions. The first is the success of the Ben-Shachar Commission in 1974. Tax levels were decreased from 82(!) percent, numerous exempt categories were cancelled, and the percentage of tax evaders dropped dramatically as a result.

Ben-Shachar kept the exemption on stock market earnings, due to a perceived need for economic growth in the aftermath of the costly Yom Kippur War. The commission enjoyed the full backing of prime minister Rabin (in his first term of office), and demanded implementation of its report as a complete package and succeeded.

Dan Meridor and Yaacov Ne'eman fared differently as finance ministers in Benjamin Netanyahu's government. Both tried to introduce reform proposals, and both failed, primarily for political reasons. The repercussions were serious for their respective political careers as well as for their relationships with Netanyahu.

The public's position on the matter is especially interesting when compared to the findings of an international study conducted by Angus Reid. Israelis rank highest among fifteen countries (including Canada) in their dissatisfaction with their level of taxation. They oppose higher taxes for more government services, but respond in favour of greater expenditures on health and education.

The contradiction is interpreted as indicative of a general lack of confidence in the government's economic policy, and a belief that there is significant wastage in the public sector. The change in Israeli public opinion is most evident in the slim majority in favour of greater defence expenditures.

Shochat's package will be viewed as a "more-tax" package rather than one that rebalances the system. He can expect opposition from Shas, which positions itself as the party of the disadvantaged, and will argue for maintenance of various exemptions and credits that have historically existed, such as a tax credit for working women.

Shochat has until the end of December to pass the proposal in the cabinet and then through three difficult readings in the Knesset. At the moment, neither he nor Barak has a lot of political credit to spare. It will take all their political savvy to push the proposal through.

Shochat wants to be remembered like Ben-Shachar, rather than like Ne'eman or Meridor.

More reflections on Passover

Passover illustrates the range of Jewish experience. This year in addition to my two regular seders, I attended a Unitarian seder, invited by a friend who is active in the church. It was a charming event, the 10th seder held by this church. Of the 50 people present, I estimate 10 were Jewish and some of the rest perhaps had ties to Jews. Each table was replete with festive decorations, and had matzah, maror, charoset, kosher wine and a few other seder plate items.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

The actual ceremony was extremely truncated but made the basic points. It was all in English – even an abbreviated Dayenu, except for two blessings (I was one of two people in the room who knew Hebrew.) The readings lasted about 30 minutes, and then came the food. Here there was a clear Jewish influence, as the meal included chicken soup with matzah balls, and a first-rate brisket.

The evening was a real learning experience for me. As some readers know, Unitarians are not a true Christian church. Jesus and indeed any kind of Christian God do not figure prominently in the doctrine. Unitarians are open to the ethical teaching of many faiths.

The Passover readings made no mention of Christianity at all. Some church members were Jews in mixed marriages or lapsed Jews – Jewnitarians. But this seder was in no way a covert attempt to convert the Jews.

I later discovered that many of Christian churches of all denominations hold seders; it seems to be a growth industry. In some cases, these seders do have a Christian focus, linking the seder to the last supper of Jesus.

They offer Christians a new set of religious rituals to make up for the loss of others. In other cases, the motives are a concern for promoting tolerance and for simply learning about their faiths.

For some of the Jews, partial Jews, or former Jews who attend, these seders serve as a last link to their Jewish heritage.

While some liberal synagogues have in the past invited churches to participate in seders as a way to promote dialogue, Jews set limits. I cannot imagine even the most liberal synagogue deciding to sponsor, for its own members, a Christmas dinner or event replete with a nativity scene, crosses, communion, some hymns, etc.

At the other end of the spectrum of Jewish experience is *A Survivors' Haggadah*, recently reissued by the Jewish Publication Society. In my last column I expressed a preference for the traditional version of the Haggadah. But there are exceptions.

One such is the moving Haggadah, written in 1945 and first used by Holocaust survivors in a 1946 seder near Munich. The Haggadah was the work of Yosev Dov Sheinson, a Lithuanian Jew and himself a survivor.

This illustrated Haggadah, written first in Hebrew and Yiddish, interweaves the story of the exodus with the recent destruction and liberation of European Jewry. Paraphrasing the original text it states: "We were slaves to Hitler in Germany…" The JPS version is a facsimile of the original with an English translation.

This Haggadah is powerful in its purity, its raw authenticity, its immediacy, its dignity. It is a testament to the courage and resilience of the survivors right after the Shoah.

There is a Canadian angle to this remarkable story. After the war, Dov Sheinson moved to Montreal, where he and his wife rebuilt their lives. As a child I attended seders in their home but cannot recall discussions of the Haggadah.

Sheinson served for many years as a dedicated teacher and administrator in the Adath Israel Jewish day school. He was steeped in traditional Judaic learning and was a Zionist, yet his brand of Judaism was tolerant of the full spectrum of Jewish identification. Sheinson also developed a successful career as a writer and publisher of textbooks for the teaching of Hebrew and related curricular materials, used not only in Canada but throughout the world. In his efforts to modernize the teaching of Hebrew he was a true visionary.

From a survivors' seder in 1946 Munich to a Unitarian seder in 2000 Montreal, Passover captures the bittersweet flavour of the Jewish past and present.

Defining Israel's border with Lebanon

In accordance with Prime Minister Ehud Barak's election campaign promise to withdraw from southern Lebanon by July 7, Israel has decided that its planned pullout will be based on the only commonly recognized border, demarcated by Britain and France in 1923.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Israel acknowledges that anything less than a withdrawal of this magnitude, though not militarily ideal, would be counterproductive.

An Israeli cabinet minister, Matan Vilnai, put it best when he said that the withdrawal must be complete so that Hezbollah and its Lebanese and Palestinian allies are robbed of the legal grounds for continuing attacks against Israel after July. "We cannot leave the other side any pretext," he explained in a recent interview.

The logic is irresistible, given Hezbollah's declaration that it will continue fighting with all its might if the Israeli army occupies so much as even a metre of Lebanese territory.

Having tasted Hezbollah's resolve and resourcefulness on the battlefield, Israel does not underestimate its threat to carry on the mini-war, Israel's Vietnam, which has claimed the lives of 331 Israeli soldiers in Israel's self-declared security zone since 1985.

Having accepted the need to withdraw to the 1923 international line, Israel, through its United Nations ambassador Yehuda Lancry, has promised to leave no "pockets" in Lebanon. Once it withdraws, Israel, finally, will be in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 425, passed in 1978 in the wake of Israel's first full-scale invasion of Lebanon (Operation Litani).

Among other things, the resolution calls for "strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon." UN envoy Terje Roed Larsen – a key figure in the early Oslo peace process – reiterated this point during a recent visit to the region.

Israel's decision to retreat from Lebanon came in the wake of a vigorous internal debate. Shortly after it was announced by the Israeli cabinet on March 5, on the heels of Barak's disappointment that it would not be an integral component of a peace treaty with Syria, the army disclosed its intention to maintain bases several hundred metres inside Lebanon.

Under a plan called Morning Twilight, these bases were to remain in place to compensate for the topographical inferiority of Israeli border settlements like Misgav Am, Manara and Margoliyot, all of which have been vulnerable to infiltration and attack over the years.

The chief proponents of this strategy, Chief of Staff Gen. Shaul Mofaz and Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh, suggested that Israel would abide by the 1978 rather than the 1923 boundary. "There is no party that can judge what is the border," said Sneh. "We will decide from where to withdraw."

This view was hotly contested by the justice minister, Yossi Beilin, one of the first mainstream Israeli politicians to espouse a unilateral withdrawal, with or without Syria's participation. Beilin argued that a less than full withdrawal would lack legitimacy, encourage Hezbollah to fight on, and undermine attempts to organize a peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon (which will be headed by UNIFIL, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon).

Beilin prevailed largely because the Lebanese government let it be known that it would not recognize the 1978 border. In this spirit, Foreign Minister David Levy, reached an agreement with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan under which Israel would withdraw to the pre-1978 frontier.

Israel will need to make difficult and costly adjustments if it honours this accord completely. Forty kilometres of its security fence along the Lebanese frontier will have to be moved southward. More than a dozen military outposts will be dismantled. Buildings in the western sector of Misgav Am, as well as a road near Manara, will have to be relocated. In addition, a reservoir constructed by the Mekorot Water company, some three metres north of the international border, will probably have to be destroyed. Furthermore, Israel will be under pressure to relinquish fields on the western slope of Mt. Hermon that straddle Lebanon's border with Syria.

The complex Lebanese border question is exacerbated by the fact that Israel and Lebanon don't quite agree about where in fact the international border runs.

In 1949, following the War of Independence, the two countries signed an armistice agreement in Rhodes based on the 1923 border. But the agreement was essentially flawed. On closer scrutiny, negotiators discovered that they had somehow overlooked certain gaps, from the Ramim range west of Metulla to the terrain from Hanita to the Mediterranean Sea. Israel's conquest of the Golan Heights in the 1967 Six Day War raised yet another problem. The Alawite village of Rajar was not wholly Syrian, with two-thirds of it jutting into Lebanon.

Israeli troops patrol Lebanese border.

Israel, in response to an upsurge of Palestinian raids in the 1970s and 1980s, made further unilateral adjustments to its border with Lebanon. After Operation Litani, Israel built fortifications slightly north of it and also financed the formation of a now doomed surrogate force, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), recruited from Christian and Muslim villages in the vicinity. In 1980, after a terrorist incident in Misgav Am, Israel moved the border 200 metres northward and westward. By the end of the 1982 Lebanon War, Israel's security zone, counting these minor incursions, comprised 10 percent of Lebanon's overall territory.

Before Israel's withdrawal takes place, however, Israeli, Lebanese and UN cartographers will survey and map the border with a fine toothcomb. If there are still disputes or discrepancies, the UN will be the final arbiter, Israel has agreed.

Since Israel proclaimed its intention to vacate the security zone, Lebanon, presumably under the influence of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, has issued dire, confusing forecasts about the future volatility of the border area.

Echoing his master's voice in Damascus, President Emile Lahoud warned that a unilateral withdrawal – which would strip Syria of a vital bargaining chip in negotiations over the Golan – could spark a war. Lebanese Defence Minister Ghazi Zueiter joined the hysterical chorus by implying that Tel Aviv would be in range of Syrian rockets.

Then Lebanon threatened to withhold co-operation with the UN unless its demands were met: the disarmament of Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon, guarantees that Israel would respect its territorial integrity and that Palestinian refugees in Lebanon would be permitted to return to their former homes in Israel, and compensation from Israel for damages inflicted on Lebanese property.

When Israel rejected these conditions, Lebanon meekly backed down. On April 18, Salim Hoss, the Lebanese prime minister, embraced Israel's proposed withdrawal and the need for a UN force to patrol southern Lebanon, but not before he had describing the pullout as "a crushing defeat for Israel."

Syria went through similar gyrations.

Farouk al-Sharaa, Syria's foreign minister, initially predicted that a unilateral Israeli withdrawal would be "suicidal." Since this exercise in scare-mongering, Damascus has toned down its rhetoric. Although Assad obviously prefers a joint Lebanon-Golan package deal, he has grudgingly welcomed Israel's imminent pullout, and has also consented to the deployment of UNIFIL peacekeepers to fill the potentially dangerous void the Israeli army and the SLA may leave in southern Lebanon come the summer.

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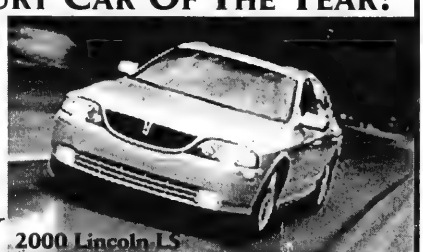
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'Useless' to blame politicians, conference told

Continued from page 3

Economist Armine Yalnizyan noted that people at the bottom of the income spectrum have "become invisible" to decision-makers. "Not only is there a greater distance between rich and poor," she said, "there are more people moving up as well as down, [so there's] a hollowing out of the middle."

The trend away from full-time work to part-time, temporary or contract jobs – with lower wages and no benefits – has contributed to the erosion of the middle, she said. It also accounts for a lower standard of living co-existing with an increase in actual number of jobs, she explained.

Speaker Kathy Young spoke about how she was able to get back on her feet financially as a single mother – returning to school and "working [her] butt off" – while living in Kehilla housing for seven years, at subsidized rates for part of that time.

Kehilla board member Sarah Kravetz read a speech by scheduled speaker Corinne Kagan, who was unable to attend. Kagan, the grants co-ordinator for the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, has had a physical disability since birth. As a consumer of supportive housing for the past 12 years, she faces the "dual challenges of needing affordable housing and [provincially funded] attendant services."

While Kagan pays full market value for her apartment, she noted, her rent was lowered a few years ago when she was temporarily out of work.

"Corinne is one of the success stories," said Kravetz, who is executive director of the Clarendon Foundation, an attendant care service provider. "Providing affordable housing creates an alternative to institutionalization. People who need services often expend valuable financial resources to try to cobble together alternatives."

Blaming politicians for homelessness is "useless," said keynote speaker Anne Golden, president of the United Way of Greater Toronto who chaired Mayor Mel Lastman's Homelessness Action Task Force.

She prefers to offer solutions and has been expressing her frustration since last summer at the failure by various levels of government to take action. She credited the city of Toronto, however, for legalizing "second suites" within homes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A new volunteer opportunity! Be part of the Community Volunteer Visiting Program. If you are interested in providing regular social contact with seniors in the community, please contact Baycrest volunteer services 416-785-2500, ext. 2572.

***

Volunteers are needed for the Third Annual Zareinu Move-a-thon on June 18. Contact Richard Bassett at the Village Shul 416-785-1107, ext. 208.

***

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If you would like to work with a small community-based feminist organization committed to anti-racism and social justice, call North York Women's Centre at 416-781-0479 for more information or to get a volunteer package.

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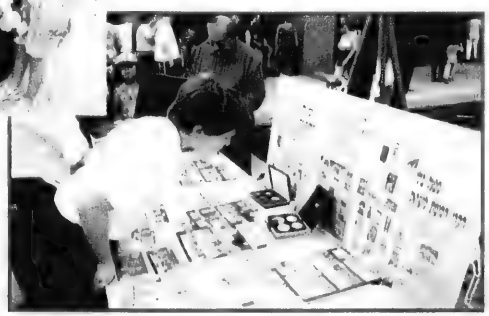
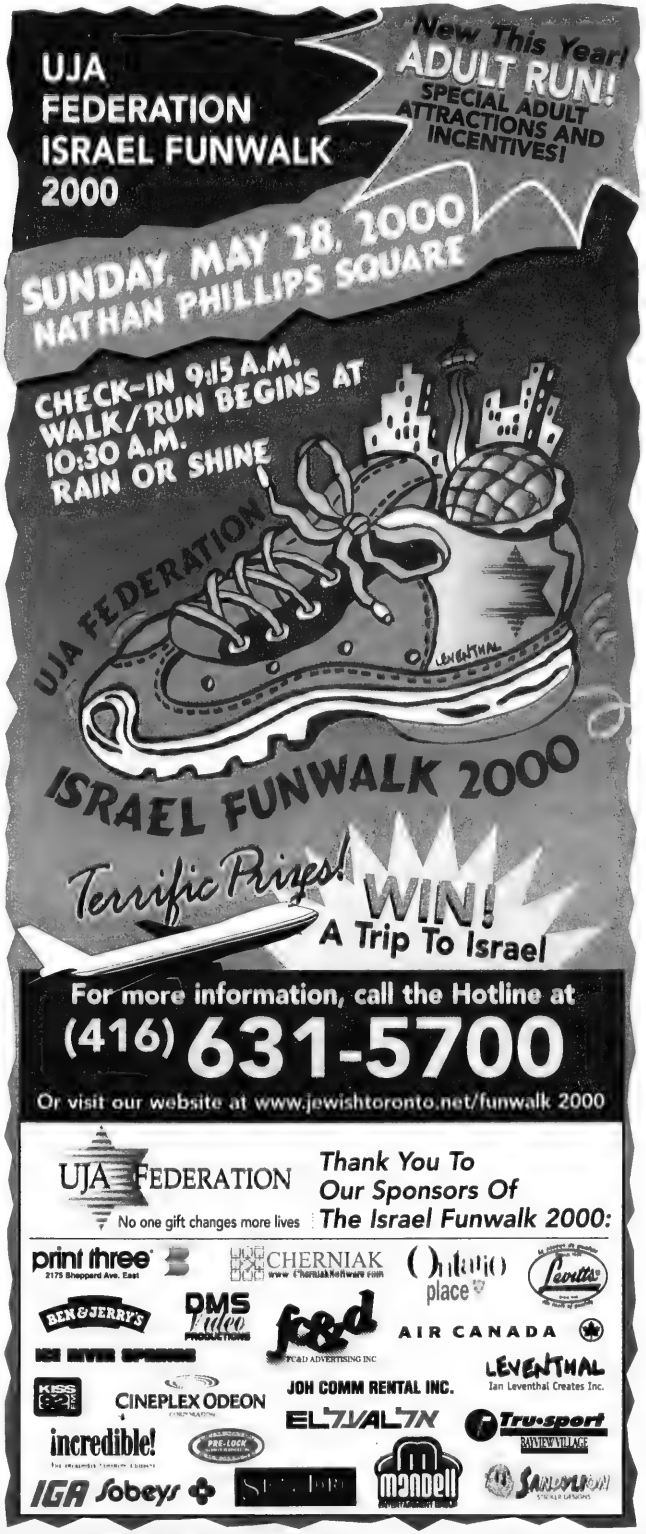


ISRAEL DAY FESTIVITIES: Thousands turned out in Mel Lastman Square May 7 for the community's annual Israel Day Festival. Children's choirs, Israeli dancing, a *shuk*, food, arts and crafts rounded out a perfect day sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation. [Ron Csillag photos]



Giving to beggars may not be a mitzvah: rabbi

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Giving to a beggar on the street may not be the best way to perform a mitzvah, said Rabbi Dow Marmur, spiritual leader of Holy Blossom Temple.

"It is hard to ignore someone with an outstretched arm, but in the past, the Jewish community has outlawed begging by providing for the poor," he said recently, at the first part of a two-part panel discussion arranged by Temple Sinai, Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, and the Native Men's Residence. The sponsor was Caldwell Securities.

Also on the panel was Prof. Debra Britzman of York University school of education and social and political thought; and Prof. Ernie Lightman an economist from University of Toronto's school of social work. Moderator was Nicole Rabba, a sociologist from York University.

Rabbi Marmur, who lives downtown, asked if he has to give something substantial to each beggar in order to fulfil a mitzvah, give to beggars selectively, or give to each one a small amount. "Is that really a mitzvah, or are we leading to their self-destruction if they use the money to buy cigarettes or liquor?

"We should be using our political clout to ensure that social services are available to everyone in need. Instead of [Premier Harris'] $200 cheque being sent to people who do not need it, it should go towards keeping people protected," Rabbi Marmur said.

Philanthropy does not solve social problems, he said, it only embellishes the status quo.

According to traditional economics, said Lightman, the individual is principal. "It is assumed that the individual is competent of making an informed choice, and that he will act to maximize his own well-being. If I feel better about giving a coin to a beggar, then, I will give it. It has nothing to do with the beggar. There is no moral obligation to do anything."

"Economics is a value-free system of analysis," he said. In the traditional model, he said, the beggar gets his money, and the person who gives the money feels good about it.

It's as if those people who don't want help are making an informed choice to freeze and if someone chooses to live on the street, no one has the right to tell him what to do, he said.

In the traditional economic model, when we give a beggar a coin, said Lightman, we are allowing him to act autonomously by not telling him what to do with the money. "If someone wants to use up all the money the first day on drinks, no one has the right to interfere."

From an economic point of view, he said, there is no answer about whether to give a beggar a coin; it is up to the individual. There is no rule. "From my perspective, however, it is a difficult question. My training is in economics, but I am now teaching social work."

We need to think about a value system that has people who have more, provide for the others, said Rabbi Marmur. "That becomes my religious obligation. I want to perform the kind of mitzvah that improves society. I am an advocate of a system based on religious values. Theology that speaks of justice is necessary."

Asked if we should buy a grocery item for a beggar instead of giving him a coin, Britzman said that she would feel uncomfortable assuming what people need. "I acknowledge that someone is standing there, and sometimes I give money, and sometimes I don't. It would become a difficult situation if I would assume what they want."

Giving people groceries does not solve the problem, said Rabbi Marmur. "The poor remain poor, and the rich remain rich.

"The only way to deal with charity is through the social welfare system. We should be using every opportunity to seek a modification of the present 'we-ism', the narcissistic part of society," he said.

SURPRISE VISIT: Posluns campus students at Associated Hebrew Schools were recently surprised by two Toronto Blue Jays players. The visit by shortstop Chris Woodward (right) and bullpen coach Roly deArmas (left) was arranged by school principals Rosalie Sniderman and Betty Katzman to reward students for their success in this year's Derech Eretz campaign. **[Adina Abramov photo]**

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Grandeur and detail

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

As we count the days of the Omer, we approach the 33rd day, Lag b'Omer. On this day we change our usual "omer" behaviour and celebrate a holiday.

It is on this day that we believe Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son left the cave in which they had been hiding from the Romans for 13 years. Tradition teaches that during these 13 years Rabbi Shimon was writing the corpus of Jewish mysticism that becomes the central text of the Kabbalah.

He does not create Jewish mysticism, but rather records the secrets that he has learned.

Upon exiting the cave, the great rabbi encounters people going about their daily lives. Some are tilling land while others are conducting business. The rabbi is appalled to see Jewish people neglecting their spirituality by filling their time with mundane matters. In fact, he is so appalled that he sets fire to everything he sees with a mere glance.

The Talmud then states that God admonished him for destroying elements of the world with his fire and banishes him and his son back to the cave for another 12 months.

Upon re-emerging from the cave the rabbi and his son meet an old man who is hurrying home before the Sabbath holding two myrtle branches. When they ask what the branches are for he tells them they are for Shabbat. But why two, they ask and the man responds that one is for the commandment to "keep" the Sabbath while the second is to commemorate the commandment to "remember" the Sabbath.

At that point Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai tells his son to remember this moment and learn from it.

If one involves oneself entirely in spiritual matters and explores the wonders of Jewish mysticism, a danger emerges. It is not the danger of misusing the secretive powers of the Kabbalah, rather it is the danger of viewing the whole and neglecting its parts.

By focusing on the mystical truths of the universe, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai did not value the details of the universe. Tilling the soil involves us with God's creation and connects us with the Divine. Engaging in commerce builds our society into a healthy and respectful structure in which people are valued and useful. Again we are dealing with God's creations and are connected with the Divine.

God personally admonishes the rabbi for destroying parts of creation and sends him back to refocus his knowledge.

It is the image of the old man who pays attention to the details of the Sabbath that stands as the true lesson. Jewish mysticism is not the understanding of the grandeur of secret phrases and formulas.

The period of the Omer removes the grand celebrations from our community life. Perhaps this Lag B'Omer we can take a moment to remember that God is in the details.

National Bible Contest winners

Jewish students from across Canada recently gathered in Toronto to participate in the 41st Annual National Bible Contest finals.

The 2000 National Contest Finals held at the Netivot HaTorah Day School and the Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation of Toronto drew more than 200 students from Winnipeg, Vancouver, Victoria, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

All contestants, students from grades 5 to OAC, from both day and supplementary Jewish schools, qualified at regional competitions in February. Students at the national contest competed over a day and a half in one of four groups, an English division for supplementary schools, and three Hebrew divisions for day schools.

The judges for the contest were Prof. B. Barry Levy of McGill University, Dr. Seymour Epstein of the Toronto Board of Jewish Education, Mordechai Mashlai of the Torah Education Department of the World Zionist Organization, and Mr. Mooli Brug, national education emissary of the Jewish National Fund.

The first and second place winners in the Grade 9 to OAC division at the recent National Bible Contest are Eliav Danziger of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (left) and Sara Ronis of the Hebrew Academy, Montreal. They will represent Canada at the 2001 World Bible Contest in Jerusalem.

The winners in the 2000 National Bible Contest are:

Supplementary School Division — Grades 5 and 6: Eric Wolinsky, Beth Tikvah Congregational School, Toronto; Riva Gold, Beth Tikvah Congregational School, Toronto; Sara Moon, Temple Israel, Ottawa.

Grades 7 and 8: Alexander Ostroff, Temple Israel, Ottawa.

Day School Division — Grades 5 and 6: Malki Feldman, Eitz Chaim (Viewmount), Toronto; Jill Pancer, Akiva School, Montreal; Maayan Anafi, United Synagogue Day Schools, Toronto.

Grades 7 and 8: Leah Radjinsky, Or Haemet, Toronto; Leah Breslow, Eitz Chaim (Spring Farm), Toronto; Saar Warner, Associated Hebrew Schools, Toronto.

Grades 9 to OAC: Eliav Danziger, Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto; Sara Ronis, Hebrew Academy, Montreal; Yakov Frydman-Kohl, Yeshivat Or Chaim, Toronto; and Moshe Halpern, Yeshivat Or Chaim, Toronto.

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Regina Gotlib and Family

Jewish Life

Internet sites for kids

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we looked at some of the Jewish sites on the Internet for teens. Today, we're going to turn the clock back a few years and look at places for younger kids to surf.

Sparks is a magazine for children nine to 13 **[http://www.sparksmag.com]**. There's a section on Jewish Pokemon We'd Love to See!, a Kindness Art Gallery and a section about Jewish Kids from Ages Past. We are introduced to Moses Jacob Ezekiel, who was the first Jewish cadet enrolled at the Virginia Military Institute in the 1860s. We are told about the anti-Semitism that he faced and we are challenged to write in about how we would react.

While some sites simply try to amuse, others pack a message, too.

Torahtots definitely has a message that "learning is fun," and your kids should enjoy their stay **[http://www.torahtots.com/]**. It's full of stories, games and colouring pages. One of the central points of the site is an explanation of the current week's Torah reading in Parsha On Parade. In the music section, the songs are lively and have names like *Totsland*, *Skibble Dibble* and *Hodu LaShem* (Praise God): "Every soda pop, every clip that clops, every two fives for a 10, every ring around the collar, and the medicine you swallow, proclaims, Hodu L'Hashem."

Would you like to play a game? ZigZag Inc. claims to produce the best Jewish Games on the Web **[http://www.zigzagworld.com/]**. Best of all, they are all free and you can play them online. ZigZag was founded in 1996 by doctors Ted and Marsha Hopp, a husband-and-wife team of computer professionals in Gaithersburg, Md. Their Web site is a delight – full of online games such as Dress the Torah, Why Don't Zebras Play Chess? and the frustrating AlefBetGo! Your browser must be able to handle Java to play these games.

Do you remember those handheld puzzles where you were challenged to slide the little squares in as few moves as possible to create a picture? Well, now you can do the same thing online when you are challenged to put a map of Israel back together **[http://www.bus.ualberta.ca/yreshef/funland/funland.html]**. Other challenges at Jewish Funland include a Hebrew vocabulary quiz, a wordsearch game and Hebrew Hangman – the classic game, using Hebrew words.

Has your child heard *Goodnight Moon* one too many times? Well, there is an alternative. Jewish Bedtime Stories has dozens of tales contributed by parents around the world **[http://www.jcn18.com/scripts/jcn18/forum/forum_fairy_tales.idc?ForumID=63&TopicID=4]**.

And if you are still looking for more Jewish Kids' sites, then I highly recommend the Children's Judaica page **[http://members.tripod.com/ProudMommy/judaica.html]**.

Finally, a few technical comments: Please note that some of these Web sites have lots of special effects and if your computer isn't up to snuff, it could crash. You will need a recent Java-enabled browser of Netscape Communicator or Internet Explorer. In addition to RealPlayer 7 Basic program **[http://www.real.com/player/index.html?src=000508realhome]**, you will probably need Flash and Shockwave Players from Macromedia **[http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/]**. All these programs are free.

Should you have trouble installing these programs, just ask your child for help.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@home.com].

Mourning state of Jewish affairs

By RABBI AARON FLANZRAICH

It certainly seems as if the ingredients for a summer of discontent are all well in place. From this vantage point in the heart of Toronto, the Leafs have lost their quest for a Stanley Cup yet again, so mourning will be in vogue a while. While I do not mourn their loss, I do mourn a few others. And despite what many people may think, it has very little to do with the past, although its roots are to be found there.

No, for me, what I mourn and lament more than most is the state of Jewish affairs today.

It seems almost bewildering, when you get down to thinking about it. The Jewish people today are freer, more invested, more infra-structured, more endowed, more comfortable than ever before. So why does it seem that we are more restricted, divested, broken down, ignored and uncomfortable than ever before?

The proverbial finger of blame can land squarely on all of us. Because, the last time I had occasion to look, there are no bands of Cossacks chasing after us, and no mass deportations of Jews worldwide. No, our problems are truly of our own making. The blame lies with us.

The problem is that we have an inherent inability to accept and really get along with one another. I say this not in lofty conceptional language, but the facts on the ground are the facts. The divisions between all the streams of Judaism have hit an all time low, and the various leaderships of the Jewish world are doing little about it.

Yes, we all talk about it, but everyone seems to have "the solution" based on his or her comfort level. Few, if any, are prepared to make any sacrifices in the name of Jewish peace. I do know that for many, the things that divide us seem to be of global, or even divine, significance. But I really wonder about that, and question if that is true. I guess it all comes down to what you think God expects from us.

This week we will be reading the Torah portion of Behar, and in it we can find a remarkable key to this problem. We begin by reading, "And the Lord spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai saying..." As simple as this sounds, it astounded our sages. Why is it that right in the middle of the third book of the Torah we revert back to the revelation at Sinai? Does it not seem out of place?

So our tradition reminds us that there is no sense of chronology attached to the events of the Torah, there are different purposes at work here. But both Rashi and the Ramban, two prolific biblical commentators, tackled this problem in a different way.

Rashi reminds us that every mitzvah in the Torah was given at Mt. Sinai after the exodus from Egypt. The Ramban writes in his attack on Rashi's position, "and this seems not to be accurate in my eyes at all." He continues to contend that the revelation continued throughout the 40-year desert wandering.

The two positions are light years apart, and they strike very different chords in how we perceive the Torah and its revelation. And I wonder, if both Rashi and the Ramban can share the same page in our Chumashim (Bibles), why can't we get on the same page as well? I know that we feel a great deal divides us, but not nearly as much if we fail to accept our differences.

I am certain that behind the depth of our differing theologies and Halachah there is a God waiting, patiently, for his children to finally get the message that beneath all of the processes of Jewish life there remains a purpose. Let us not lose it.

Rabbi Flanzraich is spiritual leader of the Beth Sholom Synagogue in Toronto.

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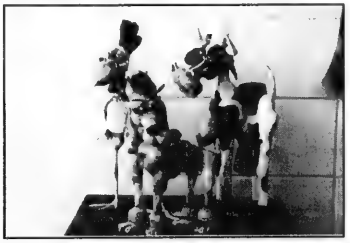
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Greater Toronto Area

Agunot, peace concern Efrat's chief rabbi

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin

TORONTO — Rabbi Shlomo Riskin is known as someone who stands up for his ideals.

Founder and former spiritual leader of the innovative Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York, a PhD from New York University's department of Near Eastern languages and literature, an early advocate for Soviet Jewry, modern Orthodoxy and advanced education and opportunities for women within Orthodoxy, Rabbi Riskin, the chief rabbi of Efrat, is a well-known speaker, author and teacher.

Rabbi Riskin spoke to *The CJN* during a recent visit to Toronto.

His current project – or one of them – is to create a special court in Jerusalem where rabbis could "nullify a marriage, if the husband is acting improperly, in cases of extortion, for instance."

The problem of the agunah, the woman whose husband will not give her a *get*, a religious divorce, is one in which Rabbi Riskin has been involved in a very practical way.

Although there is room in Jewish law for the rabbis to "coerce" a divorce, "the courts are loath to use [that power]," he said.

Israel, he said, has a higher percentage of agunot than anywhere else. One major reason, he believes, is that until recently, there have been no women advocates, women who can speak for those seeking a divorce in a rabbinic court.

There are now, however, some 60 or 70 women advocates practising in Israel, and another 30 are being trained.

A strong advocate, he said, can explain the situation to the judges, which the woman involved may feel unable or embarrassed to do. Also, he said, there may be facts that the Halachah insists are grounds for divorce, but require someone knowledgeable to bring them to the court's attention.

"The problem is not Halachah," the rabbi asserted. "The problem is how it is interpreted."

The results achieved by the women advocates he said, have been gratifying. Some 150 "hard cases" have been solved, and there is even a separate court for agunot.

The Knesset is being urged to pass a law that would punish a recalcitrant husband by withholding all licences, such as professional or driving licences.

A hotline giving advice and assistance is being widely used, even by secular women, he said. There are three full-time advocates on staff at Jerusalem's hotline, and similar hotlines have been requested in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Safed.

"There is even a Palestinian woman lawyer who wants to open one for Palestinian women, who also have problems protecting themselves in the divorce process," Rabbi Riskin said.

He insisted that "there is a precedent" for rabbinical courts to try very hard to prevent women from becoming agunot as much as possible, for example, by granting divorces by fiat, rabbinic decree.

The rabbi isn't nearly as optimistic about the peace process. "Peace," he said dryly, "requires two partners."

Citing inflammatory rhetoric by Syrian officials, Yasser Arafat's wife Suha's accusations that Israel poisoned Arab wells, and Arab television and school textbooks, he said that "as long as the rhetoric is not tempered, we would be ill advised to give up anything."

As well, he said, "the Arabs constantly up the ante. First they wanted the Golan, then the Galilee; and now Arafat wants Ramot and French Hill."

Rabbi Riskin blasted the "so-called intelligentsia in Israel, the post-Zionists," who are questioning the right of Jews to be in Israel and are "rewriting school texts to question our right to come home."

The Arabs, he said, see this trend as weakness.

"Israeli leadership has to believe in itself, and in the justice of our cause. If we are [seen to be] strong, the Arabs will be willing to negotiate."

There have always been Jews who are more interested in being citizens of the world than in being proud Jews, he said.

"I don't understand that. If you can just as easily be a citizen of Hong Kong, then why not go to Hong Kong, or even to Uganda [as Herzl suggested]. We have lost our sense of purpose."

A passionate Zionist, Rabbi Riskin pointed out that "despite all our differences, in 51 years, no country has done so much in uniting people from the entire sociological, cultural and colour spectrum, building strong educational and economical systems, and creating a high quality of living."

Concluding the interview in a reflective mood, Rabbi Riskin said, "I believe in the common sense of Israel and the Jewish people. For that reason, I am optimistic about the future."

Greater Toronto Area

Missionaries want symbol as own logo

Continued from page 1

Earlier this month, Mitch Glazer, president of Chosen People Ministries, headquartered in North Carolina, was cross-examined by CJC's lawyers behind closed doors at the Federal Court. Early next month, Prutschi will be similarly questioned by lawyers for Chosen People Ministries.

And in September, a judge of the Federal Court's trial division is expected to begin public deliberations on who may use a menorah as a federally registered, legally protected emblem.

This tug-of-war over an ancient symbol began in late 1998, when two Toronto lawyers who specialize in intellectual property spotted Chosen People Ministries' semi-circular menorah in a journal that publishes trademark applications for the public to see. The lawyers alerted CJC.

Anyone wishing to oppose an application can do so to the Registrar of Trademarks at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office in Ottawa, an arm of the department of industry. CJC filed a strongly worded statement of opposition, saying the menorah is a Jewish symbol and that the attempt to adopt it by a group that works "specifically to convert Jews to Christianity" is "scandalous and immoral."

CJC was later joined by B'nai Brith Canada, whose symbol since 1875 has been a menorah. BBC blasted Chosen People Ministries' attempt to trademark the menorah as a "blatant misrepresentation of Christianity as Judaism."

But unbeknownst to Jewish advocacy groups, Chosen People Ministries had also applied to register its menorah as an official mark, which is different than a trademark.

A trademark protects a symbol that is used to distinguish wares and services.

But an official mark is said to be superior. It protects any badge, crest, emblem or mark used by "any public authority" in Canada. The mark may be used on wares – including sweatshirts, pens, coffee mugs, calendars, bumper stickers and books – and on services, such as dissemination of religious literature via the Internet.

One of CJC's questions to the Court is why the government deems Chosen People Ministries a "public authority."

"We're definitely challenging that," Prutschi said.

As well, CJC says applications for official marks are not published beforehand. They can only be challenged in court.

Between 1997 and 1999, Chosen People Ministries applied for official mark status for its menorah three times, and was rejected. Finally, on its fourth attempt, the application was approved last November, at exactly the same time as CJC became aware of the trademark application.

That's when CJC launched its case, which seeks a judicial review of a government decision.

Meanwhile, both sides have agreed to put the battle over trademark status into abeyance.

Rich of Chosen People Ministries said an official mark offers more security and "is harder to get" than a trademark.

He stressed that it is not a standard menorah the group is trying to protect, "but a stylized version of the menorah. It's been registered in various other countries with no problems."

He said his group simply wants to keep using the emblem on its printed material and promotional items, and avoid legal problems down the road. "We don't want there to be any confusion."

Congress was caught off guard by the approval of the official mark because no public notice is required. "It flew under our radar screen," Prutschi explained. "It's not challengeable" the same way as trademarks are.

In the meantime, CJC is marshalling evidence to show that menorahs are used by a host of Jewish groups in Canada, including Jewish Family Services in Montreal, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, the Vaad Ha'ir of Montreal, several synagogues, Jewish Women International, the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism and State of Israel Bonds.

But Congress believes no Jewish organization in this country has ever registered the menorah as a protected symbol.

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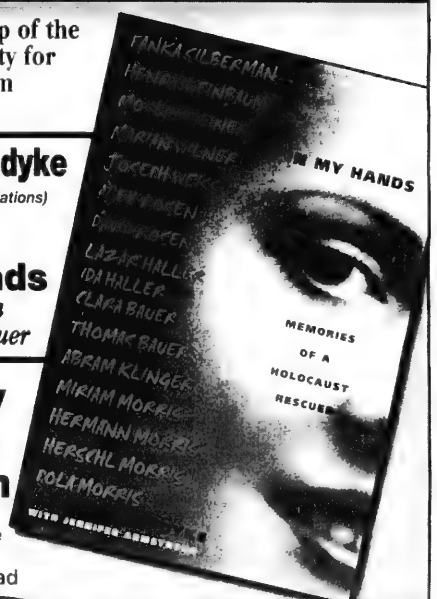

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Teens' project aimed at helping Israeli children

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Three Toronto teenagers are following the adage "from generation to generation" by emulating the philanthropic and leadership roles of their parents and grandparents.

Brandon Koffler, 16, Sam Jonas, 14, and Jeffrey Warshafsky, 14, recently founded a tzedakah project dedicated to encouraging Canadian youth to help less fortunate Israeli children have a better quality of life.

The recipients of their personal generosity and creative efforts are the children at 14 Israel Children's Centres, most located in impoverished and disadvantaged areas throughout Israel – from Kiryat Shmonah in the north to Beersheva in the south.

Koffler was the initiator of the new project. He says it is a tradition in his family to donate money to a charity to mark a special occasion. When he had his bar mitzvah, his grandparents, Marvelle and Murray Koffler, suggested that some of his gifts be directed to the Israel Children's Centres.

The centres, which received Israel's highest award, the Israel Prize for excellence in children's programs, offer such programs as Arab-Jewish Coexistence, which was created to bridge the rift between Israel's Jewish and Arab youth, as well as numerous programs for children with special needs – physical handicaps, developmental disabilities, hearing impairment or autism, as well as children at risk in their environment.

Emulating philanthropic, leadership roles of parents, grandparents

When he visited Israel, Koffler went to a centre. "It came to me that it would be a great idea to have children in Canada direct some of their bar and bat mitzvah gifts to these Israeli children," he says.

On his return to Canada, he decided to donate most of his bar mitzvah gifts to the children in the Children at Risk project.

When Koffler made the presentation at a fund-raising event for the children's centres, he issued a challenge to parents and grandparents to encourage their families to follow his example.

Robin and David Jonas attended the gala and spoke to their son Sam about making a donation in honour of his bar mitzvah. He agreed and purchased a wheelchair for an Israeli child.

Naomi and Neil Warshafsky also encouraged their son Jeffrey, an enthusiastic tennis player, to share his bar mitzvah gifts.

His mother searched the Internet and found that the Israel Children's Centres highlighted tennis for the handicapped.

"I grew up knowing that I should give some of my money to people who need it more," says Warshafsky. "And the tennis aspect made it even more exciting."

Several months ago, Janice Segal, co-ordinator and foundation director of the Canada-Israel Children's Centres (CICC), called the three boys together and they formed the New Young Leadership group with its own board.

Their mission statement outlines their goal: "To raise awareness of CICC through the bar/bat mitzvah project."

Their first task is to interest other young adults in participating in the tzedakah project. Their goal is to raise $25,000 in the year 2000 for the children of Israel. To date, they have raised $10,000.

The teenagers told *The CJN* that in addition to seeking donations and initiating other fund-raising projects for young adults, they hope to attract others to join their organizing committee.

Koffler noted that more than 300,000 children have been helped since the first centre opened in 1976 as a tennis centre.

Kevin Green, CICC president, and Robert Barkin, vice-president, are spearheading the young adults' projects. Green says he is moved and inspired by their conviction and leadership.

"I hope what they have started is contagious. It is a tribute to their parents that their children are already contributing to the community. I can only hope to set the same example for my own children.

"This new program involving children helping children and the participation of these committed teenagers is extremely refreshing and I am looking forward to many years of growth and continued success in helping the children in Israel."

As a side benefit, the three teenagers agree that along with the good feeling they have in helping others, they are delighted that the project has brought them together.

For more information on the New Young Leadership Project or the other programs of the CICC, call Janice Segal, 905-660-1999 or fax 905-660-1990).

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On Campus

Community targets services at 'gap' generation

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — They are caught in the gap. Too old to belong to youth groups such as B'nai Brith Youth Organization. Too young to be attracted to programs for parents. They are the 20 and 30-something graduates just out of reach of on-campus Hillels and Jewish student organizations.

This "gap" generation has become the target of burgeoning new groups, programs and services across Canada.

"The community has woken up and are doing things that are interesting to young people," said Richard Diamond, national chair of the UIA Federations Canada Young Leadership executive.

The community is packaging a better product, he said, in the form of social programs, fund-raising, educational and religious programs.

Ilana Krygier, director of Adult and Judaic Education at the Calgary Jewish Centre, says it is important to bridge the gap between young adulthood and parenthood.

"We hold their hands all the way through BBYO or USY and Hillel and all of a sudden, it's like 'bye — go be a Jewish adult now'," she said.

About 2½ years ago, six members of the Calgary Jewish Centre approached Krygier and said the centre should have programs for people their age. (They ranged in age from 23 to 30).

Jewish Adults of Calgary (JAC) was formed, and has grown to include 170 people on its mailing list.

"By Calgary standards, it is a pretty huge list and people are added every day," said Krygier.

She believes the "gap" generation formed because of a societal change.

"People have extended their young adulthood. People are not getting married at 22 or 23 right out of university," she said.

Before JAC was formed, events for young adults in Calgary were held once every few months or only once a year, said Krygier.

"It was very inconsistent. It was hard to find a place in the community where these young people would fit in," she said.

In London, the federation has wanted to get young people involved, but there was a perception that few people in the "gap" generation lived in the city. It was thought that most young people lived on campus at either The University of Western Ontario or Fanshawe College, had left London or had young families, said Aviva Orenstein Kalin, program director for the London Jewish Federation.

But Orenstein Kalin found members of the "gap" generation and in August, the London Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division (YAD) held its first event – a Shabbat dinner. YAD now has a mailing list of close to 280 people, a mitzvah committee, an outreach committee and is starting a fund-raising committee in the fall.

Across the country, most communities have assigned staff to work with young leadership which was not the case in the past, said Maxyne Finkelstein, executive director of UIA Federations Canada, the umbrella organization for local federations.

UIA Federation is hiring a director of leadership development and about two years ago, it formed the Canadian Young Leadership Executive, a body which organizes conferences, retreats and missions. This school year, Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto hired a new staff member to co-ordinate programs for graduate students and young professionals.

But for some organizations, catering to the "gap" generation is not new.

The State of Israel Bonds New Leadership Division for people in their 20s to early 40s has been around for many years, said Elan Levitan, national director of public relations. While the division started out small, it now has several hundred people on its mailing list.

"We're thinking a lot about what kind of activities, programs and investments would appeal to that demographic," he said.

Next month, Israel Bonds is holding an event specifically directed at young adults. They will be showing *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*, a movie about the famous Jewish baseball player.

"It is all part of trying to recognize the interests and needs of this demographic," said Levitan.

Another example — Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University's New Leadership Division for 25 to 40 year-olds — started in 1985 with 10 young professionals and now has between 40 and 50 active members and a mailing list of two to three hundred.

With ample programming in parts of Canada, some members of the "gap" generation are happy with what is available. Noam Goodman, a 30-year-old lawyer in Toronto, says he has felt connected to the Jewish community in the six years since graduating from York University's Osgoode Hall Law School. He has been invited to a number of UJA's young leadership activities and to many fund-raising events.

Dorian Barrs, a 29-year-old McMaster University graduate who now works in Toronto, said he is satisfied but disinterested in Toronto's young Jewish scene.

But 25-year-old Ben Silverberg, who moved to Hamilton two years ago to begin working as a cantor at Beth Jacob Synagogue, said he was disappointed to discover few programs for people his age.

Since his move, he has made plenty of connections with older people through the synagogue but says he is still searching for people his own age.

Few young people attend religious services at his synagogue, he said.

"They are not driven towards synagogue

Continued on page 26

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Coast to Coast

Jewish academics to gather in Edmonton

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — People from across the country will take part in the annual conference of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, to be held this year in Edmonton on May 28 and 29.

The bilingual organization with about 350 members, also known as Association d'études juives canadiennes, was founded in 1976 as the Canadian Jewish Historical Society. Its goals are to encourage scholarly research in Canadian Jewish history, life and culture.

The conference is part of a larger conference umbrella, the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities, which facilitates the organization of conferences by several different organizations in subject areas such as history, philosophy or literature.

Randal Schnoor, program chair of the conference, says that among the association's activities, it produces an annual academic journal featuring articles about the Canadian Jewish experience, and a biannual newsletter that contains updates of local events of Jewish interest. The president is Prof. Ira Robinson of Concordia University.

This year, the association is partners with Beth Shalom Synagogue, which is hosting the first day of the conference. It will be open that day to the public, and the keynote speaker is Prof. Morton Weinfeld of McGill University, who will speak on The Gevalt Reflex: An Optimistic Perspective on Jewish Continuity and Unity.

The conference, to be held at the University of Alberta, will feature 17 scholars who will share their knowledge of the Canadian Jewish experience. One session will be devoted to the western Canadian Jewish experience in Edmonton, Calgary and Saskatoon, and there will be, among others, talks on anti-Semitism, Jewish self-hatred, and an examination of the lives of Holocaust survivors in Canada.

Next year, the conference will be held at Laval University in Quebec, and in 2002 it will be in Toronto, co-hosted by Ryerson Polytechnic University and University of Toronto.

For information on the association, check its Web site at HTTP:\\home.OISE.UToronto.ca\~acjs. or e-mail Schnoor at rschno@po-box.McGill.ca

Negev gala concert planned

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Los Angeles-based cantor and entertainer Herschel Fox, one of Winnipeg's favourite expatriate sons, is returning to his hometown on June 20, and he is bringing along some special friends.

Cantors Benzion Miller, Yaakov Motzen and Aaron Bensoussan represent the Voices of Tradition, the billing for the Jewish National Fund's third annual Negev Gala Concert.

They are "the three tenors" of the Jewish world, says Rami Kleinmann, the new JNF shaliach in Winnipeg. He describes the concert as promising to be "a Hollywood-style evening of classical Jewish opera."

Fox, who will emcee the evening, ranks Miller and Motzen as the world's two greatest chazzanim.

Motzen grew up in Israel, where his father was the chazzan for the Ponevitch Yeshiva and the Modzitzer Rebbe. Miller grew up in Brooklyn where his father was chazzan for the Bobover Rebbe.

Miller is one of the foremost interpreters of liturgical music, and he is comfortable with opera and Jewish folk songs. He has sung with the Israeli Philharmonic, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and the Haifa Symphony.

Motzen has performed all over the world including on a tour behind the Iron Curtain. A few months ago, Fox says, Motzen gave a performance at the Hollywood Bowl for an audience that included the Dalai Lama. "The Dalai Lama went bananas when he heard Yaakov," says Fox.

The two world class cantors are very good friends, Fox notes, and have appeared together many times. They have appeared at Fox's shul in Los Angeles four times and have performed with Fox 19 times over the years.

"I provide the colour and Yiddish stuff, and comedy," Fox says.

"Motzen and Miller both have a great sense of humour. They know each other so well that they can tell each other's stories on stage."

Recently, Bensoussan, the third member of the trio, replaced Cantor Louis Danto at Toronto's Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Although born and trained in Morocco, Fox says, Bensoussan has also learned Ashkenazi chazzanut and is in the top ranks of both Sephardi and Ashkenazi chazzanim.

The multilingual tenor can perform in Hebrew, Ladino, English, Yiddish, Italian and French.

Fox has performed with the trio a number of times in Toronto and Montreal. This will be their first Winnipeg show.

Also on the program will be the presentation of the JNF's Bloomfield Medal of Honour to Norm Vickar, a past president of the JNF for Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Vickar is the only Jewish cabinet minister in Saskatchewan's history. He and his wife Florence, moved to Winnipeg to be near their son and two daughters.

Coast to Coast

Quebec joins Israel, PA to create industrial park

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Shimon Peres, Israel's regional co-operation minister, and Quebec deputy premier Bernard Landry announced they are working on the establishment of a tripartite industrial park with the Palestinian Authority.

At a joint press conference, Landry said the project will enable Quebec to make a contribution to the peace process in a very practical way.

"It will be a modest contribution; we are not yet a state, but we can participate as a nation. We want to help as best we can our friends in the Middle East. It won't be diplomatic or glorious; it will be very materialistic," Landry said.

The idea was proposed by Peres during the economic mission Landry led last fall to the Middle East. In addition to Israel, Landry and the representatives of close to 40 Quebec businesses and agencies visited the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

Peres said the plan is to situate the industrial park right on the border between Israel and the Palestinian Authority where it will be in a position to equally benefit the two economies. In addition, it will serve as an example of the peaceful and profitable coexistence that is possible between Israelis and Palestinians.

"The time has come for the two peoples to trade minefields for magnetic fields... Good relations are better than great guns," said the 77-year-old Nobel Peace laureate.

The plan is that Quebec businesses, with the help of the Quebec government, would set up on-site, along with their Israeli and Palestinian counterparts, and profit by having access to both neighbouring markets.

Other tripartite industrial parks are already in place, he said, in collaboration with both countries, including Germany and Italy, and with American states.

"We want a coalition of private enterprises and governments to come in and contribute to peace on an economic basis, not as a donation," said Peres, who was in Montreal chiefly to speak at a Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University dinner.

Landry hosted Peres at a private luncheon earlier in the day.

Quebec will be sending a delegation to Israel in June to conduct a feasibility study of the project, Landry said. It seems likely the park will focus on technology, given Quebec's growing strength in that sector. About 15 of the companies that went on the mission last fall were in information technology.

Peres said he envisages the park being in operation within one to two years.

Landry said the Canada-Israel free trade agreement, which came into effect in 1997, and the Quebec entente signed with Israel later that year to increase commercial and technological ties laid the groundwork for Quebec's participation in such a venture.

The Caisse de dépôt et placement, the province's pension fund manager, and the Société générale de financement, a government agency that invests in private ventures, have shown an interest already in the industrial park.

Peres expressed pleasure at doing business with Landry. "He is the first minister of finance I've met who is not pessimistic, who is not complaining, who expresses hope."

He also lauded Quebec's economic transformation. "Thirty years ago, Quebec was a land of industry. Today it is one of the most advanced leaders in high technology."

Asked if he agreed that Quebec is a nation like Israel, as Landry had stated two days earlier, Peres' terse reply was "that is a decision for one people to decide. They do not need a license from anybody."

In response to another question, Peres said Israel has requested membership in La Francophonie, the international association of countries where French is spoken as a first or second language, and expects the application to succeed because of reduced opposition from Arab countries at the present time.

He said Israel can rightly take its place in La Francophonie because of the large number of Israelis, especially Sephardim, who speak French. Peres himself is fluent in French.

Landry added Quebec's support for Israel's admission, noting that French is a more important language in Israel than it is in the countries of many of the current members.

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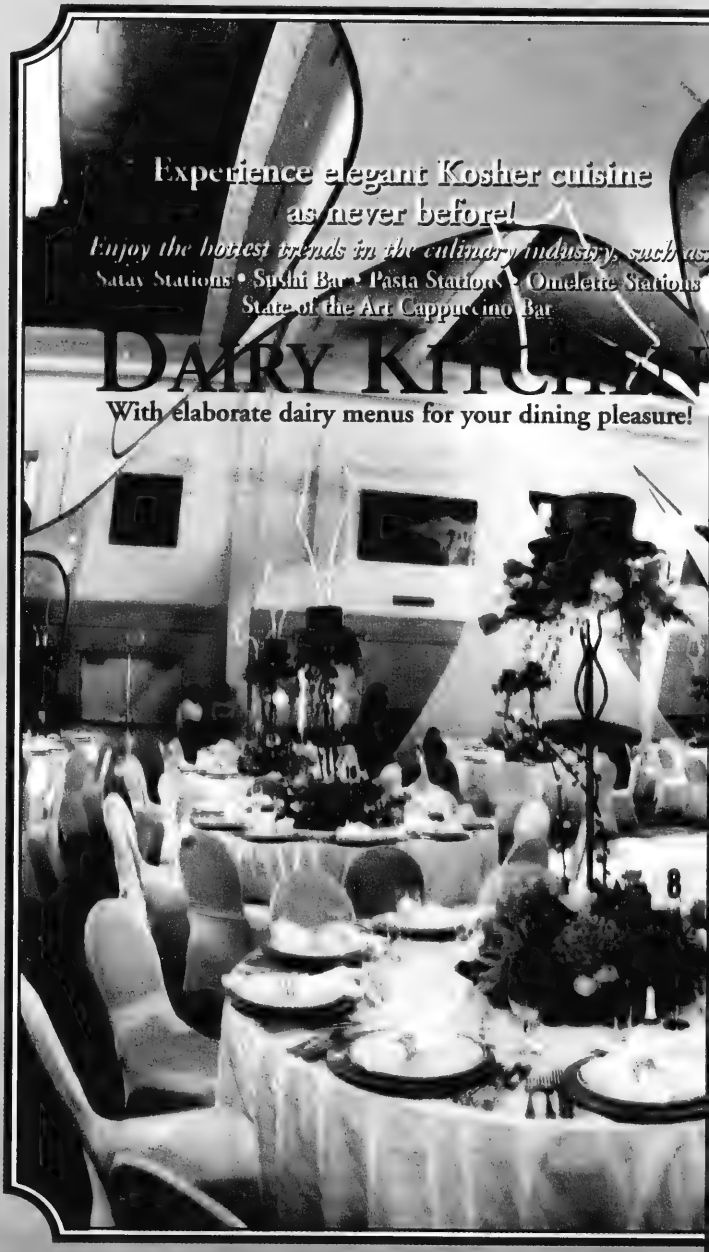
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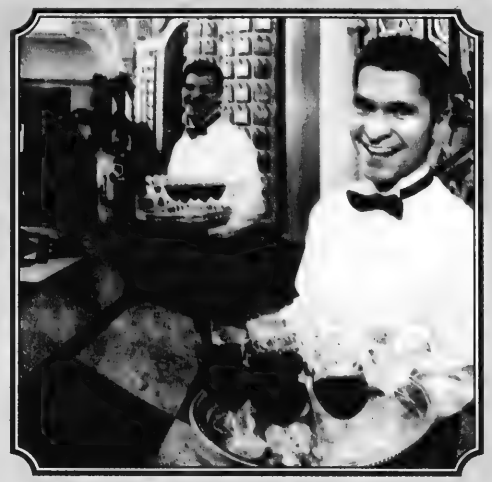

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Targeting the 'gap' generation

Continued from page 21

worship. They are not flocking to Saturday morning services. In fact, when I see someone between 20 and 30 in my synagogue on a Saturday morning, it is very rare," he said.

Silverberg believes the root of the problem is a lack of young people in Hamilton. Many native Hamiltonians go away to university in Toronto and end up staying in the city after they graduate, he said.

Michele Schneider, program coordinator of the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton-Wentworth and area, said attendance at past programs for the "gap generation" has been as low as five to 10 people.

"We found that gearing programs specifically to that age group does not work."

So, the centre tries to involve these young people in wider community programming, instead of holding separate programs for them, she said.

Wendy Schneider, of the Hamilton UJA FEDERATION, says "the problem is if you are single and Jewish in Hamilton — the perception is there is not a lot happening."

So Schneider has invited young people to what she calls "parlour meetings" to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Hamilton's Jewish community. In committees formed to plan programs for specific age groups, she did notice interest from the "gap" generation, she said.

Ben Silverberg believes the solution to strengthening programming for the "gap" generation in Hamilton is to entice people with social programming.

"First establish the social then the religious — I think that is the only way to be successful."

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- develops over time without symptoms
- most often affects postmenopausal women
- could result in a spinal fracture or cause them to break a wrist or hip

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care needs volunteers to participate in an osteoporosis study.

You may be eligible to participate if you have never been told you have osteoporosis.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Laurie Bernick at (416) 785-2500 ext. 2525

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

י. ל. פרץ, צו זײַן 85טער יאָרציים

פֿון יחזקאל מאַנדעלמאַן (מאָראָנסאָ)

יצחק לייבוש פרץ איז געבוירן געוואָרן אין דער פּוילישער שטאָט זאַמאָשטש, לובלינער געגנט, אין יאָר 1852. ביז 18 יאָר האָט ער זיך דערצויגן אונטער דער השגחה פֿון די בעסטע מלמדים אין זאַמאָשטש און איז שוין יונגערהייט באַקאַנט געוואָרן מיט חסידישער תורה אין געדאַנקען. אין דער זעלבער צייט האָט ער מיט חשק שטודירט די אָלטע ייִדישע פֿילאָזאָפֿן, ווי רמב״ם, דעם כוזרי און אַנדערע. דורך אַ צופֿאַל איז פּאַר אינטדעקט געוואָרן אַ גרויסע ביבליאָטעק פֿון ביכער אין פּאָרשייַדענע שפּראַכן, וואָס האָט אים געפּירט צו דער מאַדערנער בילדונג.

שוין אין די יונגע יאָרן האָט י. ל. פרץ ליב געהאַט צו אַרבעטן מיט דער פּעדער. אַבער דערציילונגען, וואָס זיי־נען געדרוקט געוואָרן, האָט ער אָנגעהויבן שרייבן אין זײַן 25טן לעבנסיאָר. ער איז געווען אַ שפּעדיקער שרײַבער. עס איז אוממעגלעך אין אַ קורץ אַרטיקל צו קענען רעדן וועגן אַלע זײַנע שאַפֿונגען. עס איז אַפֿילו אוממעגלעך זיך אָפּצושטעלן אויף אַ קליינעם טייל פֿון דער עשירות, וואָס ליגט באַהאַלטן אין אַלע זײַנע ווערק. ווער עס לייענט מיט כוונה די געזאַמלטע ווערק פֿון פרצן, וועט געפֿינען דאָרט אוצרות פֿון פאַעזיע אין גערדאַנקען.

פרץ שרייבט קורץ און שאַרף. אין זיינער אַ קורצער פּראָזע ליגט אָפט באַהאַלטן אַ טיפער זין. ער האָט נישט געשריבן פֿאַרן נידעריקן געשמאַק. ער האָט זיך שטענ־דיק געמיט דעם געשמאַק פֿון דעם לייענער אויפֿצוהייבן און אים אידעלער מאַכן. ער האָט שטענדיק געשריבן פֿאַר דעם פֿאָלק און זיך נישט געחנפּעט צו די גרויסע אין רייכע. דערביי האָט ער נישט פֿאַרדעקט זיינע געדאַנקען. דאָס וואָס ער האָט געטראָכט, האָט ער שטענדיק אפֿן און ערלעך אַרויסגעזאָגט. ער אַרבעט פֿאַרן פֿאָלק מיטן כּוח פֿון זיין פּאַעזיע. ווען דאָס לעבן איז היינט נישט זיס, טרייסט ער זיך אין זיין פֿאָלק מיט דער האָפענונג, אַז דאָס מענטשלעכע לעבן וועט אַ מאָל ווערן בעסער.

פרץ האָט געלערנט אַ נייע עטיק, אַ נייע מאָראָל. ער האָט געוואָלט באַווייזן, אַז דער מענטש דאַרף זיך נישט באַנוגענען בלויז מיט לערנען תורה. דער קיום פֿון דער וועלט שטייט אויך אויף מעשׂים טובים. אָט באַווייזט ער, אַז אַנהאַקן האָלץ אין באַהייצן אַ שטוב פֿון אַ קראַנקער, אַרעמער אלמנה שטייט העכער פֿון לערנען תורה. ער האָט געשאַפֿן די עטישע געשטאַלט פֿון חיים יונה, וואָס גיט אַוועק דעם לעצטן גראָשן פֿאַר מעות חיטים און מיט זיין וויב פֿראַווען דעם סדר ביי פֿרעמדע. פרץ האָט דערוועקט דעם אומדערשראָקענעם מוט ביי בערל דעם שנײדער, וואָס רופט דעם אייבערשטן צו אַ דין־תורה. „השם יתברך ווייל איך זאָל אפֿהיטן זיינע געבאָטן״ — טענהט בערל — „זאָל ער געבן פרנסה, אויב נישט וועל איך נישט דאַוונען און נישט גיין אין בית־מדרש״. דער באַרדיטשעווער רבי פּסקנט, אַז בערל איז גערעכט.

בשעת פרץ מאָלט זיינע בילדער, שטעלט ער זיך נישט אַפּ אויף דעם, ווי זיינע פֿאַרשיידענ זענען אויס. אויך נישט אויף דעם, וואָס זיי פילן און וואָס מיט זיי פּאַסירט. מער פון אַלץ אינטערעסירט אים, וואָס זיי טוען. אויף דעם שטעלט ער שטענדיק דעם טראָפּ.

דעם 3טן אַפּריל, 1915, מיט 85 יאָר צוריק, איז יצחק לייבוש פרץ געשטאָרבן דורך אַ האַרץ־אַטאַק אין מיטן פון שרייבן אַ קינדער־לידל. זיינע שאַפֿונגען האָבן גערוכטן ווי אַן עמור־האָאש, ווי אַ פייערוויל. זיין ליכט וועט שיינען ווי לאַנג עס וועלן זיין מענטשן, וואָס בענקען אַן קעמפּן פֿאַר אַן עטיש־הומאַנישער וועלט.

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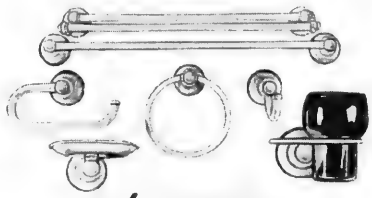

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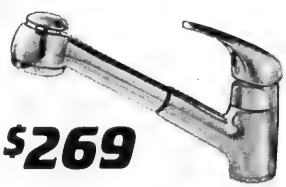

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

YOUNG LEADERSHIP CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM

Guest Speaker
IRENE GUT OPDYKE
Tues., June 6
7:30 p.m.
Ontario Science Centre
(416) 785-1333
— See Page 19 —

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Tuesday, May 23, is deadline for June 1 issue and Monday, May 29, is deadline for June 8. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Saturday, May 20

SINGLES DINNER

Meet interesting Jewish singles 39+, dinner, Don Mills-Eglinton. $2 levy to Heart & Stroke Fund. 24-hour information line 635-6489.

Sunday, May 21

JEWS FOR JUDAISM

Jews for Judaism Counter-Missionary Survival Seminar special one-day format, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Jews for Judaism Centre, 800 Steeles Ave. W. $36 includes lunch and all materials. Registration/information 905-761-0040.

SINGLES BRUNCH

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel in conjunction with the Intersynagogue Singles presents Jazz by Any Time Now at brunch, 11:30 a.m. at Adath Israel. For singles 35 or better. $10 if prepaid by May 18, or $15 at door. 635-5340.

MUSICAL AFTERNOON

An afternoon of entertainment with **Marvin Rosenshein** and **Michael Khinkis** 2 p.m. at Congregation Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. $12. Proceeds to UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto.

VEGETARIAN GROUP

The L'Chaim Vegetarian Group Lunch 'N' Learn, noon to 2:30 p.m. at le Commensal vegetarian restaurant, 655 Bay St. **Howard Koch** 633-4076.

GIANT RUMMAGE SALE

Rummage sale of clothing, housewares, books, collectables at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue 9 a.m. to noon. 633-5500.

Monday, May 22

CRAFT AND GIFT SHOW

Club Beersheba Na'amat Craft and Gift Show has something for everyone – jewelry, pottery toys, furniture, children's wear, hourly draws, clowns, face painting, silent auction and much more, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bayview Village Mall (Sheppard and Bayview). 636-5425 days or 633-6538 evenings.

Tuesday, May 23

ISRAELI EMPLOYMENT

The Israel Aliyah Centre presents Preparing for the Israeli Employment Market with immigration and employment consultant from Israel **Maurice Singer** 7 p.m., Beit Borochov, 272 Codsell Ave. RSVP 633-4766.

ZIONISM

Rabbi Avraham Feder of Congregation Moreshet Yisrael Yerushalayim and rabbi emeritus of Beth Tikvah Synagogue speaks on Zionism as the Ongoing Renewal of Judaism for the 21st Century, 8 p.m. at Beth Tikvah. Lecture is sponsored by the Frances Bitterman Memorial Trust Fund.

Wednesday, May 24

CHILD SURVIVORS

Child Survivors/Hidden Children present **Batia Bettman** and the film *Let Memory Speak*, 7:30 p.m., Lipa Green Building.

Thursday, May 25

FILM, PIZZA, DISCUSSION

View and discuss the film *PI* at Temple Har Zion. **Rabbi Paul Golomb,** director of of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism discusses Limits of Knowledge. Pizza 6:30 p.m., film and discussion 7 p.m. If coming for dinner, register by May 23 at temple office 905-889-2252 or **Pauline Volgyesi** 222-7033.

Continued on page 29

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❑ Caps
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❑ Pyjamas
❑ Underwear
❑ Rainwear
TOWELS
❑ Bath Towels
❑ Beach Towels
❑ Face Cloths
❑ Bath Sheets
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❑ Water Shoes
❑ Sandals
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Continued from page 28

HUMILITY, VIRTUE

Rabbi Neal Loevinger, director of Outreach, Kolel, speaks on Humility and Personal Virtue, 8 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. 781-3511.

And What Else Is New

SONG AND JOY

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am 9th annual Yom Yerushalayim Festive Concert of Song and Joy featuring **Cantors Aaron BenSoussan, Louis Danto** and **Yehuda Rottner** and the Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Choir accompanied by the Muskat Symphony, Monday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. For tickets call synagogue 633-5500.

OHR SOMAYACH EVENTS

A public lecture, Moses, Matter and Anti-Matter with **Rabbi Mordechai Becher**, senior lecturer, Ohr Somayach Jerusalem, Thursday, May 18, 8:30 p.m.

A Shabbaton with Rabbi Becher follows Saturday, May 20, incorporating the theme of Seven Secrets for Everyday Life into 3 talks over Shabbat. Both events take place at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. For information, call Ohr Somayach 905-886-5730.

EGALITARIAN SERVICE

All are welcome to a traditional egalitarian Shabbat service at Congregation Beth Haminyan, Saturday, May 27, at West Prep School, 70 Ridge Hill Dr. Equal participation by men and women in Shacharit, Torah reading and Musaf service. You are also invited to Beth Haminyan's regular traditional Shabbat morning services throughout the year. **Lisa** 631-5704 daytime or **Jeffrey** 789-5766 evenings.

MID-WEEK ROSH CHODESH

Mid-week Rosh Chodesh at Lodzer Congregation, 12 Heaton St., includes special minyan breakfasts with speakers and discussions year round, sponsored by **Harry Kreitzman** in memory of his late wife **Lucy**.

SINGLES WEEKEND

Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in conjunction with Intersynagogue Singles offers a 3-part Basherte Workshop for Jewish singles to meet in a meaningful way. Friday, June 2, 8 p.m.; Saturday, June 3, 5 p.m. (includes light Seudah Shlishit dinner) and Sunday, June 4, 11 a.m. (bagel brunch). Pre-register before May 30. 485-7007, ext. 222.

VILLAGE SHUL EVENTS

The Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. 785-1107.

Friday, June 2, Shabbaton with **Rabbi Simcha Weinberg**.

Monday, June 12, goodbye party for **Rabbi Yaakov** and **Lori Palatnik** 7:30 p.m. RSVP by June 5.

New Shabbat service, Stairway to Heaven with **Reb Zale Newman** Come and get acquainted with the siddur, 10 a.m. May 27, June 17, 24.

CASINO RAMA

Adath Sholom Sisterhood fun-filled trip to Casino Rama Thursday, June 22. Bus leaves Adath Sholom 8:45 a.m. $7 per person includes buffet lunch. To reserve and pre-pay 635-0131.

RESOURCE CENTRE

The Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. Pre-register **Bernice Friedman** 905-882-8500.

Junior Jewish Art Workshop for pre-schoolers, songs, stories, arts and crafts, Thursdays 1:30-3 p.m.

Jewish Art Workshop for Kids, ages 6-10, Judaic arts and crafts, Mondays 4:30-6 p.m.

Stepping Stones, 8-session early childhood development, ages 22 months-3½, 9:30-11 a.m.; ages 3½-4½, 1:30-3 p.m. Begins June 26.

The Zodiac, Jewish perspective on the Astrological signs, **Rabbi Mitch Mandel** Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.

I'm Doing My Best, workshop how to find a healthy balance in your life, facilitated by **Maura Cooperberg** and **Kathy Spinks** of Ceridian Performance Partners, Wednesday, May 31, 7:30-9 p.m.

Parenting By Example – Actions Speak Louder Than Words, 3-session workshop for couples facilitated by **Louise Dorfman** and **David Rubinstein.** Begins soon. Call for more information.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. Register. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Adult Children Losing a Parent: grief, resolving unfinished business, loss, legacy, begins June 7.

Separation & Divorce Group: being single again, loneliness, anger, new beginnings (May 24).

Today's Woman: self-esteem, interpersonal skills, time and stress management techniques (June 7).

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

The Jewish Approach to Interpersonal Behaviour, a course with **Rabbi Shloime Schwartz** featuring interactive discussion on relating to parents, to seniors, to spouses, to children and their teachers, business, civil rights, medical ethics, Mondays 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. 226-0111.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 30

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Connecting Team of the caring committee Spring Gathering Celebration for Temple Seniors, Thursday, May 18, 1:45 p.m. Musical program by the Heritage Singers. Non-Temple members $5. Reserve. **Shelly Berenbaum** 789-3291, ext. 233.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: *Second Time Around*, Gryphon Theatre July 14; *Damn Yankees*, Drayton Festival Theatre Aug. 22. **Lena** 785-5773.

Young at Heart Seniors summer vacation at the kosher Raleigh Hotel July 28-Aug. 6, 2 weekends – 10 days includes everything. Double occupancy $1,365 (Cdn), single $1,620. **Helen** 635-6343.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. May 18, Israeli comedy movie; May 25, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Thousand Islands trip June 11-15; *Vaudeville*, King's Wharf Theatre June 14; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23; Sunday dances May 21, June 4, 25; Casino Rama, May 18, 31, June 7, 21. **Note:** In last week's column, price for Catskills trip was incorrect. Please call for information. 395-7881.

LZA Seniors Club: Tickets available for *Hello Dolly* at Stage West Theatre June 14 and *Fiddler on the Roof*, at Stratford Sept. 13. Call **Libby** 782-2059. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. and Cultural Club Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For information, call Libby or the office 630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Osteoporosis Support Group meets Tuesday, May 23, 1:15-2:30 p.m. when pharmacist **Tom Brown**, Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre, discusses Alternative Therapies for Post-Menopausal Women – Use Versus Misuse. **Joan**, ext. 126.

Spring Dance Sunday, May 28, 7:30 p.m. ext. 145.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. May 23, sing-along with **Itzchak Argaman**; May 30 picnic in the park. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie *Life Is Beautiful*, Sunday, May 21, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Trip to Casino Rama Monday, June 12, leaving Bloor JCC 8:30 a.m. Cost of $10 includes bus, boat excursion on Lake Couchiching, buffet lunch. Tickets at Front Desk.

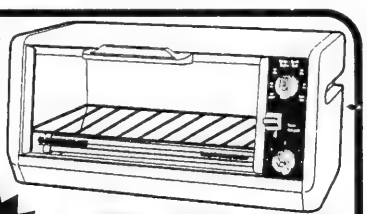
Seniors Club: Thursday, May 25, a visit to Art Gallery of Ontario to see Take Good Care of It, It's My Whole Life, the work of Berlin-born Jewish artist and Holocaust victim **Charlotte Salomon**. Bus leaves Bloor JCC 2 p.m. Tickets at Front Desk.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

Lecture on Ballroom Dancing by **Irving Naftolin,** Tuesday, May 23, 1-2:30 p.m.

DANFORTH JEWISH CIRCLE: The Danforth Jewish Circle (DJC) recently held a volunteer appreciation brunch. Seen with some of the DJC board members is Bill Emery (left), executive director of the Bloor Jewish Community Centre, the mentor agency for the DJC. Board members, from left, are Avrum Jacobson, Lisa Kent, Richard Chartash, Marlee Wyman and Allie Lehmann.



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Coast to Coast

The scorn of a rebuffed politician

Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

The Canadian Alliance is on the move and everyone is getting caught up in the draft. It is, of course, the Progressive Conservative party that has been most affected.

We have, in the past, examined Joe Clark's singular ability to focus on the wrong things at the wrong time, make the wrong choices and miss the signals that are plain for all others to see. Like many politicians, Clark's most dominant characteristic is his arrogance, a flaw that paralyzes his ability to objectively assess a situation and results in an absolute conviction of the "rightness" (excuse the pun) of his position.

One of the consequences of such misplaced certainty are the shock and resentment that inevitably follow when the politician discovers that his or her position has been rejected. This kind of resentment can ultimately yield feelings of betrayal, a sense that the people upon whom one has relied have abandoned the only one possessed of the true vision.

Rebuffed politicians take rejection seriously and personally. Almost by instinct, they look for someone to blame. But they sometimes go one step further. They extend the "blame" to anyone or any groups who may have had a substantial connection with the original "transgressor." Too often, a rebuffed, dejected politician extends blame to the Jewish community, whose leaders are often involved in lobbying efforts in support of any number of causes. We have seen politicians on the Hill carry resentments of an election loss or a defeat on a policy issue to the larger Jewish community. And that resentment translates into a punitive, child-like impulse to "hit back."

Joe Clark never forgave the Jewish community for the so-called Jerusalem fiasco. And, the payback came during his many years at External Affairs when he put in place more than a few policies hostile to Israel. Other politicians who expected more support from the Jewish community have equally long memories and an equal thirst for retribution.

The moral of the story is simple. When a Jewish activist, however defined, establishes a relationship with a politician or a political party, he or she must always be mindful of what the possible implications are for the larger Jewish community. Such a perspective may not be fair, but it is realpolitik.

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Cotler addresses Yom Hazikaron ceremony

By MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
Special to the CJN

MONTREAL — "Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people across space and time, wherever we may be and whatever our citizenship may be," said Mount Royal MP and international human rights lawyer Irwin Cotler.

It is imperative, he added, "to remember those who fought and died so that Israel may prevail."

Cotler was speaking to an overflow crowd in a small room in the Gelber Conference Centre of the Jewish Community Campus. His address followed a solemn ceremony in front of Cummings House on the eve of Yom Hazikaron, the day of memorial for the almost 20,000 soldiers who have died defending Israel since 1948.

Yom Hazikaron committee chair Allan Sheff described the gathering as "a demonstration of solidarity with the State of Israel."

The ceremony, conducted under a gloomy sky with some rain, included a prayer service led by Rabbi Ronald Aigen of Congregation Dorshei Emet, readings in Hebrew, English and French by high school and CEGEP students, songs from the Shaar Hashomayim Choral Society, the laying of wreaths and an address by Shlomo Avital, consul general of Israel in Montreal.

Avital said that he was "very proud" and "deeply moved" to see the large gathering of the community "on this solemn occasion when we express our solidarity with the parents, widows and orphans" whose loved ones "paid the heaviest price in defence of the State of Israel."

"Each year," Avital said, "we remember all who fell. We cry and we go on, because we have no choice, no alternative."

One of the most moving moments in the hour-long ceremony came as Sheff and Rabbi Aigen read names of some of the volunteers from Canada who have died over the years in defence of Israel, as well as the names of several Canadians who have fallen victim to Arab terrorism in Israel.

After the ceremony, many moved into the conference centre where two programs were offered, a quiet musical program and Cotler's address on the importance of Yom Hazikaron to Diaspora communities.

Cotler spoke passionately as he contrasted the observance of Yom Hazikaron in Israel and in the Diaspora. He explained that the day is a central observance to all strata of Israeli society. It is a day of mourning there

Canadians honoured for fighting in Israeli war

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Israeli Embassy began the Yom Ha'atzmaut week with a ceremony to commemorate and honour the 250 Canadians who fought in Israel's War of Independence and the 11 volunteers who gave their lives.

Israel Ambassador David Sultan unveiled a plaque with the names of the volunteers who died. He then thanked all the volunteers for their contribution.

"It was long overdue," he said. "I decided that we had to do this before I leave Canada and as it is close to Yom Ha'atzmaut, the time was opportune."

Many of the 250 Canadian volunteers were present on May 5, coming from as far away as Edmonton to receive the recognition for their contribution to the establishment of the State of Israel. Throughout the room, stories abounded. Many of the volunteers had not seen each other in many years.

Amir Maimon, a counsellor at the Israeli Embassy, recognized their presence and introduced his assistant, Anna-Lee Chiprout, who described the volunteer efforts during the War of Independence.

"During the War of Independence," she said, "some 3,500 volunteers from 37 different countries rallied to Israel's defence. These young men and women, Jews as well as non-Jews, were known as Machal (Mitnadvei chutz la'aretz) the Hebrew acronym for overseas volunteers.

"Many of the volunteers had been members of Jewish underground movements in Palestine and abroad before the state was proclaimed, or had served as crew members on Aliyah Bet ships running the British naval blockade to bring holocaust survivors to the shores of the land of Israel."

Henri Cynamon, attended the ceremony from his home in Edmonton. He was born in Poland but spent World War II in Belgium. From there, he volunteered to go to Israel.

"At the end of 1951," he said, "I came to Canada for a visit. I went home, married my sweetheart in Brussels and we returned to Canada in 1953."

Leon Krym, who now lives in Toronto, was in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising during World War II. Following the war, he moved to Paris, where he was in 1948 when Israel's War of Independence broke out.

Having been in the Warsaw Ghetto, Krym said it was like going "from fire to fire; but there was no comparison – at least we were fighting as free people."

Cantor Daniel Benlolo chanted the K'El Maleh Rachamim in a moving ending to a very moving ceremony.

***

52nd birthday celebrations

OTTAWA — The local community came out in full force to celebrate Israel's 52nd Independence Day together.

In what has become an Ottawa tradition, the community celebration took place on the eve of the holiday, immediately following a solemn Yom Hazikaron memorial service for those who lost their lives for Israel.

The evening was chaired by Sara Vered who shared her personal experiences of growing up in Israel and her memories of the War of Independence.

Dramatic readings by Debra Davis and Barry Karp, musical entertainment by the SJCC Zimriya Chorale Ensemble under the direction of Cantor Daniel Benlolo and a medley of Israeli songs performed by the Hillel Academy Choir rounded out the festivities at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

His Excellency David Sultan, ambassador of Israel to Canada, reminded the community that in 1949, Israel was home to only five percent of our people; today, it is home to 40 percent.

He also took the opportunity to bid farewell to some members of the community. "This is the fourth and last Yom Ha'atzmaut that my wife and I will celebrate with you," he said. "The encounter with the community has been a wonderful experience for which we are grateful."

The following evening, Sultan entertained members of the diplomatic community at a reception at the Chateau Laurier Hotel where they sampled a variety of Israeli finger foods and wines.

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New group promotes awareness of head, neck cancer

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — After Mark Daniels completed his treatment for cancer of the salivary gland and was declared cancer free, he wanted to give something back to the doctors who had treated him

When his doctor told him that no one was raising public awareness about the need to find a cure for head and neck cancer, Daniels set out to establish a charitable foundation to raise funds for research and public information about this area of cancer.

He told *The CJN* in a recent interview, that the first fund-raising event, a dinner to officially launch the Head and Neck Cancer Foundation, took place last month, and the next fund-raiser will be a golf tournament, which will be held at the Richmond Hill Golf Club Thursday June 1 at 11 a.m.

The executive director of the foundation, Daniels, 43, noted that head and neck cancer is the fourth most common type of cancer, and if caught early, is usually not fatal.

In August 1998, Daniels discovered a small lump on the back of his neck. Ten days after his biopsy, Daniels got the bad news. "I had salivary gland cancer. "The gland on one side of my neck had become overgrown with a cancerous tumour. It's a fairly rare form of cancer."

Mark Daniels

Surgery was a risky procedure, he said. "The cancer had grown around a nerve in the neck that controls the muscles on one side of the face, and the doctors were afraid the surgery might cause permanent facial paralysis."

The four-hour operation was a success. The next stage of treatment was radiation therapy.

Daniels said he had to wear a special clear plastic mask "that fits your face like skin" with holes cut out so the radiation could penetrate his face directly.

"I went every day for 30 days, seven days a week. The treatment was no more than 10 minutes…When they do this radiation, you lie down on a table and they bolt the mask to the table. You can't move a millimetre. It's an extremely difficult 10 minutes.

"By the 13th or 14th day you feel the effect. At first you get a little tired. You start to develop a burn on your face and neck."

He said, the burn spread to the inside of his cheek and throat. "The burns become so severe, you don't want to eat or drink. The process of chewing food becomes abhorrent. Then you lose your sense of taste and smell."

Daniels said some people with head and neck cancer lose so much weight they have to be hospitalized.

He lost 30 pounds, but he forced himself to eat and take vitamins, he said. "I refused to give in. I made food every night. When I couldn't chew it, I made milkshakes with protein powder and sipped them all the time."

A field operations manager for a realty company, Daniels said he was told he'd be too tired to work, but he went for three or four hours a day, and he made himself walk five miles every night. "It was more like dragging than walking."

The same determination fuelled Daniel in his efforts to set up a charitable foundation for head and neck cancer a year ago, when he had regained his strength.

He said he was able to to fast-track the application for charitable status through government red tape, and he succeeded in enlisting the support of influential medical professionals and lay people to sit on the board.

The purpose of the foundation is to provide information and support to people with head or neck cancer and to raise funds for research, Daniels said.

"We want to create an outreach program that's personal. It will be Web-site based…This will be geared to the lay, support person who's helping someone going through the illness

"Part of it is going to be geared to train dentists to know what to look for."

Medical researchers will be able to apply for grants to fund new research through the foundation's Web site, he said, adding that the foundation will also foster the exchange of information between researchers.

For more information about the foundation or golf tournament, contact Daniels at 817-6366.

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See Page 37

Israel and PA miss the latest peace 'deadline'

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestinians have opened back-channel talks in an effort to overcome their differences.

Palestinian officials were quoted last Sunday as saying that the speaker of the Palestinian legislative council, Ahmed Karia, had travelled to Sweden for talks with Israeli Public Security Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami.

Reports in Israel said Ben-Ami was accompanied by Israeli attorney Gilad Sher, who is considered a confidant of Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

The reports about the back-channel talks came as Israel and the Palestinians missed another deadline for reaching an outline for a final peace deal. The two sides had agreed earlier this year on a May 13 deadline after missing a similar deadline in February.

As negotiators continue to make little headway, tensions have been increasing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. For the past week, Palestinian protesters have been clashing with Israeli soldiers during demonstrations aimed at securing the release of Palestinians jailed for security crimes against Israel.

On Sunday, at least 20 Palestinians were injured during the clashes.

In Gaza, hundreds of Palestinians threw stones and gasoline bombs at Israeli soldiers near the Netzarim junction, blocking the entrance road to the Jewish settlement. Similar clashes also took place in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Sunday's unrest came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met in Jerusalem, but were unable to agree on the prisoner release issue.

At the weekly cabinet meeting, Barak briefed his ministers about the unrest. He described the mood on the Palestinian street as "charged and tense."

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told reporters that the talks were in a crisis that could only be resolved with an additional prisoner release.

Israel's chief negotiator, Oded Eran, said the talks could only make progress if the Palestinian Authority quelled the current disturbances.

Meanwhile, Barak continued efforts to rally coalition support behind his plan to transfer Abu Dis and two other Arab villages on the outskirts of Jerusalem over to full Palestinian control.

Barak is waiting to hear whether the haredi Shas party will support the proposal. The National Religious Party has already said it will pull out of the coalition if the proposal is approved.

Yisrael b'Aliyah, which has said it would oppose the initiative, was expected to make a decision on whether it would take a similar stand.

Sydney Olympics have security fears

By JEREMY JONES
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

SYDNEY, Australia — The Palestinians are reportedly considering a Muslim and Arab boycott of this summer's Olympic Games here because of a memorial to the Israelis killed in the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre.

The claim in the Palestinian publication *Al Hayat al-Jadida* of a boycott due to the memorial, which was dedicated in October, was subsequently denied by the Palestinians' representative in Australia.

But the publicity given the February report – which came as Australian Prime Minister John Howard and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat met in the Gaza Strip last week – threw the spotlight on Israel's security concerns as preparations for the Games begin.

Members of the Israeli Olympic Committee visited Sydney last week to discuss security arrangements for Israeli athletes.

The Palestinian representative in Australia, Ali Kazak, claimed there are no plans at this stage for a boycott, but that the Palestinians are demanding the memorial be removed.

Kazak said that if the memorial remains, there should also be memorials to the Olympians he claimed the Israelis had murdered in Lebanon and elsewhere.

He could not specify who he was talking about and when this had taken place.

A senior official in the Israeli delegation was quoted in the Australian media as saying, "We will have to take measures. We need to make sure that Munich '72 will not happen again."

Eleven Israelis and five terrorists died in 1972 after Palestinian terrorists kidnapped Israeli athletes in Munich's Olympic village.

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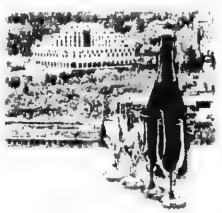

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Latest Iranian 'confessions' spur concerns for accused

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Six of the seven Iranian Jews who have gone before Iran's Revolutionary Court have "confessed" to spying for Israel.

The first plea of not guilty came on Wednesday of last week, as 31-year-old Farzad Kashi, a religion teacher, told the judge he did not pass sensitive material to the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency.

Earlier in the day Kashi's brother, Faramarz, 35, reportedly admitted he was guilty of such activities.

Western advocates, however, remain adamant that the allegations against all 13 of the Iranian Jews on trial are unfounded. They maintain that the hearings are a scripted political show trial.

The hearings were slated to continue Monday.

In Ottawa last week, Liberal MP and international human rights lawyer Irwin Cotler condemned the trial as a "travesty of Iranian and international justice... a prosecution and persecution of innocents that violates every canon of a right to a fair trial as guaranteed under the Iranian constitution and international law."

In a statement released by Cotler's office, the member of Parliament for Mount Royal, who has been involved in the case for over a year, detailed what he called a number of violations of the defendants' rights to a fair trial, referring to them as a pattern of prosecutorial abuse.

That Farzad Kashi pleaded innocent was either part of the script or perhaps a small act of defiance, said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"It means Farzad didn't bend to the pressures being applied," said Hoenlein, who has closely monitored the hearings.

At the same time, advocates like Hoenlein have two new concerns – that the string of admissions may be creating strains in the global coalition that has rallied to the defence of the accused, and that within Iran the admissions are provoking persecution of the entire community of 25,000 Jews.

"The concern we have is that too many well-meaning people are starting to doubt themselves," said Hoenlein.

"As each one confesses, people on all sides are asking, 'How can they all be confessing?' But they don't understand the circumstances under which these confessions are being made."

At a closed hearing last week, Ramin Farzam, 36, and Nasser Levi-Haim, 46, also a part-time Hebrew teacher, allegedly confessed.

Levi-Haim's confession, in particular, startled advocates, who had been led to believe by their sources within the Iranian judiciary that religious leaders in the community would not be lumped into the group of so-called conspirators.

After the hearing, Levi-Haim reportedly told reporters: "I swear on the Torah, in whose service I have been for 40 years, that I was under no duress in court to confess. I got religiously involved, and I was tricked by Israeli agents."

There appears ample reason to be skeptical about his confession. As Cotler pointed out last week, "The Iranian Revolutionary Court is notorious for its violations of human rights. In this court, the judge leads the investigation, conducts the prosecution, determines the verdict and hands down the sentence. Indeed, the court spokesman [was] already discussing the defendants 'right to appeal' after only the first day of the trial. The guilty verdict [had] apparently been determined.

"Some of the accused have been in prison for almost 16 months, where their only contact with the outside was five minutes a week of supervised time with their families, through thick glass and monitored telephone. The other 10,075 minutes of the week, they were under the influence of the authorities," said Sam Kermanian, secretary general of the American Iranian Jewish Federation in Los Angeles.

The Iran 13 would also be well aware of the fate that has befallen other Iranian Jews accused of spying.

Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, 17 Iranian Jews have been executed, most of them having been convicted of espionage.

There are signs that many in the Iranian public are reacting negatively to the aired confessions. Media reports from Iran state that Jews – even Jewish children – are now experiencing harassment on the street, at work and in school. There are reports of anti-Jewish graffiti and fears of an economic boycott of Jewish-owned shops.

One Jewish woman, the wife of one of the spy suspects, reportedly pleaded with photographers outside the courtroom to not take her photograph.

"I work at a health clinic, and I don't want any problems," she was quoted as saying. "I don't want people pointing fingers at me."

That some outside observers are now wondering if the 13 are in fact guilty of the charges is prompting worry among activists in the West for the ultimate fates of the accused.

With files from CJN staff

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SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2000 (10:00 a.m.)
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Agenda will include:
Review of Audited Financial Statements
Election of Directors
David Goldstein, President

The Week in Israel

May 8

• As a security precaution prior to the 48-hour period of national commemoration and celebration, Israel imposed a closure on the West Bank and Gaza.

• Israeli media reported that Yemen's top religious leaders issued an edict banning normalization of relations with Israel.

• Israel media reported that Leah Rabin is suffering from lung cancer and is undergoing tests in the United States.

May 9

• *Yom Hazikaron*. Israel remembers 19,109 soldiers who have died since Nov. 29, 1947.

May 10

• *Yom Ha'atzmaut*.

May 11

• At its 52nd birthday, Israel's population is 6.3 million. Of the total, 4.9 million are Jews, 891,000 are Muslims, 110,000 are Christians and 99,000 are Druze.

• A joint Israeli-Palestinian soccer team is slated to play against a celebrity team in Italy later this month.

• President Ezer Weizman said he intends to step down by the end of the year, but did not give a specific date. Weizman collapsed from dehydration during a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

May 12

• Israeli media reported that Prime Minister Ehud Barak had offered to transfer 64 percent of West Bank land to full Palestinian Authority control immediately and another 14 percent on a conditional status for a trial period. Under the plan Israel would retain 20 percent of the land. The PA rejected the proposal.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

'Miracle' cemetery in need of repair

By BRAM EISENTHAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

OUDERKERK AAN DE AMSTEL, Netherlands — Some five miles outside of Amsterdam, there is a site where a miracle took place during the Holocaust.

Here, in this tiny town with quaint, pretty houses and narrow streets, the Nazis allowed Jewish history to survive. At a time when they were desecrating Jewish burial places all over Europe, they left this one alone.

"No, the Germans didn't destroy the Beth Haim Cemetery. Jews who were already dead were of no use to them," said Rabbi Rodrigues Pereira, administrator of Beth Haim for the past decade.

"What they did do was reduce the 5,000-strong Portuguese Jewish community to several families who were, of course, unable to meet the financial burden of preserving the cemetery," said Pereira. The maintenance costs alone are more than $75,000 each year, he added.

Now, however, what the Nazis did not destroy is being ravaged by time and neglect, and the cemetery administrator is trying to raise the money to restore it.

The Portuguese Jewish community, which settled in Amsterdam in 1590, purchased an estate to bury their dead. The first burial at Beth Haim took place April 11, 1614, of a child named Joseph, son of David Senior. The memorial stone is inscribed with a poem in Hebrew and is still quite legible.

Two years later, the cemetery was in official use and could be accessed by road as well as by boat via a nearby river. The cemetery was extended in 1663 – and twice more over the years.

It was originally estimated that the space would be depleted by 1963, but the ravages of World War II ensured it will last for another 80 years. Eight hundred spaces are still available.

Beth Haim, however, is a victim of time. Many of its stones are damaged or missing. Thanks to the diligent work in 1866 of David Henriques de Castro, much is known about stones that had, for instance, sunk into the marshy ground.

Those of special historical or artistic merit were raised on brick bases to prevent further submersion, while the remaining ones were covered with earth. De Castro's findings were published in his 1883 book, *Keur van Grafsteenen, A Selection of Gravestones*, which is being re-issued.

Many famous people have been buried in Beth Haim. Perhaps the most famous is Rabbi Menashe ben Israel, a friend of artist Rembrandt van Rijn, who, apart from making etchings of his friend, also illustrated many of his books. Rabbi Menashe, together with Rabbi Jacob Sasportes, was able to persuade Oliver Cromwell to allow the Jews to resettle in England in the 17th century, said Pereira.

Many visitors to Beth Haim leave notes on the tomb of Rabbi Sasportes, renowned in his time for battling false messiahs. Indeed, the grounds provide a fascinating look at the culture of the day.

Engraved upon some of the stones is art that is at once macabre, whimsical and poignant. This is in stark contrast to the latter-day section, featuring bleak, modern stones for deceased Jews like Salomon Nunes Nabarro, son of Rebecca and Jacob Nabarro, inscribed "in Auschwitz did the Nazis murder (his parents)."

The Holocaust is recalled in a small memorial area, commemorating the thousands of community members who perished at the Westerbork camp or were murdered elsewhere during World War II.

A fund bearing the name of David Henriques de Castro has been set up to restore and preserve the cemetery. They're looking to raise $3.5 million.

"Beth Haim must not be allowed to just fade away," Pereira said. "Even if it is just to give those people who lost parents and grandparents during the war a place where they can find their ancestral roots."

Inquiries may be made to the David Henriques de Castro-fonds Foundation, Kerkstraat 7, 1191 JB Ouderkerk a/d Amstel, or e-mail bethaim@wxs.nl.

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Israel & the Jewish World

York U. opens alumni chapter in Israel

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

SAVION — York University recently inaugurated its newest alumni chapter in Israel.

On May 11, Ambassador Michael and Mrs. Linda Bell hosted about 60 York graduates and professors at the Canadian Embassy.

"I think it's a terrific opportunity for the alums to connect with one another," said Florence Weinberger, head of the Office of Development.

Michael Loftus, who will serve as head of the local chapter, agreed.

He said the new alumni chapter here is a "wonderful opportunity to both keep connections with York University, and also bring the best Canada has to offer to Israel."

Martin Lockshin

York University has alumni branches in Calgary, the Golden Triangle (Kitchener/Waterloo/ Guelph), Ottawa, Vancouver, Hong Kong, Paris, Singapore, Tokyo and Washington.

In its 40-year history there are already more than 150,000 graduates worldwide.

Gary Smith, vice-president of university advancement and a former diplomat, who among other postings served as Canada's ambassador to Israel in 1981, told those in attendance that the newest alumni branch is important because "we want to stay in touch with you and we want you to stay linked up to the university."

Weinberger said the university knows of 100 York alumni in Israel, but estimates there are at least double that here. "Everywhere I turn, I see people I know are not on the list," she said.

Jonathan Fine, a linguistics professor at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, came out to the inauguration to "meet lots of new people I didn't know were here." Fine, who graduated with a BA from Glendon in 1971 and with an MA from York University the next year, said he "would take good interest in York alumni events if they took place."

Marty Lockshin, who has been at York University for 22 years, told the crowd that "we're very proud of you who are here in Israel. You're our York ambassadors."

Then, he added, that he's "jealous" of those who live here and who made aliyah. He and his wife Ruth are on a sabbatical in Israel for the year.

One of the attendees was Dorit Efrati, an Israeli who graduated with a BA and MA (1984) from York University. Efrati, was supposed to study psychology at the University of Toronto. But upon her arrival there, the registrar's office told her that the letter of acceptance she had received in Israel was "a mistake."

With only $40 in her pocket, and a cheque for $600 for tuition, the U of T registrar told her there was no possibility of her being accepted. However, they suggested she try "the other university."

"I'm very excited about the alumni chapter here," she said at the embassy in Savion, just north of Tel Aviv. "I wanted to meet new people."

Weinberger said she hopes the Israel branch will be successful – that is, in terms of attracting people to its events.

"Most universities judge the success of their alum chapters in terms of how much money they make, not us, at least not yet," she said. "We judge in terms of turnout. The Hong Kong chapter is new and is successful in the sense that people come out to events."

Weinberger said she hopes Israel's chapter will have at least two events a year.

Loftus, who graduated from Osgoode, but is not a lawyer in Israel, mingled among the alumni and fielded ideas for future events.

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City of Vaughan
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS
MUNICIPAL RESTRUCTURING ISSUES

At the insistence of the Provincial government, the face of local government across Ontario is changing. Vaughan and the other municipalities that comprise York Region will soon face the challenge of restructuring or amalgamation.

What could happen? How will amalgamation affect your taxes, your services, your accessability to City Hall ...?

Tell us what you think! Attend one of these public meetings:

•Ward 1, Thursday, May 25, 7:30 p.m., Maple Community Centre, 10190 Keele St.
•Ward 2, Monday, May 29, 7:30 p.m., Woodbridge Memorial Arena, 5020 Highway #7, at Islington
•Ward 3, Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m., Chancellor Community Centre, 350 Ansley Grove Rd.
•Ward 4, Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m., Dufferin Clark Community Centre, 1441 Clark Ave. W.
•Ward 5, Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m., Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 510 Clark Ave. W.
•Full Council Public Meeting, Thursday, June 22, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Vaughan Civic Centre

Written submissions are also encouraged and should be addressed to the City Clerk no later than June 15, 2000.

For more information visit the City Web Site: www.cityvaughan.on.ca under "Top Stories", or contact the City Clerk's Department.

John Leach, City Clerk
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fax: (905) 832-8535
(905) 832-8143
e:mail: john.leach@city.vaughan.on.ca

LET'S BE READY! GET INVOLVED!

Hora Galgalim: A dance you won't soon forget

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

TEL-AVIV — "There will be no gum chewing or talking during the performance," Orly Ba'or tells the women dancers in the Hora Galgalim (Hora Wheels) troupe. "And," she says, turning to the men, "you have to make sure you're always in two straight lines."

It's a beautiful, sunny Friday morning, but these 14 men and women are inside practising folk dances for their upcoming performance. The group, making only its third international appearance, will be performing in Montreal and Toronto on May 29 and 31 respectively. Singer Ilanit will also be performing.

Ba'or, the choreographer, wants them to be perfect. She presses play on the stereo, and tells the group to get into position for a run-through. The men and women do as they're told. And the first dance number begins.

Hora Galgalim is a typical Israeli folk dancing group with one exception: the men can't walk. They're all paraplegics, injured during their service in the Israel Defence Forces. The women are volunteers – though they dislike the term, preferring to be called simply members of the dance troupe.

Eight years ago, Adam Greenfeld was the chief credit controller at Pioneer Concrete when he got a call-up for his annual reserve service. He returned home a paraplegic, after falling off a guard tower.

"It's very exciting," Greenfeld, 46, says of being on stage.

"My parents are survivors of the concentration camps and they built a family," he says. "Relatively, you can't compare [the situations]. I'm not cheerful of my situation, but I look at the future."

Greenfeld, like others in the group, says Hora Galgalim helped him with his rehabilitation.

In fact, only after Greenfeld was hurt did he fulfil his childhood dream of becoming a dancer.

The Hora Galgalim troupe will be touring Canada.

Now a self-employed consultant, Greenfeld dances weekly with the Beit Halochem dance group. He's also one of seven men – the group attracts about 50 people each week – who will be performing in Toronto and Montreal.

"There's no place in the world that has a dance troupe like this," says Joseph Luttenberg, national chair of Beit Halochem. "Just because someone is in a chair, he still has his wants and passions. Here he has a chance to dance with his friends."

For Sammy Dahan, dancing with his friends is the main reason he comes to the group.

"Before it's a troupe, it's a group of friends. Hora Galgalim is tons of fun. We laugh, we dance together, we celebrate one another's birthdays, etc. If it wasn't fun, I wouldn't do it," he says.

Injured at the age of 19 in a training exercise, Dahan now competes in just about every sporting competition. He's an athlete in the truest sense of the word, and he refuses to let being in a wheelchair slow him down.

"I'm in charge of what I do, I don't let my injury get in the way," the 47 year old says, pointing out that he has won more than 20 medals representing Israel in events including water skiing, badminton, tennis, and dancing. He also teaches other people with disabilities how to water ski.

"Hora Galgalim shows people that their war injuries are not the end of the world. You can still learn, get married, have kids," says Luttenberg.

Dahan and Menashe Reichman are two such examples. Both got married after their injuries. Dahan, who is married, has four daughters aged 16 to 21.

Though dancing in a wheelchair sounds impossible, Hora Galgalim shows it's very possible.

The men and able-bodied women are in perfect harmony as they snake their way across the stage, looping in and out, and making formations. After each dance they quickly change costumes – from shiny sequinned outfits to hassidic garb.

"I always hoped they'd be successful. I always dreamed of seeing them on stage," Ba'or said. She started the group 11 years ago. "There's no reason handicapped people can't enjoy dance."

Their program, Dream and Reality, focuses on five major themes: love, memory, Beit Halochem, tradition, and Israel.

Ba'or says the dance of remembrance, in which the men are dressed in army uniforms, is one of her favourites. She says when she first saw them in the uniforms, she felt very emotional.

As for the men, they didn't mind putting on the greens again. "It's just another costume," says Greenfeld. "It's a bit of a déjà vu."

Luttenberg is happy the troupe is embarking on another international performance. "Jewish communities don't always see the reality and the price people in Israel pay for the state – they read about it in papers, but they don't actually see the price," he explains about the importance of war vets going to the Diaspora.

"Our visits make a very strong connection. There's no other chance for them to meet these people."

Now the Toronto and Montreal communities have a chance to meet these courageous men in a dance they won't soon forget.

One of Israel's most talented singers will be joining the Hora Galgalim group on their Canadian tour. In fact, Ilanit can be said to be Israel's national singer.

Her song *Balalaika* is just one of many famous folk songs in her repertoire. Her velvety voice has been heard over the airwaves for over 30 years and has won the Singer of the Year Award nine times.

Because of her fluency in languages, Ilanit, who speaks and sings in Hebrew, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German and Yiddish, has been called Israel's singing ambassador. She has represented Israel in the Eurovision Song Contest twice and has participated in other international festivals.

For tickets to the Toronto performance at the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts call 416-787-8950.

Judaica 2000 looks ahead to art of the millennium

By JOYCE SINGER-D'APRILE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The goal of the exhibit at A Show of Hands Gallery is to indicate where Judaic works are headed, or where they can head; to take traditional ceremonial objects and really push them, says the gallery owner, Sara Levine Petroff.

The gallery is known for its focus on three-dimensional craft works, in glass, ceramics, jewelry, mixed media and textiles.

Pictured at the opening are [from left] artist Kenneth Gangbar and Steven Petroff. [Stuart Moscoe photo]

The current show, Judaica 2000, is a prospective look ahead to a new millennium through contemporary Judaic works.

On May 4, members of the Jewish community gathered at a reception to honour the talented international artists represented in this thought-provoking exhibition of ceremonial and spiritual works.

Highlights include awe-inspiring sterling silver ceremonial pieces by Moshe Zabari of Israel and Piet Cohen of Holland.

"The fact is that we're able to lead our lives in a very innovative, technology-based way. People are starting to integrate their religious life too," Levine-Petroff said.

Five of the participating artisans are not Jewish. "It looks as though, from their work, they were a little freed-up from traditional concepts, as they did not have the historical rootedness," she said.

Continued on page 45

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STILL TIME TO ENTER!
The Canadian Jewish News is giving away 18 pairs of tickets to see
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on Sunday, June 18 at 2:00 p.m.
at the Stratford Festival, in Stratford, Ontario.

Rules: Please print your full name, address and daytime and evening telephone numbers on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:

IN WHAT CITY DID THE FRANK FAMILY HIDE FROM THE NAZIS?

Send your response to: "Anne Frank" Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Rd. #205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4, or fax it to "Anne Frank" Contest 416-391-0949.
Entries limited to one per person.

All correct answers received by noon on Monday, June 5, 2000 are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected at The CJN offices. Eighteen names will be drawn and each will receive a pair of tickets to the play. All winners will be notified by phone on Tuesday, June 6. Winners must be able to pick up their prize at the CJN offices by 4:00 p.m. on June 14. The CJN will not mail tickets out. Odds of winning depends on the number of correct entries received. The CJN will not enter into any other correspondence with contestants.

Employees and immediate family members of The Canadian Jewish News *are ineligible to enter.*

The Canadian Jewish news

Arts & Travel

STUDY DRAWING, PAINING AT KOFFLER THIS SUMMER

Instructor **Paul Peregal** inaugurates a unique drawing and painting course this summer at the Koffler Gallery on north Bathurst Street.

The Toronto-based artist, whose work figures prominently in many collections internationally, combines practical studio experience with an exploration of the techniques of 19th- and 20th-century masters such as **Van Gogh**, **Picasso**, **Matisse**, **Kokoschka**, **Soutine**, **Bacon** and **Freud**.

The course melds history with studio investigation, offering an in-depth look at these artists' works through slides, videos and occasional trips to galleries.

"It is imperative for artists to study the techniques of the past and integrate these ideas into the consciousness and work of the present for any true development to occur," Peregal says.

June 27 to Aug. 17, afternoons or evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Koffler Gallery, Bathurst Jewish Centre. 416-636-1880.

* * *

Comedy For A Good Cause: Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital, Ezrath Nashim, present As Funny As It Gets III, an evening of stand-up comedy with **Steve Levine**, **Les Aaron**, **Jim McAleese**, **Greg Eckler** and **Tim Rykert**. $25 in advance, $30 at the door; all proceeds to support Alzheimer's research. Reception to follow. Leah Posluns Theatre. May 18, 7:30 p.m. 416-256-4222.

* * *

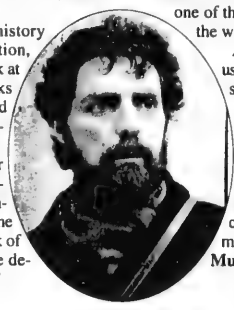
Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

Musical Events

• The Civic Light Opera Company presents the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *State Fair*, featuring a 28-member cast and songs like *It's A Grand Night for Singing*, *It Might As Well Be Spring* and two rarely heard numbers dropped from Oklahoma. Adults $15. Fairview Library Theatre. May 18 to 28. 416-203-7839.

•**Tamara Volskaya** is considered to be one of the best domra virtuosos in the world.



Paul Peregal

A domra, for the many of us who don't know, is a four-stringed instrument which is tuned like a violin, but played with a pick.

Volskaya, will be playing George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, plus other traditional, classical and contemporary music with the **Shevchenko Musical Ensemble** at the MacMillan Theatre on May 28, at 2 p.m.

She will also perform *Summer* from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, as well as Russian folk music, with the Toronto Senior Strings on June 1st at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church.

* * *

The Play's the Thing

• *Wings*, a Tony Award-winning play by **Arthur Kopit**, focuses on **Emily Stilson** (played by **Nonnie Griffin**), a former aviatrix and stunt pilot who battles aphasia after a stroke. By turns harrowing, funny and inspirational, the play traces Stilson's struggle as she regains the power of speech. May 18 to 28, George Ignatieff Theatre, 27 Devonshire Pl. Adults $26. Kopit participates in a dialogue with th cast after the May 24 performance, benefit for the Aphasia Institute Toronto. 416-504-PLAY.

• Toronto's newest clown company, Teatr de Marte, presents it original creation, Leve 11, an "exploration themes in the corporat world" by two clown named Spazmo an Princess Von Special (**Becky Johnson** an **Lisa Anne Ross**). June 1 to 3. $7. Tin Sims Playhouse. 416-343-0011.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Frankenthaler Graphics are on viev May 20 to June 7 at Gallery One, 12 Scollard St. 416-929-3103.

• The Toronto Watercolour Society hold its 15th annual spring show, Aquavisio 2000, at the North York YMCA, Bayvie and Sheppard. May 29 to June 10 Opening ceremony, May 28, 3 p.m.

• **Barbara Frohlich**, a member of th Thornhill Village Artists, is showing he artwork in multi-media and collag Monday to Friday until May 31 from 9 a.m to 4 p.m at the Skylight Gallery Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way Aurora. One piece is a memorial to **Matt Baranovski**.

Arts Briefs

• The American Jewish Museum/JCC i Pittsburgh seeks entries for its third inter-national travelling exhibition, Encounter-ing the Second Commandment, slated t open in 2001. More than $6,000 in prizes. All media welcome except video. E-mail queries to bwerber@jccpgh.org or visit the Web site, www.jccpgh.org.

• Vintage Canada has brought out a paper-back novel of *The River Midnight*, the widely acclaimed novel of 19th-century shtetl life by Toronto author **Lilian Nattel**. $19.95 in bookstores.

Heart-rending film should be savoured

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Paul Morrison's *Solomon and Gaenor* is a sensitive, ultimately heart-rending film of a doomed romance in early 20th century Britain.

The protagonists are two starry-eyed lovers whose plans run aground on the shoals of tradition and prejudice.

Solomon and Gaenor, which opens on May 19 at the Cineplex Odeon chain, is linguistically unique, as it unfolds in English, Welsh and Yiddish, a combination unprecedented in the history of cinema.

Taking place in Wales' coal mining region, it is set in 1911 against the backdrop of bitter industrial unrest which unleashes the dogs of anti-Semitism.

Starting innocently enough, it begins as Solomon (Ioan Gruffudd) a Jewish door-to-door salesman of cotton goods, encounters Gaenor (Nia Roberts), the daughter of a Baptist mining family, on one of his daily rounds.

The rebellious scion of Orthodox Jews, Solomon is smitten by the demure Gaenor, and returns to her house the following day for a friendly chat. Calling himself Sam Livingstone, Solomon conceals his Jewishness and claims to be British.

This is hardly surprising, given the casual though rampant racism which pervades the town. This is a place where the odious phrase, "Jew-boy," is lamentably common.

Thanks in part to a lovely red dress he presents to Gaenor one fine day, Solomon wins her heart. The chemistry is clearly there, but their budding fling faces immense obstacles.

In a series of carefully-wrought scenes which establish the limits of their secret relationship, Morrison shows us how societal and religious factors work formidably against them.

Without even knowing that he is dating a Christian woman, Solomon's Orthodox parents, steeped in the mores and values of the eastern European shtetl, remind him that Jews and Christians are like oil and water and should not mix.

Similarly, when Solomon meets Gaenor's strict, chapel-going parents, the realization hits home that the cultural gap between Jews and non-Jews is simply unbridgeable.

Despite the harsh realities imposed on them, Solomon and Gaenor continue to see each other furtively, and their intimacies result in the inevitable – Gaenor's pregnancy.

Her condition prompts a Welsh suitor

Nia Roberts as Gaenor.

to denounce Gaenor " for fornicating with a stranger." In short order, much to her family's shame, she is excommunicated from the chapel.

Continued on page 45

Arts & Travel

Violinist Lenny Solomon finds musical expression in jazz

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Although classically trained, Juno Award-winner Lenny Solomon is known mainly as a jazz violinist.

"When I was a teenager, my friends were playing in rock bands. I couldn't play piano or guitar, but I could play violin, so I put a pick up on it, making it loud, and started to play pop, rock and jazz in a modern North American blues-based style," says Solomon.

Fans of Lenny Solomon's '70s group, Myles and Lenny, will have a chance to introduce their kids to his amazing talents when the internationally renowned Toronto born violinist, composer and arranger joins the Toronto Symphony Orchestra for two Young People's Concerts at Roy Thomson Hall.

Solomon's father, Stanley, was a violist with the orchestra for 42 years.

"I grew up in a very musical family. It was my desire to play the violin since I was a little boy because my dad played viola and my sister Maribeth, who is now a composer for film and TV, played piano," Solomon says.

Solomon studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music and McGill University. He credits violinist Albert Pratz, a former concertmaster with the TSO, as the mentor who took him under his strings 28 years ago.

"It was fascinating at the time to play the music of a teenage generation. Over the years I've honed my sound. It has become more sophisticated as my tastes have developed into more of a jazz sound."

Solomon was *Jazz Report's* Violinist of the Year for '94, '95 and '96 and his achievements have included headlining in '75 at Ontario Place in front of 12,000 fans with then partner Myles Cohen, and opening for Frank Zappa at the Montreal Forum.

In addition to acting as concertmaster on the Jimmy Page/Robert Plant tour stops in Toronto and Buffalo, Solomon has recorded with Liza Minelli, Anne Murray, John McDermott, Nigel Kennedy, Raffi, John Dankworth, Prairie Oyster, Michelle Wright, Soul Asylum and Led Zeppelin.

Jazz musicians Peter Appleyard and Ruby Braff joined Solomon on his 1992 debut CD, *After You've Gone*. His latest CD is the *Gershwin Sessions*.

Solomon has included classical pieces like Bach's *Double Violin Concerto* with his work with The Galaxy Trio, a touring and recording jazz group that includes Israeli violinist Moshe Hammer and pianist Bernie Senensky.

"I have an exciting project this summer. I am putting together a group called World on a String to debut on Canada Day in Hanover, Germany at the Expo 2000. The group features 10 of Canada's top violinists and fiddlers from jazz, classical, country and Celtic and a five-piece group that includes my wife Wendy on cello.

"I'm compiling and writing music, trying to amalgamate the different styles into a sound," he says.

"There is a lot of interest in this group in Canada and the United States. We'll have an opportunity to tour and record as well."

Another Toronto appearance will be a benefit for the Canadian Friends of Ezrath Nashim – Herzog Hospital in Israel at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts on Sept. 19.

Tickets to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert on May 27 featuring Solomon, Keira Fullerton on cello and Rosemary Thomson conducting cost $17. For showtimes and tickets call 416-593-4828.

Thought-provoking films on Vision TV

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

If you take a close look at trends in the Middle East, you'll find that religious fundamentalism is sweeping the region.

An Islamic revolution has changed the face of Iran, and in Algeria, an Islamic revolt has triggered a full-blown civil war. In Egypt and in Turkey, Islam is growing as a political force. And in Israel, Jewish – and Islamic – fundamentalism is a rising phenomenon.

With this in mind, Vision TV is broadcasting two thought-provoking documentaries on the subject next week under the broad title of *Remaking the World*.

The first one, *This Land Is Ours,* which is scheduled to air on Tuesday, May 23 at 9 p.m., focuses on the extremist wing of the Jewish settlers' movement in Israel. The second one, *The Best Society On Earth,* which can be seen on Thursday, May 25 at 9 p.m., examines Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt.

Although they have little in common and consider each other arch enemies, religious extremists in Israel and Egypt share at least one abiding characteristic. Both are motivated and driven by a deep-seated messianic belief in God and are absolutely convinced that they are carrying out God's commandments on earth.

This Land Is Ours refers, of course, to the West Bank, or Judea and Samaria, where thousands of settlers affiliated with

Continued on page 45

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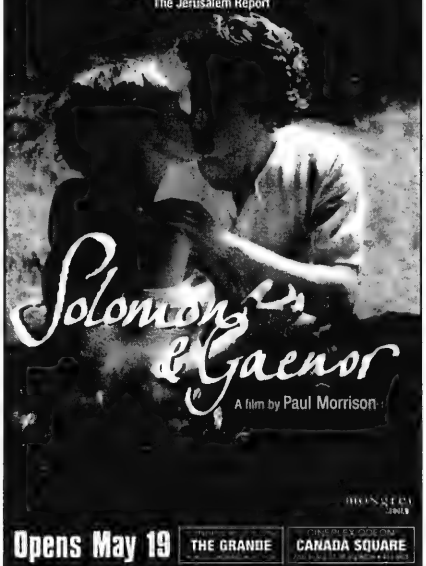
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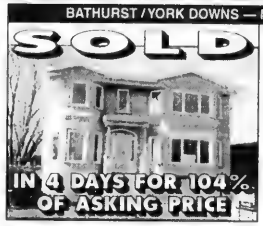

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148 DELHI AVENUE! 4+1 BDRMS., 4 BATHS
Now $395K! Armour Heights opportunity! Breathtaking 55 x 174' park setting! Move right in! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

PRIME CEDARVALE JUST $439,900
Immaculate home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, main floor den. Private drive, finished basement, 35 x 100 ft. Faithe Eversky** 488-2875

YONGE-SHERWOOD PARK - 2 STOREY
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, finished lower level with w/o to 180' garden. Private drive. Gayle Mitchell* 488-2875 SOLD

"MITCHELL AVE. MEWS" ONLY 3 LEFT
Fabulous new 1,700' freehold townhomes. 3 stry., 3 bdrms., 3 baths. Gourmet kit., cac, cvac. Parking +++ Marty Roth* 488-2875

ADELAIDE WALK 7 NEW FREEHOLD TOWNHOMES
Under construction 3 storey, 3 bedrooms, cac, hardwood floors, garage. Urban at its best. Marty Roth* 488-2875

CEDARVALE BUNGALOW
2 bedrooms on main floor, finished basement with rec. room, bedroom and full washroom. Call Russell Pearsall* 488-2875

CENTRAL PROPERTIES Cont'd

SUPER LIVE IN OR INVESTMENT
Opportunity. 3 fully self-contained apartments. Coveted east end location. Parking. Call Marty Roth* 488-2875

47 & 49 CECIL STREET! EACH $289,000
Stately Victorian! Great for live-in/professional offices. Income potential Reesa Sud* 488-2875

MARLEE-LAWRENCE $269,000 SOLD
Triplex - 2 three bdrms., 2 bdrms & 1 one bedroom. Vacant poss. Priced to sell. Gayle Mitchell* 488-2875

60 HOUNSLOW AVENUE! 32 X 132' LOT!
$249,900! Prime Yonge S./Finch! Live-in/add on/build new! Walk to subway/shops! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

YORKVILLE & SCOLLARD
First floor with street window exposure + lower formerly art gallery. Upscale modern $2,000/mth. Olga Guvenal* 226-1987

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

15 BERKINDALE CRESCENT! 5+2 BDRMS., 8 BATHS
$1,548K! Spectacular exec. retreat! Main family+lib.+lau.+2 pce.! 3 car garage. Secluded loc.! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

94 BEECHWOOD AVENUE! 5+1 BDRMS., 5 BATHS
$1,085K! Motivated! Luxury res. with main fam.+lib.+lau.+2 pce.! Nanny suite! Fabulous 50x145'! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

107 ABITIBI AVENUE! 5+2 BDRMS., 6 BATHS
$669K! Vendor says sell! Main family+lib.+lau.+2 pce.! Rare 59 x 123'! Unbelievable! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

GREENLANE/LESLIE - CUSTOM BUILT SOLD
Approximately 3,100 sq. ft., 5 bdrms, 5 baths. Main flr. laundry + family room. Finished basement. Faithe Eversky** 488-2875

NORTH PROPERTIES

GREENLANE/LESLIE A FABULOUS 4+2 BEDROOMS
Custom built home on a cul-de-sac ravine. Close to shul, transportation + shops. S. Gruenstein*/J. Uslaner* 226-1987

1ST AD! 141 YORK HILL BLVD.!
$369,900! Bathurst S./Clark! 4+1 bdrms., 4 baths, mn. fam.+ lau.+2 pce.! Walk to shul/school/shops! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

BROWNSTONE @ YONGE/CLARK
Freehold townhome 2,333', 2 master ensuites, jacuzzi, bidet, skylights, ceramics +++ Ruth Trachter* 226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

1ST AD! LOWER VILLAGE GATE!
Main floor unit, 2 bdrms., 2 baths! Walk-outs to garden patio. Much sought after building! Cathy Kwinter* 488-2875

240 HEATH STREET WEST! NOW $479K!
Rare hi-floor NE corner, 2 bdrms., 2 baths+sol. with panoramic city views! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

1ST AD! LOWER VILLAGE CONDO!
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors. Shows to perfection! Steps to TTC, shops and restaurants. Lynne Elkind* 488-2875

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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Lrge. 4 bdrm., fin. bsmnt., mn. flr. lib., gourmet kit., 2 ensuites, air, vac, alarm, hrdwd.+++ All the bells & whistles! *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-LAWRENCE - NEW LISTING!
Detached 3+1 bdrms., 2 baths, lrge. lot, fin. bsmnt. hardwood floors, ceramics, white kit. On quiet street. *Lenna Langer-Gross

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BATHURST-ATKINSON - VERY DESIRABLE CRES.
Steps to Associated on Atkinson! 4 lrge. bdrms., new ceramics & strip hrdwd. flrs., fam. home. *Cila Fleischmann or *Sarah Tamin

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"ROSEDALE NORTH" ATKINSON & CENTRE
Stunning, totally reno. 4 bdrm. with mn. flr. fam. rm. & fin. basement. Shows like new! Steps to school & bus. *Cila Fleischmann

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BATHURST-ATKINSON "WINDERMERE" BUILT
Large 4 bedroom, double garage, main floor laundry, appliances, air, great room sizes. Call *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST & CLARK - 1ST AD!
Lovlely 4 bedroom, parquet floors, interlock patios, bright - close to parks, schools and shopping. *C. Rosenzweig

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BATHURST-CLARK - WALK TO SYNAGOGUE!
Over 4,000 sq. ft., 2 kosher kitchens, finished basement apt., 5+2 bedrooms, stunning!! *Larry Wronzberg

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BATHURST-CLARK $339,900
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BATHURST-CLARK "SPRING FARM"
Beautiful decor! 4 bdrms., fin. basement, inground swimming pool, new windows, new kitchen & more!! *Larry Wronzberg

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BATHURST-CENTRE "ROSEDALE NORTH"
4 bedrooms, finished walk-out basement, strip hardwood floors, large balcony off kitchen, $359,900. *Larry Wronzberg

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BRIDLE PATH AREA - OVER 1 ACRE RAVINE LOT!
Architecturally designed raised bung., custom gourmet kit., french drs., fin. w/o bsmnt., hrdwd & marble flrs. *Lora Yakobson

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BATHURST-CENTRE "ROSEDALE NORTH"
Executive 4 bedrooms, finished walk-out basement, hardwood floors, premium lot, $499K. *Lora Yakobson

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-STEELES "COURTLANDS"
3 bdrm. converted to 2, large rooms, close to TTC, shops, shul. *C. Rosenzweig

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BATHURST-WILSON $148,900!
On Bathurst, 2 bdrms & baths, close to everything! *Mary Fenyes

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Impeccable 2 storey, 3 bedrooms, main floor addition, 3 baths, marble fireplace, CAC, CVAC, alarm ++. Joan Kirsh*

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$254,900. Lovely 3 bdrms., oak floors, master ensuite, mn. fam. rm., fireplace, move-in condition. L. Richman*/Z. Molko**

STEELES/DON MILLS RAVINE LOT
$899,000 - 4,000' fab. kit., fam. rm., 5 baths, L.L. entertainers dream, near Shar Shalom & assoc. hebrew sch. G. Kerbel*

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Magnif. custom designed 5 bdrms., "Ravine" lot w/walkout low. lvl., hrdwd./marble/ceramic flrs. P. Steinberg** @ ext. 334

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Immaculate sidesplit on 75' lot. 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, fin. lower level, main family room, double garage. S. Solomon*

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Charismatic sunfilled, 2 storey, 4 bedrooms, 4 ½ baths. Family home with large principal rooms. Cheryl Graff*

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English speaking, experienced, live-in housekeeper. Cooking, Thornhill. References. Call 905-731-4072, any time.

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330 OBITUARIES

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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330 OBITUARIES

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330 OBITUARIES

We mourn the loss of
PAULA (PUICA)
GOLDENBERG ז"ל
on May 11th, 2000
in Toronto.
She will be missed by her husband
SIMON,
children ILANA and PAUL,
JACOB and ZIPORA,
grand children RACHELLE,
NATALIE, JACQUELINE,
JENNIFER, MATTHEW and
JAYSON, her sister JANA,
sister-in-law CAROLA, nieces and
nephews, and her many friends.

The Meeting Place

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Women seeking Men

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FAMILY ORIENTATED

Single divorced Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm with great sense of humour. Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat and respect a lady who was previously married and experienced family life. AD#1396

ANIMAL LOVER

Single Jewish female, tall, with long dark hair and dark eyes, enjoys travelling, the outdoors, and loves animals. Seeking a tall male, with a good sense of humour, who's easy to talk to. AD#1387

LET'S LAUGH

Single female, 40 yrs, a beauty, zestic, fun loving, lives large and respects life. Seeking nice Jewish male, 35-75 yrs, who's open hearted and minded, is financially secure for a wonderful friend and kind loving companion. AD#1392

FRIEND AND COMPANION

Single Jewish female. window, 55 yrs, 5' attractive, intelligent, caring, raised with traditional values. Seeking male, 55-65 yrs, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, to share laughter and more. AD#1518

BE MY MENSCH

Attractive female, 5'8", creative, active, adventurous, youthful and elegant feminist. Seeks emotionally available mensch, 50-56 yrs, to share arts, nature and more. AD#1409

FRIENDS FIRST

Single mom, 40 yrs, attractive, slim, 1 ten year old son, university educated, employed, ambitious, outgoing, enjoys dining dancing, cooking, reading, long walks, sports, cross country skiing. Seeks male, non-smoker, social drinker in the same age group with similar interests. AD#1359

MUSIC LOVER

Divorced female, from the Hamilton area, originally from Montreal, vivacious, fit, attractive, early 50's, enjoys travel, dining and dancing, theatre Seeks male, outgoing, financially independent, likes classical music and jazz good sense of humour, loves tennis for possible long term relationship. AD#1605

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Jewish female, divorced, 40 yrs, very attractive, well educated, physically fit, good sense of humour. Seeking male with same attributes, who's financially and emotionally secure, professional, honest, reliable, 40-50 yrs, and knows how to live life to the fullest. AD#1642

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Divorced female, 40 yrs, with 10 yr old son, 5'3fi, very attractive, slim, adventurous, university educated, employed, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys movies, sports, dancing and taking walks. Seeking male who's university educated, non-smoker and drinks very little. AD#1369

COMPANIONSHIP

Female, 5'2", blonde hair with medium build, employed full time and works out at YMCA. Seeking gentleman who's nice and honourable as a companion. AD#1357

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish female, 37 yrs, brown hair, hazel green eyes, slim, cute, petite, honest, sincere, smoker, enjoys cooking, singing, dining and dancing, movies, walks, talks. Seeking Jewish male, 35-43, spontaneous, romantic, ambitious, smoker, who's ready to settle down and have children. AD#1428

BUILD A FAMILY

Single modern orthodox Jewish female, blue eyes, brown hair, beautiful, educated, tall. Seeks male, caring, intelligent, healthy, tall, 36-48 yrs, ready to build a happy, loving family. AD#1665

WAITING FOR YOU

Single Jewish female, 40 yrs, 5'8", brown eyes, tall attractive, honest, sincere, secure, enjoy dancing, sports, dining and outdoor activities. Seeking male 38-52 yrs, established, intelligent, romantic with similar interests and qualities. AD#1730

GREAT PERSONALITY

Single female from Australia en route to England, 5'1", long dark curly hair, attractive, outgoing, feminine, fun loving. Seeks male with similar qualities. AD#1154

MAN OF MY DREAMS

Single Jewish female, petite, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, brown eyes, red hair, enjoy the theater, movies, music, travelling Seeking a Jewish male, 52-65, non smoker, financially and emotionally stable, honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests. AD#1253

FEMME DE JOUR

Slim Jewish professional female, dynamic and challenging personality, multi-faceted with great sense of humour. Enjoys dancing, travel and exploring new horizons. Seeking an honest, established tall gentleman, mensch only. AD#1138

MARRIAGE ONLY

Separated Israeli female with 5 yr old daughter, attractive, a Hebrew teacher. Seeks professional or self-employed Canadian-Israeli male, attractive, 5'10"+, speaks fluent Hebrew, non-smoker and non-drinker, for marriage only. AD#1139

SERIOUS CALLS ONLY

Single female, good looking, business woman, 48, 5'6", warm, spiritual , sincere, marriage minded, with 2 children, 1 married, other 14 yrs old. Enjoy dining, dancing, movies and other interests. Seeking male 46-57 yrs for friendship first relationship. AD#1449

SOULMATE

Semi-retired professional female, blond, slim, pretty, shapely, youthful, caring, with home here and in Florida. Enjoys theatre, movies, dancing music, especially Jazz. Seeking sincere, established male, 60-69 yrs, non-smoker, to share love, laughter and more. AD#1325

SINGLE DADS WELCOME

Divorced Jewish professional mom, 43, 5'6", in Thornhill. Seeks intelligent, stable, optimistic, happy, healthy, and energetic single Jewish mensch, who's family oriented, follows traditional Jewish values, sense of humour a plus , to establish a long term committed relationship, based on honesty and friendship. AD#1516

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single female, Toronto born, family oriented, works in the medical educational field, enjoys sports. Seeks male, marriage minded, ready to start a family and raise then with traditional Jewish values. Leave details and self description, will return calls. AD#1051

FAMILY VALUES

Attractive Jewish female, early 60's, seeking gentleman with integrity and who's family oriented. AD#1676

LET'S MEET

Single divorced female, 38 yrs, 5' 4", attractive, sophisticated, warm hearted, romantic, professional. Enjoys music, the arts, tennis, dancing and travelling. Seeking male, 37-48 yrs, who is intelligent, sincere, emotionally and financially stable. AD#1175

LET'S BECOME FRIENDS

Optimistic, fun loving, attractive, professional, brunette, green eyes. Enjoys reading, travel, music, dancing, movies, theatre, walks, evenings at home. Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, who is compassionate, honest, has integrity, strong family values, humourous and enjoys good conversation. AD#1571

LOVES LIFE

Divorced female, 55 yrs, semi-retired professional, green eyes, blonde hair, attractive, caring, good sense of humour. Enjoys music, sports, dining and dancing, cottage life. Seeks male, 60-69 yrs, established, non-smoker, sincere, loves life and laughter. AD#1159

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single female, attractive intelligent, professional, warm hearted, sincere, spiritual modern orthodox, wide variety of interests. Seeks male, 39-45 yrs with similar interests and qualities for family oriented relationship. AD#1158

LET'S FALL IN LOVE

Single Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm, good sense of humour. Seeking a male, over 47, secure, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat a lady. AD#1483

LET'S MEET

Single Jewish female, divorced, 38, 5'4", professional, attractive, slim, enjoy music, theater, philosophy, psychology, tennis, dancing, travelling. Seeking a Jewish male, 37-48, intelligent, honest, sincere, financially secure. AD#1226

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single female, divorced, 41, with 2 teenagers, fun, spiritual, sensual, happy, humorous. Seeking a mensch who is family oriented, humorous, sincere, enjoys outdoors, movies, dining out, having fun, to share good and bad times together. AD#1329

UNIQUE LADY

Single Jewish female, 50ish, 5'6", attractive, thoughtful, loving, caring, sensual, fit, professional, non smoker, positive outlook, enjoy sports, ballet, jazz, countrysde. Seeking a male, non smoker, down to earth, secure, to share life's treasures with. AD#1119

JAU DA VIVE

Single female, 58, writer, intelligent, attractive. Seeking a Jewish male, 60ish, who has strong ties with Israel. AD#1247

FAMILY VALUES

Divorced female, 42, 5'2", cute, slim, smart, 2 children, passionate, energetic, fun. Seeking a male, well educated, has good values, non smoker. AD#1016

LOVE LIFE

Single Jewish female, 28, adventurous, ambitious, outgoing, friendly, enjoy sports, working out, reading, music, theater. Seeking a Jewish male, never married, ambitious, trustworthy, honest, outgoing, ready to live life to the fullest. AD#1564

COMPANIONSHIP

Single Jewish female, late 40's, attractive, professional, no dependents, enjoy movies, long walks, theater. Seeking a Jewish male, 49-60, with similar interests. AD#1390

FRIENDS FIRST

Single Jewish female, intelligent, honest, educated, kind, religious, wide variety of interests. Seeking a male, 68-75, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, possible future developments. AD#1050

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single Jewish female, 37, brown hair, hazel green eyes, smoker, slim, cute, petite, honest, sincere, down to earth, enjoy cooking, singing, dining, dancing. Seeking a Jewish male, 35-43, spontaneous, romantic, ambitious, ready for marriage and children. AD#1280

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish female, widow, attractive, 50, intelligent, European. Seeking a male, honest, kind, well established, to share love and life. AD#1522

MAN OF MY DREAMS

Single Jewish female, petite, brown eyes, cute red hair, intelligent, fun loving, enjoy theater, movies, music, travelling. Seeking a Jewish male, 54-65, professional, non smoker, financially and emotionally stable, honest, kind, fun loving, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, possible future developments. AD#1571

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Men seeking Women

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LOVE WAITS

Single male, 5'7", Greenish blue eyes, handsome, poor starving writer, reliable, enjoys sports, swimming, tennis, very down to earth, ready to start a family. Seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. AD#1195

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Single male, 34 yrs, seeking female with professional status, intelligent, good conversationalist, who enjoys movies, sports, dining, dancing, walks, reading, having fun and tender moments. AD#1190

IT'S SPRING!

Single male, 46 yrs, special education teacher, 2 grown children, 23 yrs & 21 yrs, romantic, self-confident, enjoys roller-blading, travel, country walks, have eclectic tastes, good sense of humour. Seeks female with similar qualities and interests. AD#1498

FAMILY MAN

Separated male, 50 yrs, 5'7", 160lbs, with 3 teenage children, family oriented, fairly intelligent and financially secure. Seeking female who enjoys dining, theatre, movies, outdoor activities and welcomes anyone with family. AD#1533

LOVE & LAUGHTER

Single Jewish male, 33 yrs, good sense of humour, honest, nice, intelligent, happy, warm hearted, energetic. Seeks female, happy go lucky who's wants some good laugh. AD#1442

TIMELESS LOVE

Single male, 49 yrs, 5'11", Brown hair, Brown eyes, handsome, successful, caring, supportive, romantic, passionate, sensual, open honest with feelings, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cooking quiet evenings at home. Seeks attractive female 35-45 yrs, affectionate, emotionally healthy, passionate about herself and the man in her life. AD#1377

WANTS FAMILY LIFE

Divorced male, 53 yrs, a writer, no children, good hearted, good looking, good humoured and good brain. Seeking female to have children with and start a family. AD#1151

TO SHARE LIFE

Single male, 41 yrs, seeks female who's attractive, nice, good sense of humour, lives in the Toronto, enjoys theatre, having a good time and the great outdoors to share my life with. AD#1265

SCHOLARLY MYSTIC

Attorney and international entrepreneur, cultured, aereodite, talmud, chachim, kaballist, thaumaturical healer, violinist, poet, parachutist, scuba diver, wishes to a new period. Seeks slender, intelligent, attractive, adventurous lady who's emotionally/financially secure as my queen. AD#1386

WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS MOST

Single male, 47 yrs, good sentse of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies-especially Hitchcock, and drives in the country. Seeking female, professional or non-professional, non slim okay, children okay, smoker on non-smoker, a basically nice, down to earth person. AD#1055

GOOD IN EVERY WAY!

Divorced male, 53 yrs, no children, good hearted, good humoured, good looking. Seeks female for loving relationship. AD#1600

WARM & CARING

Single white male, 57 yrs, warm, caring, romantic, self-employed. Enjoys travel, movies, quiet romantic evenings, good conversation. Seeks female with similar interests and qualities. AD#1565

LET'S HAVE COFFEE

Single male, young looking, 45 yrs, 5'11", brown hair, brown eyes, cute smile, university educated, employed professional, good manners. Enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, sporting events. Seeks female 30-42 yrs, for casual relationship, possible long lasting relationship. AD#1598

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single male, 35 yrs, 5' 10", honest, sharing and caring, down to earth, enjoys movies, dining, and dancing, concerts, quiet romantic evenings. Seeks female with similar interests. AD#1660

LOVE AWAITS

Single Jewish male, late 40's , 5' 10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, loving, good sense of humour. Enjoys the theatre, long walks, bowling, tennis. Seeks female, 32-33 yrs, single or widowed, orthodox preferred but not required, intelligent, with similar interests. AD#1161

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER

Single Jewish male, widower, blue eyes, brown hair, medium height, good looking, non smoker, very fit, work out, enjoy movies, dining, travelling, beach holidays, skiing. Seeking a female, attractive, good natured, to enjoy life with. AD#1393

GOOD MAN

Divorced male, 53, no children, good hearted, good looking, good sense of humour. seeking a female to share life with. AD#1178

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Single male, unique and special, with traditional values, attractive, young looking, healthy, successful, enjoy life. Seeking a female with similar qualities. AD#1212

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, sincere, no children. Seeking a physically fit and sincere female, 25-35, for serious relationship. AD#1189

WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single Jewish semi-retired business man in beauty supply, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, short dark hair, mustache, traditional, family oriented, enjoy swimming, bicycling, lot of educational reading. Seeking a Jewish female to have children and a family. AD#1322

TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME

Single Jewish male, traditional, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, well educated, semi-retired, in the beauty supply business, handsome, short dark hair, mustache, enjoy swimming, cycling, educational reading, family life, ready for marriage and family. Seeking a single Jewish female, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1008

LIVE LIFE FULLY

Single male, divorced, father of 2, 48, 5'7", slim, fit, generous, Family Physician, enjoy philosophy, cultures, Latin dancing, cross country skiing. Seeking a younger female, attractive, slim, highly intelligent, passionate, giving, sincere, emotionally and financially secure, likes children. AD#1318

HOUSE OF TORRAH

Single male, Canadian born, divorced, caring, professional, enjoy Torrah and phycology. Seeking a female, attractive, Jovio, 32-44, easy going, warm, gentle, spiritual, compatible for love, marriage, family. AD#1222

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish male, Canadian born, lawyer, Sabth of servant. Seeking a very intelligent and attractive female who wants children and family. AD#1608

SOULMATE

Single male, 58, 6'1", 160lbs, Israeli origin, Canadian citizen, young looking and feeling, tolerant, compassionate, love nature, country side, animals, reading, dining, glass of wine, anxious for a real soulmate to enrich and fulfill my life. AD#1424

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

Divorced male, professional, originally from Eastern Europe, 5'10", handsome, slim, fit, down to earth, non smoker, hopeless romantic, enjoy movies, sunsets on the beach, healthy lifestyle. Seeking a female, affectionate, slim, attractive, late 30's, for long term relationship. AD#1317

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, fit, non smoker & drinker, little shy, adventurous, enjoy movies, sports, dancing, walks. Seeking a nice female, friendly, similar interests, non smoker, for friends first relationship. AD#1083

CULTURED SCHOLAR

Divorced male, 50's, attorney, handsome, author, poet, musician, pilot, parachutist, sky diver, scuba diver, lived all over the world, classical music enthusiast. Seeking a female, attractive, intelligent, slender, gracious, compassionate, financially & emotionally secure, to share love & life. AD#1124

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single male, 6'3", 195lbs, fairly intelligent, enjoy running, reading, major goal is to get married and have a family. Seeking a female, enjoys reading and has goals. AD#1631

I BET ON YOU!

Single male, tall, young, 8', medium build, enjoy good music, good food, dining. Seeking a female who enjoys going to sporting events, wagering at the races, having a good time. AD#1483

OPEN YOUR HEART

Single white male, 57, warm, loving, romantic, self employed, business man. Seeking a female, similar qualities and interests. AD#1426

VERY ACCEPTING

Single male, conservative looking, humorous, 46, enjoy dancing, old movies, especially Alfred Hitchcock's, drives in the country. Seeking a female, 40-50, non slim OK, non professional OK, children from previous marriage OK, smoker OK, someone nice! AD#1591

OCEANS OF LOVE

Single Jewish male, 37, handsome, down to earth, fun to be with. Seeking a female, lovely, attractive, down to earth, 25-35, for compatible and understanding relationship. AD#1177

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Single Jewish male, late 40's, 5'10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, compassionate, gentle, good sense of humour, enjoy the theater, long walks in the part, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking a female, single or widowed, intelligent, with similar interests and qualities, Orthodox preferred but not required. AD#1552

BE MY SPECIAL SOMEONE

Single Jewish male, 34, dark brown eyes, brown hair, 5'10", handsome, down to earth, kind, loving, caring, financially secure. Seeking a Jewish female, petite, 25-33, sincere, attractive, 5'1"-5'6", love to wine and dine. AD#1413

IT TAKES TWO

Single male, 50ish, fair, blue eyes, 160lbs, great body, personality, talent, easy going, humble, warm, spontaneous, enjoy the outdoors, movies, art, cuddling, Israel. Seeking a female, honest, warm, caring, sensitive. AD#1059

Have Questions? Call: 416-236-6644

330 OBITUARIES

BIRNBAUM, Abraham - on Apr. 27, 2000, late of 135 Antibes Dr.
RUBINEK, Frania - on Apr. 28, 2000, late of 7 Townsgate Dr.
SHINER, Rose - on Apr. 28, 2000.
SHUGAR, Ida - on Apr. 28, 2000.
LEVITSKY, Zinovy - on Apr. 29, 2000.
GROSMAN, Matilda - on Apr. 30, 2000, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
KRIKUNOVA, Manya - on Apr. 30, 2000.
PASCOE, Gilbert - on Apr. 30, 2000, late of 21 Lorne Bruce Dr.
BARABASH, Sophia - on May 1, 2000.
GROSS, Isabel - on May 2, 2000.
KATZ, Chaja Helen - on May 2, 2000.
SHANE, Stuart Leslie - on May 2, 2000, late of 103 Alexis Blvd.
GAVERT, Ralph - on May 3, 2000, late of 275 Goldenwood Rd.
KELVIN, Noel Martin - on May 3, 2000, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd.
RODNESS, Kay - on May 3, 2000, late of 7601 Bathurst St.
ZARKHIN, Iakov - on May 3, 2000.
GANGBAR, Geraldine - on May 4, 2000, late of 135 Antibes Dr.
SCHULOF, Vitha - on May 4, 2000.
KORAL, Solomon - on May 5, 2000, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
KORENVAIN, David - on May 5, 2000, late of 523 Finch Ave. W.
RIVLIN, Nathan Morris - on May 5, 2000, late of 77 Stormont Ave.
SOLNICK, Carl K. - on May 5, 2000, late of 1201 Steeles Ave. W.
BIVALL, Blanche - on May 7, 2000, late of 4350 Bathurst St.
ZYLBERMAN, Angel - on May 7, 2000.
SNIPELISKY, Rena Ray - on May 8, 2000, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
LEV, Esther Gertrude - on May 9, 2000.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SIMON JACOB (JACK) ARON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, 10:15 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Tikvah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ADELE FAGAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 21st, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EDWARD KOHN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 21st, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Farband Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ARTHUR LUBLIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 21st, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Zaglembier Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANITA MALACH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 21st, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LULA RAPP ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, 11:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Drilitzer Y. M. Section 3
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MALKA SCHNITZER ז"ל
will take place
Monday, May 22nd, 2:00 p.m.
Bathust Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MARIANNE SHADLYN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 21st, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie Dr.
Community EEE Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
STANLEY SPRING ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 21st, 10:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Stashover-Slipia Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MARIA STRASFELD ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 21st, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Yavne Congregation Section 17
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ISAAC TURNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, 11:15 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Arts & Travel

Judaica 2000 looks ahead

Continued from page 37

The show also incorporates the traditional significance of chai, the Hebrew letters that represent the number 18 and the word for life. The show celebrates the gallery's 18th year, and the work of 18 juried artists are on display.

In addition, A Show of Hands dedicated 18 percent of the proceeds from the opening night to the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care's art therapy program.

A touching sidelight of the exhibit is a beautiful showcase of artworks created by the members of that program.

At the reception, Steven Petroff, Sara's husband and the Gallery's marketing director, noted that the current location of the gallery used to be a bank.

Since Sara's former career was in architecture, he said, she fell in love with the site's potential, and transformed it into a place of beauty and light.

But, he pointed out, the vault is still there – it was cheaper to leave it than remove it – and they were sorely tempted to name it the OyGa Vault.

The show was juried by a panel of artistic notables, including, among others, Av Isaac, proprietor of the Isaac Inuit Gallery, and Dorion Liebgott, curator of the Judaica museum at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

Ken Gangbar, one of the artists represented in Judaica 2000, works with contemporary designs in porcellaneous white clay, with a slight Japanese influence in his works. At the gallery his items include unique, sparse, ultra-modern seder plate sets.

"I really wanted these pieces to be shown in a gallery setting. And it was a long time since I'd produced any Judaica. For me that's a big part of the excitement, and I want to continue with that," Gangbar said.

From the cool, clean lines of Gangbar's seder set, to the intricately beaded mezuzot of Temma Gentles and Dorothy Ross, there's something to appeal to everyone's artistic sensibilities. The piece-de-resistance for many at the party, were two exquisite, hand-woven and hand-painted tallitot by Gentles, Levine Petroff and Edna Sandler.

Judaica 2000 is at A Show of Hands Gallery, 1016 Eglinton Ave. W., until May 28. For gallery hours, phone 416-782-4696.

Film should be savoured

Continued from page 38

Amid the tension, Solomon's reluctance to introduce Gaenor to his parents tears them apart. But as a miners' strike takes hold, they reunite, only to be torn from each other's grasp yet again.

As the strife at the mines mounts, Gaenor's overtly anti-Semitic brother instigates a mob to ransack Solomon's father's shop.

These events, horrible as they are, redouble Solomon's and Gaenor's burning desire to be with each other. At this point, pathos turns into tragedy as the lovers struggle to overcome overwhelming odds.

An Oscar nominee in the category of best foreign language film, *Solomon and Gaenor* is a fine, understated movie, an exquisite little gem which sparkles brightly in the light of self-revealment.

It is appealing in every respect, due to Morrison's disciplined direction and taut script and the performances of an exemplary cast.

A film of such stellar quality is rare, and should be savoured.

Look for an interview with director Paul Morrison in a future issue.

Thought-provoking documentaries

Continued on page 39

Gush Emunim (Bloc of the Faithful) have established facts on the ground in the form of settlements.

Although Gush Emunim has a fairly small membership, its agenda of settling the disputed territories has had an enormous impact on successive Israeli governments since its founding following the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

The film introduces us to a panoply of Gush leaders – from the fiery Daniella Weiss to the ascetic Rabbi Eliezer Waldman – and takes us to its settlements.

Weiss, an Orthodox woman, dreams of building "gigantic cities" in the West Bank, which she fervently regards as her spiritual and historical home. Israel, she proclaims, cannot give up "an inch" of territory to the Palestinians.

Rabbi Waldman claims that God brought Jews back to the West Bank, which he describes as the Jewish homeland.

Dissenting views of Gush's philosophy and objectives are presented in interviews with the haredi Rabbi Moshe Hirsch and with the Labour party politician Avraham Burg. Hirsh believes that the settlers are too impatient and should curtail their activities pending the arrival of the Messiah. Burg argues that Gush Emunim is an embodiment of a ghetto mentality.

***

The Best Society On Earth is a reference to the economic egalitarian Islamic state fundamentalists wish to build in Egypt, the first Arab nation to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Believing that only the imposition of martial law keeps them from attaining power, they are certain that they will rule Egypt one day. In the meantime, they gain converts and allies with their charities and network of health and dental clinics.

The current Islamic revival in Egypt is traced to Egypt's ignominious defeat in the 1967 Six Day War. But the story really begins with the founding of the Muslim Brotherhood by Hassan al-Banna in the 1920s.

The Best Society On Earth is largely based on interviews with Islamic spokespersons from all walks of life. Among the most articulate is Adel Hussein, an Islamic publisher in Cairo who embraces modern technology to spread the faith. Like some others, he turned to Islam after the signal failure of Arab nationalism and marxism.

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The Canadian Jewish news

Invited onto national under-17 team

Toronto teen suits up with Maccabi Haifa

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Although he's just 17 years of age, Sam Hazan has already done as much globe-trotting in pursuit of his soccer career as many players twice his age.

This year, the quick-footed football phenom can be found plying his trade in Israel, playing with Maccabi Haifa's junior team. Heady company indeed, as among soccer aficionados, Maccabi Haifa is considered the Arsenal or Manchester United of Israel, the elite team that year in and year out competes for championships and wins more than its fair share of titles.

Hazan, who was born in Israel but grew up in Toronto, was recently offered a four-year contract with Maccabi Haifa but he settled on a one-year deal, said David Hazan, Sam's father.

Because he was born in Israel, signing a four-year deal could have landed him in the army instead of playing soccer, Hazan explained.

Sam came to Maccabi Haifa in October after spending much of last year trying to land a starting position on youth development teams in England and France. While living with his uncle in England, he tried out first with the Watford Soccer Club's junior team, a second division team based in London, and then spent three months working out with Arsenal's youth team. Unfortunately, Hazan could not obtain the work permit that would have permitted him to accept Arsenal's contract offer to play in the organization.

After England, Hazan tried his luck in France. For one month he "tested" with a team in Nice but Sam decided not to play for them because no Jewish billets could be found for him, his father explained.

From there it was on to Maccabi Haifa, a team with which he already had ties. Back when he was 12 and spending a vacation in the northern port city, he trained for two months with the club's youth team. At the time, the coach was so impressed with his skills, he tried to persuade the family to let Sam remain in Israel and play full time. Instead he returned to Canada and pursued his passion for soccer here.

In Toronto, Hazan continued his rapid development. When he was 15, he helped his club team, Glen Shields, win a national championship. His talents earned him an invitation to try out for the national youth team for players 16 and under. Hazan also played for the Ontario provincial team and the left wing/striker led the Toronto team at the JCC-Maccabi Youth Games-in Connecticut to a gold medal, when as a 14-year-old he scored 13 goals in five games.

Glen Shields' technical director, David Benning, last year rated Hazan among the top 10 percent of players in his age group with the potential to develop into a national player for Canada.

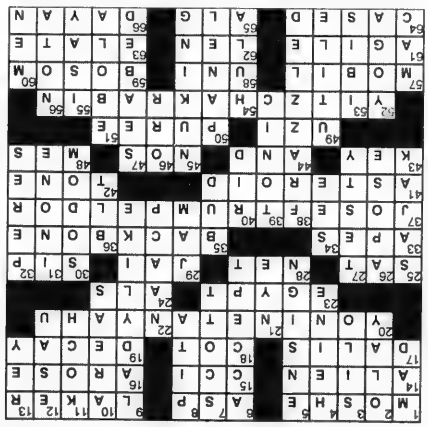
"He's very technical," Benning said. "He's very good with the ball. He can see the game. He has lots of vision."

Hazan's main strengths, as he described them, are his ball control and his powerful, left-footed shot. In 15 games with the Maccabi Haifa juniors, he scored six goals.

Hazan has so impressed soccer scouts in Israel that he's been invited to play for the national under-17 team. In early May, he was back in Europe, this time representing Israel in a tournament against opponents from Italy, France, Germany and England.

Sam Hazan is all smiles wearing Maccabi Haifa's trademark green jersey.

FLIP OVER FOR ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



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An abbreviated guide to Jewish history, part 2, year 1948-2170 (1812-1590 BCE)

By JORDAN MAX

Following a brief interlude for Purim and Pesach, we now continue with our Y6K Jewish history guide. I now understand that this guide may actually end up as the official full-version text of Jewish history in the new post-Zionist, Israeli education curriculum.

1948 (1812 BCE) — Avram, son of Terah and heir-apparent in the Idols R Us empire, is born. At an early age, he overhauls the product line and consolidates into one product, which he labels Monotheism. However, Terah's board of directors disagrees with the product change and turfs them both out, whereupon they relocate the business to Charan. Avram leaves the family business and goes into the soul business.

1996 (1764 BCE) — Noah's descendants decide to go into the condominium construction business. The overuse of subcontractors leads to utter confusion at the work site, construction is stalled and the lawsuits begin. People start learning other languages so they can talk about their children and associates right in front of them. Noah's descendants move to the four corners of the earth, where they can live far away from their neighbours while still being able to see what they're up to.

2018 (1742 BCE) — At age 70, Avram is told by God to get out of town and head to Canaan, giving rise to the first travel agent, tour guide books and cheap tourist trinkets. Avram shleps throughout Canaan, with a package side trip to Egypt. One night, he holds a big BBQ and signs an exclusive eternal deal with God in exchange for future considerations.

At age 99, during a mid-life crisis, he listens to God tell him to circumcise himself and his son Ishmael, and he becomes Avraham.

A year later, as predicted earlier, Avraham and his 90-year-old wife Sarah become proud parents of Isaac, proving that you can never be too old to become a parent (this message sponsored by Planned Parenthood International).

2085 (1675 BCE) — Avraham, once again listening to God, takes his favourite son, heir and caddy Isaac on the first father-son golf tournament, soon to become memorialized as the Akedat Yitzchak Invitational Classic.

On the 18th hole, Avraham, trailing by 10 strokes, takes his Ginsu knife and risks it all by attempting to sacrifice Isaac on the barbeque, but a course official orders him to desist, citing new local house rules that forbid human sacrifice of opponents, and informing him that this was only the club initiation test, hah, hah, hah.

Avraham substitutes with a sheep attached to a shofar, double-eagles the hole and finishes the round at par. Avraham and Isaac leave, resolving never to play golf again.

2108 (1652 BCE) — Isaac and his wife Rebecca give birth to twins, named Jacob and Esau, who couldn't be more different from each other. Jacob grows up to be such a nice boy, a real talmid chacham even, while Esau becomes an "outdoorsman" with his own game-hunting business. Jacob barters Esau's birthright from him for a bowl of lentil soup. Imagine what he could have gotten for a good bowl of chicken soup with knaidlach.

To be continued...

Last Laugh

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1/4 cup margarine
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
1 cup pecan halves
1 lb. medium noodles, cooked and drained
4 eggs, beaten

Topping
1/4 cup margarine, melted
1/3 cup sugar
1 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Melt 1/4 cup margarine in 10" bundt pan. Sprinkle brown sugar at bottom and around side of pan. Press pecan halves firmly into bottom of pan. Mix other ingredients with noodles. Pour into pan and bake 1 hour. Cool and unmold.

Serves: 6.

About Teens

Dear Karilani,

In my grade, we are expected to do many group projects, yet it is almost impossible to complete them. I am always the leader and the one who puts in the most effort. Every time my group gets together, I am always there. They refuse to get together without me, yet they skip the meeting whenever they want.

My group members get mad at me, and we constantly get into fights. We disagree when it comes to decisions and almost everything else. They never complete their assigned tasks properly, and I am the only one I can count on to get the job done right. I am so sick of hearing their excuses on why they cannot attend a meeting or do their share of the work.

Overworked

Dear Overworked,

Although group projects are challenging and at times frustrating, they are an important part of your curriculum to help students handle the types of problems that you are now facing. Group projects try to teach students how to work as a team. They involve getting along with your peers as well as sharing ideas, suggestions and the workload.

It sounds as though your group is not successfully meeting the challenges of this kind of project. But there are ways to solve some of the problems. The most important thing is to speak to the people in your group and tell them how irritated and frustrated you are. It is possible that they have no idea you are feeling this way. They may assume that you like taking all the responsibility and being in command, so let them know that you do not.

If they do not respond, then you can go speak to your teacher and let him or her know the situation. It can be in privacy; no one else has to know except you and the teacher. It is important that the teacher know the dynamics of the group, and also that you are the sole person doing the work.

If the members of your group fight with you about decisions, hear them out. They may have a good idea, and if they feel attached to an idea, it may motivate them to work harder and more diligently.

Most important, though, is to tell your group members how you feel about the unfair division of effort. They may actually listen.

Karilani is a composite name for three girls, who are close friends and in Grade 12 in Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish news

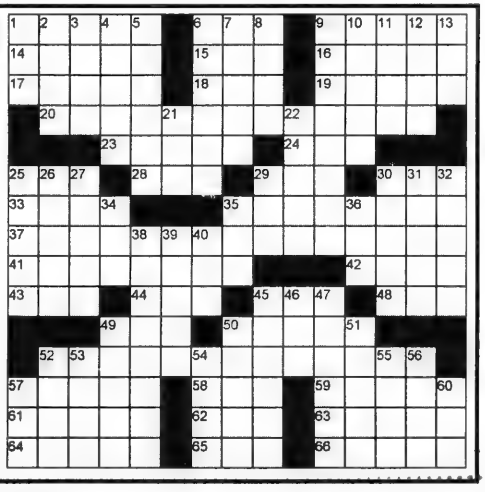
Fighting Words

By Matt Gaffney
and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across
1 With 66-across, Sinai Campaign hero
6 Scary snake
9 L.A. player
14 E.T., for example
15 201, to Tiberius
16 Part of a Gertrude Stein quip
17 Some surrealist works
18 Army bed
19 Tooth worry
20 Raid on Entebbe hero
23 Six-Day War opponent
24 Yankovic and Kaline
25 Served, a la Felix Frankfurter
28 Business concern
29 ___ alai (Basque sport)
30 Have some wine
33 "Planet of the ___"
35 Nebbish person's lack
37 Tel Hai hero
41 Space matter
42 Voice quality
43 Concern for Leonard Bernstein
44 "Just You ___ Me, Kid" (George Burns film)
45 Negatives
48 My, to Marcel Marceau
49 Israeli weapon
50 Blender setting
52 Six-Day War hero
57 Amoco rival
58 Mono-
59 "___ Buddies" (Tom Hanks show)
61 Like Kerri Strug
62 Deighton of thrillers
63 Thrill
64 Prepared to rob
65 Arab League nat.
66 See 1-across

Down
1 "___ About You" (Paul Reiser's show)
2 Oil of ___
3 Nebraska sight
4 *Book of Songs* poet
5 Navy rank
6 Take the offer
7 Astronaut Glenn
8 Hummus go-with
9 Fit for a woman
10 Fields of research
11 *Mayor* author
12 One of Isaac and Rebecca's sons
13 King, to Sephardim
21 Comic Louis
22 Civil rights org.
25 White colleague
26 Strike ___ (mug for the camera)
27 Like George Costanza, often
29 Traffic problem
30 City of sin
31 Hole-___
32 Labor leader
34 "Understand?"
35 Director Yorkin
36 Diner order
38 Like George Costanza, often
39 Gin partner
40 Free (of)
45 Using the microwave, slangily
46 Hockey great Bobby
47 Davy Jones' locker
49 Useful
50 Esteemed guests, often
51 *The Hot Zone* virus
52 How some get stretch marks?
53 Bird of the Nile
54 Luau dance
55 Englishman's rebuke
56 "I am ___ crook"
57 Big ___
60 Most rabbis

Crossword Puzzle



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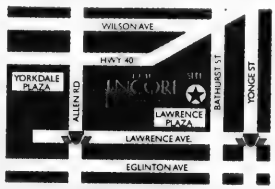

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This Week

National

Chaplain brings comfort to prisoners awaiting trial. *Page 3*

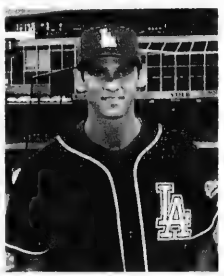
Weizmann Institute receives $15 million gift. *Page 13*

Top court rejects Vladimir Katriuk appeal. *Page 26*

Arts

Moshe Bromberg's art on display for first time since 1982. *Page 34*

Sports



Shawn Green, now a Dodger, one of a few Jewish players in the majors. *Pages 42*

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'Confessions' mount in Iran

CJN Staff and News Services

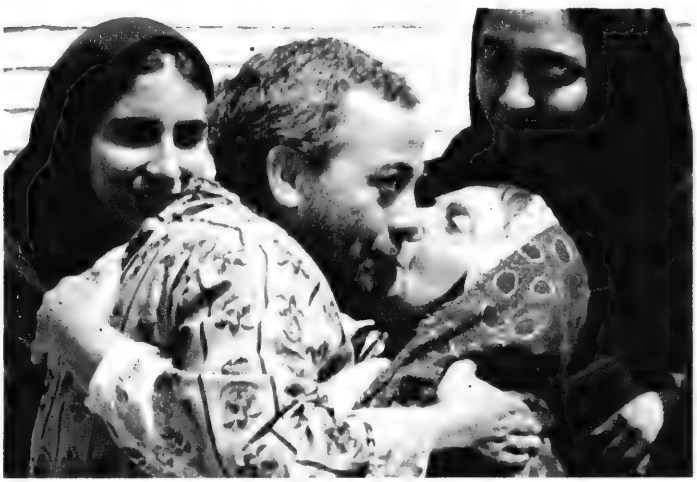
All but one of the 10 remaining Iranian Jews in custody on charges of spying for Israel have now confessed to passing sensitive information to the Jewish state, or to "co-operating with the Zionist regime."

According to Montreal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, who is in regular contact with Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy on the matter, nine of the 10 Jewish men still in custody in the southern city of Shiraz have to date confessed, leaving one who has pleaded not guilty, and three who have been free on bail but who must return to court this week.

None of the 13 has been formally charged with a crime since their incarceration in early 1999, Cotler said, adding that the nine confessions are inadmissible, even under Iranian law.

"They are illegal because they were secured in detention and without counsel present," Cotler told *The CJN*. "These defendants have been held incommunicado for over a year. That constitutes deprivation of liberty and thus, the confessions secured are inadmissible under international law and under Iranian law."

Continued on page 27



Asher Zadmehr, one of the Iranian Jews on trial, hugs his mother outside the court as his family looks on. Zadmehr provided the court with a "confession." *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

RUTH AND BOAZ: This oil painting by artist Moshe Bromberg is among the many works on display at Edwards Gardens in Toronto from June 5 to 18. ***Please see related story on page 34.***

Immigration bill imbroglio

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In an unlikely convergence of forces, two Jewish groups dedicated to prosecuting Nazi war criminals found themselves last week on the same side of an issue as supporters of killing squad member Helmut Oberlander.

B'nai Brith Canada and the Coalition of Concerned Congregations (CCC), an organization that represents six Montreal synagogues, called upon the House of Commons to adopt amendments to the government's proposed new Citizenship Act, Bill C-16. The amendments would give those facing loss of citizenship – and government lawyers – an extra avenue of appeal.

They were joined by the lawyer representing Oberlander, Oberlander's backers in Kitchener-Waterloo who registered their views in Internet polls, petitions and letters to the editor, as well as by Liberal MPs who view the procedure outlined in Bill C-16 as unfair.

Continued on page 20

Greater Toronto Area

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Plan may create PA zones in Jerusalem — please see page 28

The News in Brief

CANADA

Centre in Trouble

CALGARY — Local Jewish leaders experienced a sense of déjà vu recently when they heard that the Calgary Jewish Centre is in financial trouble and needs an immediate injection of cash if the doors are to remain open. A similar meeting was held four years ago, when the centre asked the Calgary Jewish Community Council for $325,000. This time, it is asking for a line of credit of $400,000.

Jewish Film Fest

VANCOUVER — Vancouver's 12th annual Jewish Film Festival got under way this week. The festival will showcase some two dozen films of Jewish interest and content from around the world. It continues to June 4. Some of the films will be screened in Victoria from June 11 to 18. For details, call 604-266-0245 or visit www.vjff.org

ISRAEL

Banks Open Books

JERUSALEM — Israel's banks have agreed to let an external auditor inspect their records of dormant accounts that may have belonged to Holocaust victims or their heirs. Bank Leumi has publicized a list of all accounts that were dormant since 1955, but not those that had earlier been handed over to Israel's custodian general. Bank Hapoalim, Israel's biggest bank, said it found only 170 accounts dating back to 1944 in its files, but could not locate one-third of the holders, and transferred them to the custodian as well.

Joint Airport

JERUSALEM — Israel and Jordan have agreed to build a joint airport that will begin operating in a year. The airport would serve the nearby Red Sea resorts of Eilat and Aqaba.

Most Wanted Caught?

JERUSALEM — Palestinian officials last week arrested a Hamas militant who tops Israel's most-wanted list, reported Israel Television's Channel 1. But Palestinian officials did not confirm the report on Mohammed Deif.

WORLD

Austrian Fund

VIENNA — Austria and seven other countries have agreed on the outlines of a new Austrian fund for Holocaust-era slave and forced labourers. Austria agreed to pay some $395 million to about 150,000 former slave and forced labourers. Payments would range from about $1,300 for forced labourers to about $6,800 for slave labourers. Many details of the fund still have to be negotiated. Another meeting is scheduled for May 30 in Washington.

Heroes Honoured

LODZ — A leader of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and a World War II envoy who told the West about the Holocaust were among those named honorary citizens of the Polish city of Lodz this month. In addition to Marek Edelman and Jan Karski, film director Roman Polanski was also honoured by Lodz, where some 200,000 Jews lived before World War II.

Journalist Sentenced

BUCHAREST — A Romanian journalist accused of writing anti-Semitic articles has received a two-year suspended prison sentence. A Bucharest court ruled that Mihai Bogdan Antonescu, 35, had written anti-Semitic newspaper articles in 1997 and 1998. One of them called members of the government "dirty Jews" and Gypsies.

Gays Lose Case

NEW YORK — Gay and lesbian students have lost their attempt to appeal a dismissal of their lawsuit against Yeshiva University's medical school over its ban on same-sex couples living in its married-student housing. In 1999, a New York court ruled that the university was not responsible for gay and lesbian students' inability to marry.

Swiss Add to Fund

BERNE — Several Swiss insurers have agreed to pay $50 million to settle Holocaust-era claims, Reuters reported last week. The money will be added to a $1.25-billion out-of-court settlement Swiss banks agreed to pay in 1998, the sources said.

Prison Anti-Semitic?

SAN FRANCISCO — A prison guard is charging the state's department of corrections with anti-Semitism. Alan Ashenfarb, who has worked at San Quentin since 1994, claims that he has suffered emotional distress from anti-Semitic jokes and comments made by other employees and prison administrators.

Program for Young Jewish Leaders

Israel's Foreign Ministry is holding its second annual Young Jewish Leadership Diplomatic Seminar.

The seminar was first run last July with 35 participants from 16 countries around the world. This year's seminar is scheduled for July 23 to Aug. 11.

The program's foremost objective is to enhance the relationship between young Jewish leaders and the State of Israel. The seminar will explore many facets of the Israeli agenda, including the peace process, national security, the economy, culture and society, and Jewish life in Israel.

The program is conducted under the auspices of Bayit Meshutaf (Shared Home), a new division of the Foreign Affairs Ministry that seeks to strengthen young Jewish leaders' ties to Israel and the Jewish world. The ministry covers full board and lodging, excursions and other costs. Participants are responsible for covering their flight costs to and from Israel.

Applicants must be university graduates and no older than 35. The operative language of the seminar is English.

For further information and an application, please contact David Cooper at the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa, Lisa Armony at the consulate in Toronto, or Barnea Hassid at the consulate in Montreal. Application deadline is June 1.

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Chaplain helps build bridges to the Jewish community

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — From the moment the steel door clangs shut behind you, you know you're in a place apart. With barbed wire on the fences outside, security guards at entranceways and the "guests" dressed in readily distinguishable orange jump suits, it's clear this isn't the Hilton. More like the Crowbar Hotel, where the guests check in and never leave until their host, the Ontario legal system, says it's time to go.

Special Feature
Jews in prison

There's something permanent and ominous about the clang of the electric door. For Rabbi Ronald Weiss, who's been visiting the Metro East Detention Centre for six years, the slamming of the door reminds him of how good life is on the outside.

"It's one thing to hear them clang if you're here for one hour. It's another if you're here for a longer period," he said.

Rabbi Weiss is a regular visitor at Metro East, as he is at two dozen other detention centres, jails and penitentiaries across Ontario. As director of chaplaincy services for Jewish Family & Child Service, a UJA FEDERATION-funded agency, it's his job to bring comfort, solace and a friendly face to the dozens of Jews who are guests at Her Majesty's Crowbar Hotels at any one time.

On this visit to Metro East, shortly before Pesach, Rabbi Weiss has with him matzahs and macaroons to help the inmates mark the holiday. He also has grape juice in glass bottles, but they will never leave his van. Rev. Mike Peacefull, the head chaplain at the facility, tells Rabbi Weiss that glass bottles can be broken and used as a weapon.

One thing the inmates do not lack is imagination, at least when it comes to creating weapons from everyday items. Even a pen, in the prison context, can be as mighty as a sword. These are not the nicest guys, I'm reminded, even though they're in a detention centre, not a correctional institution. For the uninitiated, a detention centre is where suspects are held pending trial. Correctional institutions, a.k.a. prisons, are where they go should they be convicted.

Continued on page 21

Rabbi Ronald Weiss at The Metro East Detention Centre.

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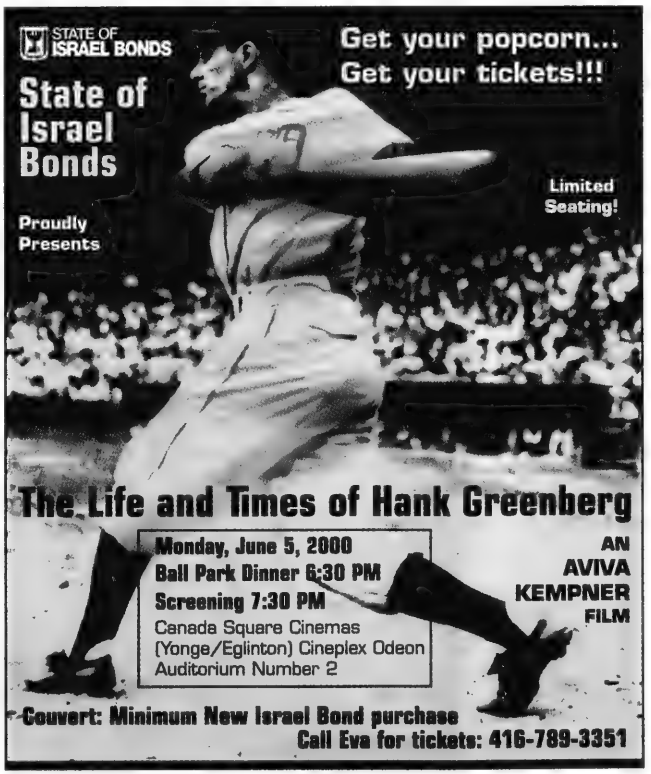

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Excerpts of an address by the editor on accepting the Founding Friend of Campus Award bestowed upon The Canadian Jewish News *by Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto:*

From the editor's desk

I understand the purpose of this award is, in essence, a way of saying thank you to the paper for providing regular news coverage of student life on campus, for trying to shine a continuous spotlight of sorts on the many interesting and important things students are doing on their respective campuses, primarily, but not only, in Toronto.

I am delighted to accept this marvellous expression of thanks for *The CJN*; but there is an enormous irony in my doing so. For, carrying news of campus life in the paper is, of itself, a way for us to express our thanks to the people who make JCS possible – the lay people, the funders at UJA FEDERATION, the philanthropists, the students who attend JCS activities and more particularly, the dozen or so unsung heroes of Jewish Campus Services under the leadership of Zac Kaye – who have helped to revive student life on campus to the point, now, that there is something on a regular basis for us to cover, who, for the first time in many years, have helped bring back, closer to centre stage, the great diversity of student life, so that the spotlight that we try to shine through the pages of our newspaper can easily find them.

And why is it important that we, the newspaper and the community whose voice we try to embody, express our thanks to you, the unsung dozen heroes of JCS?

The students who hang out, or upside down, or even inside out at JCS – and at all the "JCSs" across North America – are our children: in some cases literally, but in all cases, metaphorically.

They come to you, their paths cross yours, at a time in their lives of sweeping transition, of rapid personal change, sometimes of turbulence, but never, ever of stasis, of status quo.

Stepping onto unfamiliar campus grounds, our children encounter myriad new faces, new ideas, new and competing ways of life, new and conflicting values. They have so many new forces and pressures to contend with: social demands, academic demands and perhaps the most difficult, the self-demands of finding personal and ideological certainties where so few certainties exist.

New friendships form. Students from the suburbs meet students from downtown who meet students from out-of-town who meet students from out of province who meet students from out-of-country.

In the process, of course, some old friendships drift, are neglected and become the reason for a new source of anxiety.

This is a time in our children's lives when they are seeking new truths and questioning old ones, a time of discovery and of idealism, of believing in oneself, in one's causes, never afraid to try, never afraid of the possibility of failure.

It is a time of life for finding out who they are, who they could yet be.

And as they seek, some become lost; most, thankfully, find themselves.

We – as their parents – hope with all our hearts that when that search begins, when our children step onto unfamiliar campus grounds, they will at least be able to walk securely within their Judaism.

Of course, walking securely within their Judaism does not mean walking complacently, or even comfortably, because to be Jewish is to be constantly "struggling" with one's faith, in the sense that Jacob struggled with the angel.

But JCS provides the milieu, the framework, the activities, the companionship, the understanding heart, the comforting hand, "the positive Jewish space" to help our children in their struggles to find out who and what they are.

JCS is the sheltering canopy of Jewish life on campus, yet one through which some of our children might begin to see, when they look up, heavenward, towards their own and their people's destiny, the overwhelmingly rich, positive, inspiring constellation of Jewish values.

In later years, looking back – as say, a 50-year-old editor might – we wanted to change the world and we believed that we could change at least part of it, because wanting to change the world was among the most important things one could do.

Not until many years later – say, as a 50-year-old editor – did we understand that each day we do change part of the world when we embrace the values of kindness and goodness and social justice and fairness, the values and traditions of our ancestors, of our people. And we know this is not always an easy or an assured embrace…

As our sages have taught from the very first days in which they began teaching, each life is a universe unto itself. When we give of ourselves, when we try to ease the other's burdens, the unique and distinct world of a fellow human being, we are in fact changing the world – though it seldom, if ever, gets into the news, let alone makes the headlines.

By being the "positive Jewish space" on campus, how many unique and distinct worlds has JCS and its dozen or so unsung heroes helped to change?

And that brings me back to the irony of *The CJN's* being thanked by JCS. In truth, we are simply the mirror trying to reflect back towards the community the light you bring into so many lives and which, in some cases, will shine for a very long time.

MBD

SEE JN

YOM HA'ATZMAUT: Students of Leo Baeck School choir sang recently at Mel Lastman Square in celebration of Israel's 52nd birthday. [Photo by Miller]

Ont. government's social policy record slammed

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It is shameful for Premier Mike Harris to send $200 cheques to Ontario taxpayers when there are homeless people living on Toronto streets, says a downtown Toronto lawyer.

The money should go towards supporting shelters and creating opportunities that could return some self-esteem to these people, Steven Gray said at the second part of a two-part panel discussion sponsored by Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian Relief Committee and The Native Men's Residence, in conjunction with Caldwell Securities.

Other panel members included Ron Cooper, a former crack cocaine addict who was once homeless; John Stackhouse, a Toronto journalist; and Gordon Wolfe, executive director of Jewish Family & Child Service.

"I would be comforted to know that I have helped provide food and beds, and I would [gladly] support food and clothing banks. There are ways to help without giving coins," said Gray.

Homeless people do not only include those living on the streets, said Wolfe. They also include people in hospitals, jails or treatment centres who have no place to go when they are released and no wherewithal to find a place; people staying with friends on an emergency basis; children living in foster care; those living temporarily in single occupancy hotel rooms; and people who cannot afford suitable housing, he said.

"It is important not to zero in on the beggar on the street," he said.

Wolfe has "grave concerns" about child poverty, and noted that on any given night in Toronto, there are about 1,600 people staying in shelters, and of that number, 1,000 are children. "Of the 100,000 people on the waiting list for public housing, 40,000 are children.

"There is mounting evidence about what happens when we do not take care of our kids. The long term results are disastrous."

Homelessness is only a symptom of what is going on, said Wolfe. "People cannot afford housing. Rents are rising, there is little vacancy, and there is no government money for social housing. There is a link between social policy and homelessness.

"In good Jewish tradition I give to the beggar, and I fight to improve what is causing [people to beg], he said.

Stackhouse, who lived on the streets for seven days and nights, and later wrote about it in the *Globe and Mail*, said that the question of whether to give money to a beggar is "an eternal one that has no answer."

Do more than give money to beggars: panel

In one 10-hour period of begging on the streets, he said, he was able to collect $223. "It was two weeks before Christmas, so people might have felt generous, but I was told that it is common to be able to earn about $100 in one day.

"It is important to understand that people have the potential to earn a lot of money. The loonie and the toonie changed the economics of begging."

His greatest concern about giving to beggars, said Stackhouse, is that it might make people think they are doing enough. "We need to invest more directly in the poor."

Cooper said the bottom line about giving money to people on the street, is that the more money that goes out, the more people are saved. "It is true that money is often spent on drugs and alcohol, but it is also spent on food, transportation and lodging. We can't base our decision on whether to give money or not, on what we think people might do with it."

Cooper, in recovery for over three years, said that at the height of his addiction, $50 worth of crack cocaine would not have lasted half an hour.

"I never begged on the streets. However, I discovered that shelter, food and support is available if you look for it. There are food and clothing banks, and places such as NaMeRes. I felt that I did not have to be on the streets. I wanted to direct my asking to social service workers.

"My experience is that social service workers bend over backwards to help people who are willing to help themselves."

There is so much more we can do than flip a beggar a coin, he said. "You can give him moral support, ask how he is doing, or bring him food or a bus token. Letting them know you care makes a big difference.

"It is important for everyone to raise their awareness, and get to the point where they are comfortable about dealing with people on the streets," said Cooper.

People should also volunteer their time, their vehicle, or help out in their area of expertise, said Cooper. "Ask yourself every day, what you have done to help out someone in need."

Government policy does need to be changed, he said, but we must accept that we are only in year two of a five-year government mandate, and "this government is not going to change. It is up to us to do something, and work to get this government out in the next election."

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Israel's Supreme Court's importance explored

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel's Supreme Court has become a drafter of important public policy, a New Israel Fund forum has been told.

In recent years, the court has handed down a series of landmark decisions and thus exerted considerable influence on Israel, two University of Toronto professors said in a review of the court's verdicts.

The speakers were Ran Hirschl, a political science professor who is finishing a book on the political origins and consequences of judicial empowerment through the constitutionalization of rights, and Ayelet Shachar, a law professor who served as Israeli Chief Justice Aharon Barak's law clerk.

The topic of their presentations was The Changing Role of the Israeli Supreme Court in Shaping the Multicultural Face of Israeli Society.

Defining itself by its judicial activism, Israel's high court has ruled on wide-ranging matters such as religious pluralism, gender equality, the status of Israeli Arabs, sexual preference, and the practice of Israel's internal security service, Shin Bet, Hirschl observed.

He cited several cases:

• The 1992 Kastenbaum case, in which a woman was allowed to engrave the dates of her mother's birth and death on her tombstone in Roman rather than in Hebrew letters.

• The 1996 Meretz movement vs. the municipality of Jerusalem case, in which national religious councils were ordered to include representatives of Reform and Conservative Judaism.

• The 2000 Katzir case, in which a Jews-only communal settlement in the Galilee was ordered to allow an Israeli Arab family to buy a house there.

Shachar referred to other path-breaking cases:

• The 1995 Danilowitch case, in which the court held that El Al, the national airline, should provide the partner of a homosexual employee with the same benefits as the spouses of heterosexual workers.

• The 1999 Galili case, in which the court blocked the promotion of a senior army officer who had been involved in a consensual sexual relationship with a female soldier under his command.

In a brief survey of Israel's British-based legal system, Hirschl said that its 11 basic laws fulfil the function of a bill of rights.

He added that all attempts to draft a formal bill of rights have failed so far.

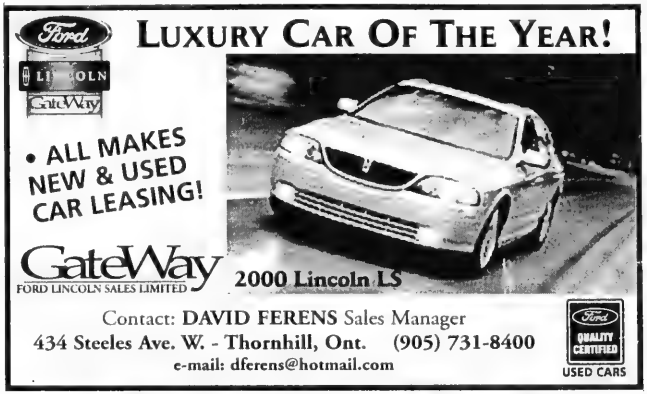
David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister, saw no need for one in a free, democratic state, saying that a bill of duties was instead required.

Israel's religious parties, as well as its secular elite, have both opposed a bill of rights, Hirschl said.

Shachar noted that well organized minorities, such as same-sex couples and Israeli Arabs, have benefited from the court's judicial activism.

Ed Morgan, a U of T law professor and Canadian Jewish Congress' national counsel, said that the jurisprudence of the Israeli Supreme Court has been complicated because of the complex nature of Israeli society.

He also talked about court decisions in Canada and the United States which have fostered tolerance and multiculturalism.



Aish HaTorah marks 18th anniversary

TORONTO — Aish HaTorah, an international Jewish educational outreach organization, is celebrating its 18th anniversary in Toronto with a gala evening.

The event will be held June 6, 8:15 p.m., at the Sheraton Centre. The guest speaker will be Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Honourees will be Toronto Aish HaTorah founders Herb and Joyce Green, and the founding rabbinic families, Shalom and Debbie Schwartz, Moshe Averick, Ahron and Faigy Hoch, Mitch and Leora Mandel, and Boruch and Dena Rabinowitz.

A formal farewell will be said to Rabbi Yaakov and Lori Palatnik, who will be moving from the Village Shul on Eglinton Avenue to start an Aish HaTorah in Boca Raton, Fla.

The organization founded in 1974 now operates in 77 cities in 17 countries, including 20 centres in the former Soviet Union. Its Israel headquarters overlooks the Kotel.

In Toronto, the main centre is on Clark Avenue just west of Bathurst in Thornhill. There are also programs at the Village Shul, and Shabbat and holiday programs at Westmount Collegiate in Thornhill.

For more information or to reserve, call Aish HaTorah at 905-764-1818.

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What is Yom Yerushalayim

Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) - On June 7, 1967 / Iyar 28, 5727, Israeli troops crashed through the defenses set up by Arab troops and recaptured those parts of the holy city of Jerusalem which had previously been in Arab possession. Yom Yerushalayim commemorates this significant day.

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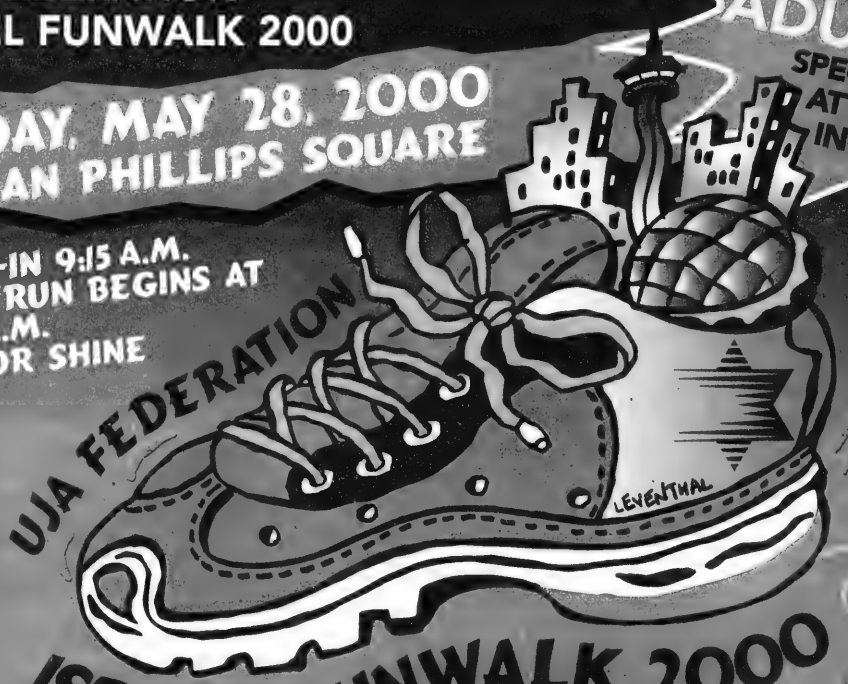

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All in a week's work

Last week was a difficult one for Israel. On a number of fronts, military events collided with political ones. In each instance, the government responded quickly and decisively, although not always with wide popular support, leaving many observers with a growing sense that some of the traditional Middle East antagonists, Israel and the Palestinian Authority, at least, might have turned the corner and are headed, perhaps, towards some kind of negotiating "finishing line."

Nakba: Last Monday, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza poured onto the streets in a prepared, controlled, orchestrated program of rioting. They were marking what they have in recent times started to call the *nakba*, meaning disaster, the anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel on May 15, 52 years ago. After the protests, five Palestinians lay dead on the dusty, rock and rubble-strewn streets, human sacrifices to the cynical, cruel political gamesmanship of the PA leadership.

The IDF found itself under siege of live ammunition as well as of the image-conscious, photo-oriented volley of stones and slingshots. IDF chief of staff Shaul Mofaz and IDF central commander Maj. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon praised the army's swift, measured response to the murderous drama that was staged for the western world but in which they were unwilling players.

Abu Dis: While the Palestinians were hurling rocks and firing their weapons, the Knesset voted 56-48 to return Abu Dis, the village on the eastern outskirts of Jerusalem, along with two other villages, Assariyeh and Suwahara, to full Palestinian control. Abu Dis is widely thought to be where the Palestinians are building their parliament. As a result of the Knesset's decision, the NRP left the governing coalition.

Lebanon: The IDF began its withdrawal from south Lebanon under a hail of Hezbollah rockets and fire. Three IDF soldiers were injured. Hezbollah vowed to keep up its actions against Israel even though Israel is leaving Lebanese territory.

Stockholm: While all the above was going on, representatives of Israel and the PA were in Stockholm conducting what were euphemistically called "back-channel discussions" over the shape of a possible final peace agreement. Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat felt they had to send their representative out of the region to protect the secrecy of the discussions from the intruding, often overbearing curiosity of the media. By early week, however, the meetings in Stockholm were no longer a secret; the chief non-back-channel Palestinian negotiator had resigned for having not been informed of the Stockholm meetings; many of the reported details of the discussions were published in European and Israeli newspapers; and the government of Israel once again seemed hovering on the brink of collapse.

It was all in a week's work for the government of Israel.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Teffilin, Omed Teffilin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

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Jews as trade bait

Those Jewish Iranian "confessions" (*CJN*, May 11) probably have little to do with their guilt or with infighting between progressive and conservative Iranian mullahs. Rather, this sets them up as Israeli spies to be traded at some future date for the Hezbollah sheiks sitting in Israeli jails.

Had these sheiks been released in the recent release of Lebanese prisoners, the "Jewish spies" would probably have been set free or given short sentences. Instead, some of them can expect to stay in jail at least until Israel acts on the sheiks.

As in the past, the enemies of Israel consider all Jews to be targets.

Sam Einhorn
Montreal

* * *

Let's expose another misconception

I was sardonically interested in your recent expose of the over-vaunted Dutch record during the Nazi occupation. To this day, they ride on the back of Anne Frank, and latterly, of Charlotte Salomon.

Of course they were not alone. We live in the age of hollow expiation and breast-beating. Misconceptions come tumbling down one after another.

Next on the laundry list should be an account of the German occupation of the (British) Channel Islands, where the Nazis enjoyed a no less hearty welcome extending even to the postwar years.

Abe Goldes
Toronto

* * *

Seeking Jewish conscience

Where is the outrage of Canada's Jews? In the 1930s, the Liberal government of Canada refused landing to Jewish refugees fleeing a brutal totalitarian regime in Germany. Today, we have a Jewish Liberal immigration minister proudly announcing that Chinese refugees fleeing a brutal totalitarian regime in China will be deported to a place where they will surely be imprisoned in concentration camps or worse.

Have Canada's Jews lost all sense of history and integrity? I ask again, where is the outrage?

Stephen Stern, MD
Ajax, Ont.

Sinners stopped sinning at Sinai

There are certain inaccuracies in Jean Gerber's May 4 column, "Who stood at Sinai," that should not be overlooked or ignored. Her thesis is based on poems by Danny Seigel. The thesis is that every kind of Jew, from good to bad, from religious to atheist, and from saint to sinner, was present at Mount Sinai when Moses brought down the Ten Commandments and the written and oral Torah from God.

Gerber sounds confused because she refers to her thesis as "an overpowering midrash," which it is not. Our Torah sages teach, she correctly reports, that the entire nation gathered to hear the Divine voice. However, she fails to add that a definition of "the entire nation" must include the following:

- About 80 percent of the Jews who were slaves in Egypt chose *not* to follow Moses into the wilderness. They died in Egypt, along with the Egyptians. One of the many reasons that so many Israelis refused to leave Egypt was that they did not want to give up the licentious and immoral lifestyles they had learned and copied from their masters.
- After God's Torah had been given to our people, the penalties against those who violated its laws were put into effect. One Israelite, the Torah teaches, who decided to gather wood on Shabbat, was put to death.
- Dathan, the jealous antagonist of Moses, was publicly swallowed up by the earth, along with all of his followers, for distorting the teachings of the Torah. One midrash teaches that Dathan did not die, but that he could forever be heard crying from the depths of the earth that "Moses is right, Moses is right."
- The Torah also teaches us that when Pinchas found Zimri and Cosbi publicly engaged in an immoral act, he ran them both through with a spear and was rewarded by God for protecting Torah laws.

The Torah teaches that when the entire nation accepted the Torah, they all said, "We will do and we will hear." Probably, as Gerber suggests, homosexuals and transvestites of both sexes did stand at Sinai, along with many other sinners. Since the entire nation accepted the entire Torah, the sinners accepted it too, and they either changed their ways, or they perished.

Jerry Brodie
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Palestinians themselves morally responsible

By A. B. YEHOSHUA
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

On Nov. 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution to partition the land of Israel into two states, Palestinian and Israeli, with the territory equally divided between the two.

The Jewish population, which then numbered about 600,000 – as opposed to about 1.3 million Palestinians – was allotted large swaths of the barren desert as a land reserve for the absorption of the numerous Jewish refugees waiting at the gates. While the Palestinian population was expected to grow through natural means, Israel, according to the international community that authorized the establishment of the Jewish state, was to devote itself to finding a solution to the Jewish problem, taking in Jews of all nationalities, particularly Holocaust refugees.

So despite the difference in their numbers, the land was almost equally divided between the two peoples, with more than 70 percent of the fertile land allocated to the Palestinians.

When the Palestinians failed in their war of aggression to wipe out the Jewish state, they called on the Arab armies to invade the Jewish state and eliminate it. Yet this move, too, was unsuccessful. The Jews heroically defended their territory, repulsed the invaders, and in certain places conquered areas that had been slated for the Palestinian state. (The Jewish state acquired about 6,000 square kilometres of the territory designated for the Palestinian state.) In the heat of battle, a Jewish minority was expelled from the few settlements that Palestinians occupied, as were many Palestinians from Jewish settlements.

In the final stages of the fighting, Palestinian areas were intentionally destroyed by the Israeli army and, with no military justification, their inhabitants were expelled by force to beyond the armistice line that was marked at the war's end in 1949.

Those who fled, and those who were expelled, both Jews and Palestinians, cannot accurately be called refugees, but rather displaced persons, for there is an essential difference between the two terms. A refugee is a person who has fled or been expelled from the land of his birth; a displaced person is someone who has fled or been expelled from his home, but remains within the bounds of the territory of his homeland.

The Jews who fled or were expelled by Arabs from the Old City of Jerusalem, the Etzion Bloc, Atarot, Kfar Darom or Beit Ha 'arava, into Israeli territory, were never refugees, but only displaced persons, who were immediately allocated new homes in the Israeli homeland.

However, the Palestinians did not call their uprooted people displaced persons. They were instead referred to as refugees, even though most remained in the Palestinian homeland and lived at most only 20 to 40 kilometres away from their homes. For example, the Arabs of Lod and Ramla moved to the Ramallah area, which is 30 or 40 kilometres away from these towns.

There were also Palestinians who fled or were expelled from Palestine and went to Arab countries: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. All of these refugees could have returned at least to their homeland, becoming displaced persons rather than refugees, and building themselves new homes in their homeland.

This is the beginning of the tragedy of the Palestinians, for which they themselves and the Arab countries carry direct moral responsibility.

Even if (from their point of view) they did have a legitimate hope that they would see the day when they would be able to eliminate the Jewish state and take back all of Palestine – or at least return to their homes just as the displaced persons from the Etzion Bloc and the Old City did – there was still nothing to prevent the Palestinian displaced persons from building real homes. They could have lived ordinary, respectable lives within their homeland, instead of a humiliating provisional existence in miserable camps.

The Palestinians, who formulated their national identity toward the end of the 19th century, to this very day confuse the concept of homeland with the concept of home. They are not the only ones. There are Israelis on the right and on the left, but particularly on the right, who are trying to depict the return of the Palestinians as a return to their homes, and not to their homeland – which would dangle a sword over the State of Israel, as if every return implied the inundation of the state with another three million Palestinians.

Such Israelis are merely perpetuating this confusion. When, at the beginning of World War II, the Soviet Union conquered parts of Finland in an aggressive and unjust war, took over land and settlements and exiled Finnish citizens westward into the Finnish state, those Finns were not refugees, but rather displaced persons. They immediately built new homes for themselves in their homeland, whatever their dreams of "return" might have been.

Of course the dream of return that the Palestinian displaced persons and refugees nurtured in their hearts had no connection at all to a political solution, or to the fact that they had embarked on an aggressive war against the Jews. For many years, they continued to reject the principle of the solution of the partition of the land, and until the Palestinian Liberation Organization decision of 1988, many did not recognize Israel.

In the meantime, however, they wanted to go home, literally. Accordingly, they sentenced themselves to lives of humiliation and poverty – a welfare existence without any basic rights.

The Palestinian refugees in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt were not even granted citizenship, in order not to detract from their clamour to return. But there is no returning home for the displaced persons and refugees of 1948, and there cannot be such a return. There can only be a return to the homeland, and sometimes this may be truly possible.

When my Palestinian friends demand the right of return, I tell them that I would be prepared to bring all the Palestinian refugees back to their homes in Israel on condition that they first bring back to life the 6,000 Israeli dead. They were killed during the aggressive war of 1948, when Israel was pleading for its life after the UN partition plan and seeking peaceful coexistence.

Against the Palestinians' continuing confusion between home and homeland stands a nation that bears within it a near-opposite distortion. Throughout history, the Jews never ceased to wander among different homes and change their homelands the way most people change their clothes.

From the time of the destruction of the First Temple, when many of the Babylonian exiles did not return to the land, the Jews began to adopt an approach that sees the world as a hotel chain. Instead of returning to the homeland in the land of Israel and clinging to it, the Jews, for existential or economic reasons, preferred to seek a new and more comfortable place for themselves, where they could settle easily. Therefore it is no wonder that the Jews scorned and alienated themselves from the sense of the real homeland (not home) of the Palestinians, and proposed that they settle in the Arab countries, as if it were really so easy to exchange a homeland for some place else.

Borders must be drawn to separate the states, as has always been done. What is defined as the Palestinian state must be recognized when the time comes as the homeland to which, and only to which, all those defined as Palestinians by the Palestinian constitution will be allowed to return. The Arab states are just as responsible for the perpetuation of the refugee problem as Israel was when it was sovereign in the territory – from the Six-Day War until the Oslo agreements.

Everyone, including the Palestinians, must begin to solve the problem. First, the problems of the uprooted Palestinians living within the boundaries of the future Palestinian state must be addressed. After that, construction must get under way on an infrastructure to address the problems of the refugees now in the Arab states.

This is a very lengthy, expensive process, that must be undertaken thoughtfully. However, it will certainly find great support, both in Israel and abroad, if this becomes the aim of worldwide fund-raising.

A.B. Yehoshua's latest novel is Journey to the End of the Millennium.

A Jewish volunteer in Dec. 1947, posts an appeal from the Haganah to the Arabs of Palestine pleading with them not to resort to violence. [Israel Gov't. Archives]

Report from Stockholm

Some months ago, a fascinating convention took place in Stockholm, Sweden, which was attended by 45 heads of states and concerned itself significantly with the Holocaust. Nate Leipciger, chair of the Holocaust committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, was present, and the following is an excerpt from his report.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

"Fifty-five years after my liberation, I was sitting in an assembly of 46 nations and each head of state praised the survivors. Fifty-five years ago, most of these same nations denied us the most basic human rights, dignity, and life itself. Even after the war, we had to languish in DP camps for three long years.

"Today, nation after nation is declaring its readiness to remember. But it is not enough to remember how we were persecuted and murdered, it is equally important to remember how we lived. For this reason we must insist that the Holocaust studies must also include the identity of the victims and what type of life they had. We must make sure that the world understands that their aspirations and their hopes for their children were not unlike ours. The task force of the International Forum on the Holocaust recognizes this need. In its declaration, it calls on all nations to commit themselves to promote all aspects of Holocaust education in schools, universities, in communities and religious institutions.

"However, my elation was short-lived when I realized that the Canadian delegation did not and would not participate in the proceedings. Next morning we had a meeting of the Canadian delegation at the Canadian Embassy. Moshe Ronen, Irwin Cotler and myself expressed our disappointment at the non-participation by a Canadian delegate at the forum.

"This sad fact reminded me that our job is not finished. The Jewish community must become more active and bullish to demand that Canada join the other nations in their resolve to pursue Holocaust education on a national scale. Since education is a provincial prerogative, the creation of a national Holocaust museum in Ottawa would give the federal government of Canada a vehicle to transmit the vital messages to our young people without interfering with the provincial jurisdiction.

"The Holocaust museum would also allow it to mount travelling exhibitions and educational symposiums throughout the country. How else can Canada effectively reach our youth to teach and include the message that the democratic values which we cherish so much and which are so delicate, are in constant danger from sinister forces that wish to eliminate these in order to spread their hatred and to promote xenophobia and racism?"

Holocaust education that reaches even one courageous man can make a tremendous difference on the outcome of history, and can save thousands of lives, as illustrated by Canada's only honorary citizen, Raoul Wallenberg.

Israel's divisive draft policy

What a difference a year makes, especially in an action-packed country like Israel. Exactly 12 months ago, much of the nation happily awaited the changes expected after Ehud Barak was elected prime minister on May 17,1999. His resounding defeat of Benjamin Netanyahu was supposed to usher in a new era.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

During his election campaign, Barak promised major improvements to Israeli society. For example, he constantly repeated the slogan "one people, one draft," calling for an end to the injustice of the blanket exemption of haredi youth from conscription. As leader of the opposition, Barak had championed the issue, decrying the inequality in the draft system.

As a former IDF chief of staff, Barak was particularly sensitive to a divisive policy under which non-haredi young men are required to risk their lives in defence of the country, while their haredi counterparts are free to study comfortably in yeshivas and at the public's expense.

Upon taking office, Barak's campaign promise quickly faded under the weight of coalition dynamics and other political considerations. The former battlefield hero followed the tradition of politicians everywhere faced with awkward problems: set up a commission.

In this case, Barak appointed a nine-member committee headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Zvi Tal to study the problem.

A few weeks ago, the Tal Commission presented its much anticipated official recommendations to Barak. It was not a pretty sight for those hoping the long-festering issue would be finally resolved in the name of fairness.

To the disillusionment of many, the report virtually rewards draft evaders.

Until now, haredi youth could avoid national service by studying in yeshivas until age 40 without being able to leave to work and earn a living. But the report recommends that yeshiva students now be able to choose between two options following only five years of seminary study – either a brief symbolic army duty or civilian service in the haredi community. Then they'll be eligible for the same benefits offered those who spend three years in the army, such as subsidized housing loans, grants for university studies and more.

The commission fooled no one, and angered many. "The worst aspect of the commission," Reuven Hammer, vice-president of the International Rabbinical Assembly, wrote in *The Jerusalem Post*, "is that it seems to justify the shirking of army duty by yeshiva students and to accept their claim that their studies are as important to the nation as the active, dangerous service of millions of our sons and daughters. Surely by now everyone is aware that there is no justification for yeshiva students not serving, neither moral nor halachic."

Indeed, the army already is home to three companies of haredi soldiers who share in the national burden of military service without violating their haredi ways. "They contribute to security," IDF Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz told reporters this month. "They are replacing reservists patrolling the border while we give them all the conditions and let them live their way of life."

Lamentably, these haredi soldiers are the exception, extremely marginal compared to the tens of thousands in their community evading army service.

Barak has not officially responded to the Tal Commission as he reportedly is still not finished studying its recommendations. Others have, including Yoel Marcus who wrote in *Ha'aretz*: "What is especially outrageous is the commission's rationale that draft by coercion under the law will intensify the rift in the nation." Really? People might get the idea that secular kids go off to the army with gladness and joy and not by force of law. University studies are no less important than yeshiva studies. And if the commission's discriminatory recommendations are adopted, anyone who does national service will be a patsy.

It's not hard to understand why one of the most popular planks in Barak's 1999 election campaign was the conscription of yeshiva students. More difficult to figure out is why the country's non-haredi majority has tolerated such a patently unjust situation for so long, much to its own detriment. The biggest question is whether the prime minister will finally do something about it. Just like he promised.

Readers can write Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il

Barak's uninspiring year

Approaching the end of his first year as prime minister, Ehud Barak's ratings are mediocre, at best. He has avoided major mistakes, but has few significant accomplishments. Public opinion polls show a steady decline in support, to the point where almost half of the respondents claim that if elections were held now, they would vote for Netanyahu.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Since his electoral triumph last May, Barak has focused most of his attention on foreign policy and the peace process. His proclaimed goal was to "end the Arab-Israeli conflict," based on breakthrough agreements with the Palestinians and with Syria, as well as joint projects with the other countries in the region. While Barak went as far (or farther) than any Israeli political leader could go in making concessions, particularly towards Damascus, Hafez al-Assad did not co-operate. The negotiations with the Palestinians continue, but the chances for an agreement, on terms that the Israeli public can accept, remain low.

At the same time, Barak's efforts to strengthen ties with the United States government have stalled. In the first few months, Bill Clinton and Barak put on a strong performance, ending the era of tension that had characterized the Netanyahu era. Officials in Washington spoke of a new level of strategic co-operation, as part of the compensation package in exchange for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

However, the Americans could not deliver Assad, while Barak failed to develop a relationship with the Republican-led Congress. When differences over Israeli arms sales to China arose, catching Barak and his advisers by surprise, (despite repeated warnings), the Americans changed their tune with leaks alleging Israeli spying activities in Washington, and reports of other misdeeds.

Relations may be somewhat better than they were under Netanyahu, but the great expectations have vanished.

On Lebanon, Barak has done better, but the real test is ahead. To his credit, he has held firmly to his pledge to withdraw, even when talks with Syria failed. Strategically, unilateral withdrawal may turn out to be a brilliant move, or it may be a disaster. If Hezbollah and its backers are deterred from attacking northern Israel, Barak's ratings will soar.

However, if the IDF's withdrawal is followed by extensive terror attacks, Barak will be forced to retaliate, international condemnation will follow, and the cost will be substantial.

In terms of domestic policy, Barak has even less to show. The economy is improving slowly, but campaign pledges on unemployment, poverty, and a new social contract remain unfulfilled. Barak invests very little time on these issues, and refuses to delegate power to anyone else. Tax reform could be an important long-term achievement, but Barak has not created enough public and political support to overcome the opposition of the powerful unions.

Similarly, Barak has done little or nothing to narrow the social and ideological divisions that threaten Israel's future. He has not exacerbated them, and this is an improvement over Netanyahu, but passivity is insufficient.

And yet, despite his poor record, Barak does not face any serious challengers. Support for Netanyahu in the polls is more of a protest than an indication of a possible comeback. Ariel Sharon is too old and discredited to become prime minister, and the younger Likud leaders lack experience. Similarly, among the current crop of Labour party politicians, none have the stature of gravitas to be prime minister. Thus, if elections were held again, very little would change.

As a result, excluding disaster, Barak still has at least three more years in which to make his mark, and probably as many as seven years. Although the first year has not provided signs of the type of bold and unifying leadership that Israel needs, Barak still has time to learn on the job.

However, this will require some fundamental changes, both in terms of personality and in the substance of policy.

The Kirshner File

A 'general' in Canada's newspaper war

"We're having a good war," chuckled Edward Greenspon. He was chatting about Canada's thunderous newspaper "war," which broke out in Toronto and the rest of the country about a year ago. The old-fashioned, rip-snorting war pits *The Globe and Mail*, Canada's self-styled national daily, against the *National Post*, media mogul Conrad Black's cheeky upstart.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Greenspon, the *Globe*'s executive editor since 1999, is a member of the triumvirate of "generals" plotting the raging battle. Along with editor Richard Addis and deputy editor Chrystia Freeland, he has devised the strategic initiatives that, he hopes, will win the hearts and minds of readers and advertisers alike.

"We're doing spectacularly well," claimed Greenspon, whose paper won four National Newspaper Awards last week.

By his estimation, the *Globe* has grown fatter and better since the launch of the *National Post* in the autumn of 1998. "We've put a lot of effort into improving the paper," said Greenspon, a 43-year-old graduate of Montreal's Wagar High School.

The news "hole" is bigger. The number and variety of feature stories are greater. The commentary section has been beefed up. And, buoyed by a robust economy, circulation and ad lineage are up, as are profits.

Far from badmouthing his rival, Greenspon, who joined the *Globe* in 1986 as a business reporter, appears to welcome the new kid on the block. "Competition is good for readers. We're both trying to cover and reflect Canada. It's good that there are other newspapers out there."

In line with its strategy to outmanoeuvre the *National Post*, the *Globe*, with Greenspon at the helm, is launching what he describes as "a real-time breaking news service" on the Internet. The service, to be staffed by more than 10 additional reporters and copy editors, will essentially be a grander version of the *Globe*'s existing Web site. Scheduled to come online in June, it will accentuate business and political news at first, and will be broadened in September.

"In Canada, this kind of service is really just getting started," said Greenspon, who visited the offices of the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal* to acquaint himself with the futuristic world of the Web.

As he tells it, the service is attuned to news addicts, "the community of the curious." If Greenspon's plans pan out, he will provide readers with "the straight goods on a more timely basis."

Normally in charge of the *Globe's* front section, Greenspon hardly regards his latest assignment as a permanent one. Yet he is excited by the prospect of reinventing himself as a "Web guy." As he put it: "What interested me was the intellectual challenge of this new medium." Indeed, he likens the Web in its current form to television's formative years.

Greenspon, who originally thought he would be a lawyer, was raised in the Montreal suburbs of St. Laurent and Cote St. Luc. His late father, Mortimer, was an insurance agent and financial planner. His mother, Rosalie, was a teacher until she began dabbling in real estate. Greenspon's older sister, Ina, a teacher, lives in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Greenspon, married to Carleton University journalism professor Janice Neil since 1983, was propelled into newspaper work by an abiding interest in current events and politics. After graduating from Carleton University–with an honours degree in journalism – in 1979, he joined the *Lloydminster Times*, a small-town daily with two reporters on staff. The editor who hired him was a Wagar High School alumnus.

In Lloydminster, which straddles the Alberta-Saskatchewan border, Greenspon was a jack-of-all-trades as a reporter. The town was so culturally different that he felt like a foreign correspondent. A year later, he found himself at the *Regina Leader-Post*, writing police, agricultural and business stories. Then, for the next two years, he was successively the Edmonton and Regina bureau chief of the *Financial Post*, covering the prairie provinces.

Greenspon went back to school in 1984 and completed a graduate degree in political science at the London School of Economics as a Commonwealth Scholar. Returning to Canada, he reincarnated himself a business reporter at the *Globe*, specializing in media industries.

Edward Greenspon

His rise at the *Globe* has been nothing less than meteoric. Although Greenspon had been at the *Globe* a little more than a year, the then managing editor invited him to be its first European business correspondent, based in London. "I didn't apply for the job. It was offered to me." Asked to explain this extraordinary stroke of fortune, Greenspon observed, "They were looking for someone with business writing experience, and it was attractive to them that I had lived in England."

Greenspon, who works in a glass-enclosed office in the newsroom, ascribes his success to hard work. Addis, his boss, said that his dedication to craft is only part of the explanation. "He is very knowledgeable, first, especially about national politics. Second, he is a highly skilled writer and is able to illuminate complex subjects. Third, he loves news and gets excited by it. Fourth, he has abundant humanity. He is sympathetic, he reflects, he is generous. It is obvious that he would be successful wherever he worked."

On assignment in Europe, Greenspon was in the right place at the right time. He chronicled the economic integration of Europe and the global ambitions of Canadian companies. A witness to the historic political upheavals of the late 1980s, he filed stories about the end of Communist rule in Poland, the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu in Romania, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany.

By chance, he was in Moscow for the aborted 1991 coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, and in Kiev for Ukraine's declaration of independence. "These were some of the most moving times of my life," he recalled.

As a correspondent, Greenspon enjoyed the sense of discovery in travelling to new destinations, but did not appreciate the inconveniences of the road or the absences from his wife. Back in Toronto after four years in Europe, Greenspon signed on as managing editor of the *Globe's* Report on Business. No sooner had he gained his bearings than he was appointed deputy managing editor. Suddenly, he was in charge of choosing stories for the front page.

As Ottawa bureau chief and associate editor, Greenspon wrote about the 1993 federal election. Then he focused on the continuing fiscal crisis and the 1995 Quebec referendum. The election was grist for his mills. In 1996, he co-authored the book *Double Vision, The Inside Story of the Liberals in Power*.

Looking back, Greenspon said he revelled in Ottawa's competitive journalistic environment. He relished dealing with issues that mattered, enjoyed access to decision-makers, and loved penetrating, sometimes successfully, the governmental veil of secrecy.

The father of three children, aged six, eight and 10, Greenspon was delighted to be offered the position of executive editor. But there was a downside to the promotion, the need to commute from his home in Ottawa to his desk in Toronto. "It's not a great thing," he said. Nevertheless, he sees his future at the *Globe*, and does not rule out the possibility of returning to writing one day.

Asked whether the idea of the editorship appeals to him, Greenspon seemed taken aback. "I don't know, but it would be a thrill."

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Greater Toronto Area

Prof. urges community to serve the affiliated

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The way in which the American Jewish community is trying to deal with the rising tide of assimilation and intermarriage is wrong-headed, according to Prof. Charles Liebman.

Liebman, who is the Yehuda Avner Professor of Politics and Religion at Bar-Ilan University, is currently teaching at the University of Chicago.

He will be in Toronto this weekend under the auspices of Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University, and will speak at an Oneg Shabbat at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation on May 26, and at CHAT, giving the Ronald Heller Memorial Lecture on May 28, at 8 p.m.

His topic at CHAT will be Threats to Judaism in the Jewish State.

"We must reach out to those who are the closest to strongly committed," and create programs for them, rather than for the assimilated, he said, adding that the latter "will drop off anyway."

Liebman warned of tne danger of "diluting or distorting Judaism to be attractive to marginal Jews," claiming that this will only lead to a loss of Jewish identity.

The Jews lost through intermarriage or assimilation, he believes, would be lost anyway.

On the other hand, Liebman said, intermarriage is so acceptable today that even those interested in Judaism intermarry. "We should encourage them to remain Jewish, and to raise their kids as Jews."

He is opposed to organizations that try to attract non-affiliated Jews, by saying "you think you aren't good Jews, but you really are." Groups like CLAL in the United States have the attitude that they should listen to the non-affiliated, and adapt [Jewish practice] to what they want, he said.

This is not the case with such organizations as Aish HaTorah or Lubavitch, both actively involved in outreach, Liebman said. "There is no danger of their diluting Judaism. They are prepared to reach out and make them like us."

Israel is beginning to be more like America, he said, in accepting the notion of legitimate alternative conceptions of Judaism, such as Conservative and Reform.

Most Israelis, however, still see religion as a "uniform thing – something out there. They think that the rabbi interprets the law authoritatively, and it is for us to accept or reject that."

It is sort of like the old joke that "the shul I don't go to has to be Orthodox," he laughed.

While it is true, he said, that there is "conflict, cleavage and tension" between the religious and the secular in Israeli society, basically "we still all live together."

There is quite a range of Jewish identity in Israel from totally non-observant to the ultra-haredi, but most people are somewhere in the middle, Liebman said. The Sephardi population, for instance, is "overwhelmingly on neither extreme – they can bridge the gap."

The secular often believe that the haredi manage to receive an inordinate and undeserved percentage of public funding through less than ethical means, he explained. On the other hand, some haredi have "a disdain for public law."

The misuse of public funding is not confined to haredim, he said. "The media like to play it up."

Israelis resent that many haredi do not serve in the army, and see the West Bank settlements, which are largely Orthodox, as "dragging Israel into war," he said.

The sharpest reflection of the Americanization of Israel is in its political system, Liebman said. "The personality of the individual candidate is becoming more important than the philosophy of the party."

CREATIVE WRITING: Five students from Bialik Hebrew Day School were recently selected to appear in Tov Lichtov, A Creative Writing Project in Hebrew by Students of Hebrew Schools in North American and South America. Seen above are (from left, bottom row) Jeremy Drucker and Sam Raskinl (top row) Tamar Rubin, Sarah Rosenbluth and Dana Mandowsky.

Weizmann Institute receives $15 million gift

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When Prof. Yaron Silberberg joined the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1994, equipment in the physics department was up-to-date and in excellent condition.

Six years later, Silberberg says the institute's once state-of-the-art lasers are getting old.

But a $15 million donation from the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute may change that.

The Canadian fund-raising arm has raised almost half of the $15 million it promised and has another two years to raise the remaining money which will benefit the newly formed Canadian Institute for Laser and Optical Sciences at Weizmann. The donation is part of the institute's Jubilee campaign, an effort to raise money for its endowment fund.

Professor Silberberg, who will be the first director of the Canadian institute, spoke about his research into the specialized field of ultrafast optics at a science forum in Toronto on May 7.

For laser, optical sciences

Optical science, which brings together physics and engineering, involves the design of optical devices and the study of how light interacts with materials. Sub-fields within optics include telecommunications, medical optics, X-ray optics, laser science and laser applications.

Silberberg's research may have far-reaching consequences. He is investigating a new method for laser microscopy and new ultrafast optical communication devices. His research could lead to optical fibres having a greater capacity to transmit information and faster Internet connections, he said.

The Canadian Institute for Laser and Optical Sciences will be a "virtual" institute, Silberberg said. It will not be an actual building, but rather a collaboration among scientists.

Two of the new institute's goals will be "to maintain activity in optics and enhance collaborative research," he said.

Mazel Tov

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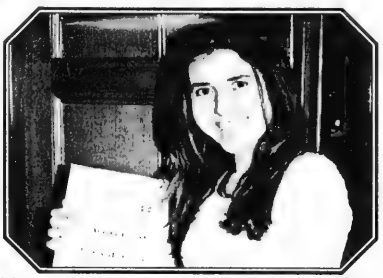
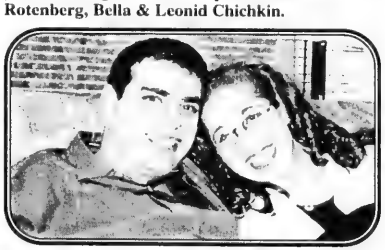


Mazel tov to Miriam Granek on your kinesiology degree.



Mazel tov! Renee & Aaron are engaged. Parents are Paulette & Amnon Kestelman and Marsha & Howard Cohen. Siblings, Shoshana, Alana, Cheryl and Stephen.

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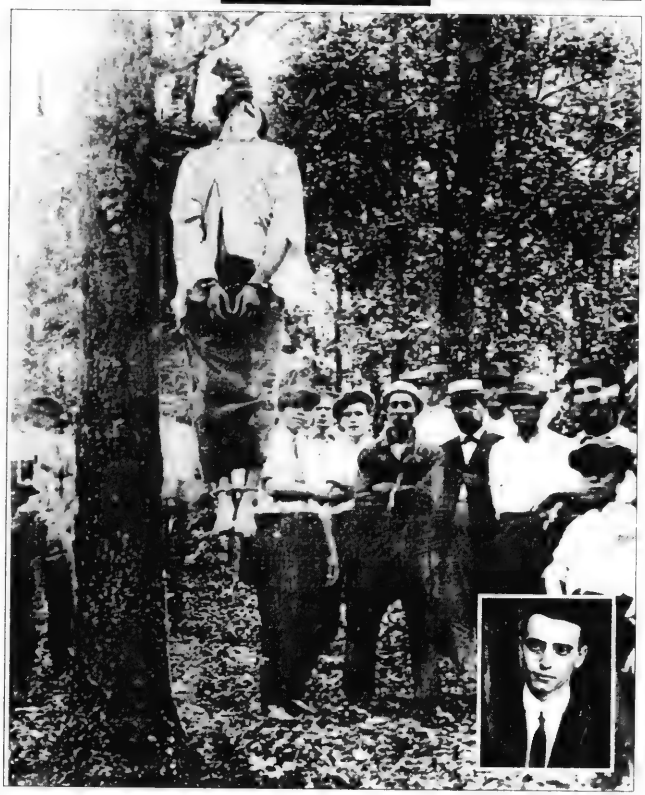

Townsfolk from Marietta, Georgia travelled to the site of Leo Frank's lynching to have their pictures taken as souvenirs. Inset: Leo Frank.

Film explores anti-Semitic episode in U.S. south

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici, history is not something that happened in a far away place to people long forgotten.

On the contrary, even an event that occurred in the southern United States 85 years ago can resonate today, he believes.

Hence the film, *The Lynching of Leo Frank*, the story of a Jewish factory owner wrongly accused of murder. The film will receive its theatrical premiere at the Hyland Theatre on Sunday, May 28 at 7 p.m.

The screening is part of a fund-raiser for the Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, a grassroots organization co-founded by Jacobovici that brings organized Jewish life to the Danforth area. Proceeds from the event will go towards community centre programming and to support the Beit Yosef Congregation, which is housed in the centre.

Following the presentation of the film, Prof. Clifford Kuhn of Georgia State University, creator of a radio documentary about the Frank case, will discuss anti-Semitism in America.

For Jacobovici, the Frank case was not a one-time freak event, but rather a symptom of something that runs much deeper.

"What you have is a very serious issue fundamental to Jewish life in North America," he said. "The question is, is it intrinsic to North American society? My view is that anti-Semitism is a very complex issue and we must look at it."

Jews today have not left anti-Semitism behind, he pointed out. It can play itself out in violence – the shooting last year at the Los Angeles Jewish Community Centre is one example – and in the desire by Southern Baptists to turn Jews into Christians.

These are "symptoms of the inability to tolerate Jews as Jews," he said.

For director Yuval Daniel, researching the Frank case led to some unsettling findings. There are still people in Georgia who believe that Frank was guilty and got what he deserved. "I think it's a situation where even if a bunch of angels told them he was innocent, it wouldn't matter," he said.

Daniel and Jacobovici will be on hand at the screening to discuss the film.

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Jewish Life

Macdernity affects children

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

By now it has become commonplace to admit that the various social ills of the west have invaded the lives of Jewish families. Unlike the U.S. president, most any teenager will confess to having inhaled a joint, if not delved more seriously into drugs. Drinking is de regueur, and sexual dabbling is omnipresent. Eating disorders, boredom, ennui and even petty criminality all lurk at our door.

As we live in a tragically scientific age, where statistics are the street level version of what was once called truth, those disturbed by such allegations continuously insist that the dilemma is not as widespread as the rumourmongers wish to make out, or at the very least, not as bad as what occurs "amongst the goyim."

The flaw with the former is that statistics are notoriously hard to amass in such cases and rarely reflect the scope of the calamity, as any sociologist could verify in assessing the actual incidence in society of say, rape. The latter argument, that we ain't as bad as the non-Jews, is so tepid a defence of Jewish morality as to somehow ring pathetic. To paraphrase from the now famous aborted moon mission: "Jewston, we've got a problem."

Regarding the specific populace of Orthodox teenagers, it is often striking how the adolescent's issues of family rift, personal depression or existential dislocation are passed off – and thus obfuscated – as being a problem with Torah observance. Yet it is perhaps more true to say that religion is often the manifestation rather than the cause of the child's difficulties. Instead of probing deeply into the heart of *why* a child expresses his or her discontent with God, prayer and Halachah, and what such rebellion represents, we in religious communities often resort to tried and true excuses: Macintosh/Madonna/Mcwire/ Macdonald's – simply "macdernity."

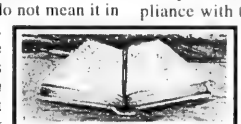
Such rationales are excuses, not because they are entirely inaccurate, but because they deflect the task away from ourselves and onto the big bad other. If Jewish education can play a role in inspiring young people and gently dissuading them from the unreality of legal and illegal distractions that constitute the ethos of our culture, it won't be as a compensation for the child's primary source of guidance and nourishment.

One thing is a surety and is repeatedly forgotten in the minds of many. Schools are not miracle workers and, for the most part, are not correctives to bad family dynamics, inappropriate social milieu, lack of love, punitive religious indoctrination (or on the other hand, lack of any religious training). Not to mention parents who value money over meaning or are too busy nursing their own wounds to be able to caress those of their children.

Not long ago, I posed the following question to my high school students. Would you sacrifice 50 percent of your parents' present income if you could go back to (earlier) childhood and arrange it so that your parents (especially fathers) would spend a lot more time with you – then and now – in a meaningful way? After a unanimous chorus of "Yes," I absorbed a chill of understanding about the current crisis in our midst.

The Jewish look

By RABBI MORDECAI E. ZEITZ


Rabbinic Reflections

All too often we have heard the phrase, "Funny, you don't look Jewish." This can be taken in many ways; I obviously do not mean it in any derogatory way. It just tells me however that there is a supposed *Jewish look*. So I ask, what does a *Jewish look* look like?

It is certainly not a physical look. We all come from such varied backgrounds that it gives Jews in general a full spectrum of physical appearances. Short, tall, light-skinned and dark, our physical looks certainly do not have a particular look, despite all of the insinuations about noses, etc. The mosaic of Jewish faces is made up of international colours.

Check the newspapers or magazines for their version of a Jewish look and invariably you will get a picture of an old Jewish man draped in tallit and tfillin or a woman straight out of the European shtetl. With no offence meant, is that the only authentic Jewish look?

The answer is that the Jewish look is not how a Jew appears but how a Jew looks at things; how a Jew appears Jewishly in the performance of their daily tasks. There is a Jewish look to the world and ongoing life. Even more significant, there is what the world looks for and expects from those who profess Jewishness.

The opening verse of this week's Torah portion declares: *Im bachukotai tailaichu* (if you walk in my statutes) – seemingly a statement of accountability for compliance and non-compliance with the laws of the Torah. But more so here is the key to understanding that Jewish look.

It is a challenge to make our chosen paths a reflection of Jewish moral and ethical values. Our chukim and mishpatim – in other words – our Jewishness – should not be limited to the confines of the synagogue or study hall.

The real arena for the expression of our Jewishness is in the very process of *tailachu* – wherever we proceed in life – whether it be the market place, social encounters with our families or amongst our friends.

It should be recognizable that despite changing societal norms which might sanction all types of behaviour, we have a particular behavioural code, a lifestyle, which we follow. While many things appear attractive, popular and ever-sanctioned, I have a road map called Torah U' Mitzvot which gives me direction as well as protection.

There used to be three magic words which normally got us back on the correct road. With a stern but caring look our parents, our teachers and even our peer group would just say – *Ess passt nicht* (it's not appropriate) – and nothing else was necessary. That was enough for us to get the Jewish look.

There was a kosher and treif having nothing to do with food. It had to do with behaviour patterns, attitudes and decision-making. Our reluctance to respond Jewishly to the ethical and moral dilemmas of contemporary society confuses those looking in from the outside.

Jewish law, Torah values and not societal norms assured our survival. It was the Jewish look – appropriately – the Jewish outlook that gave us the guidelines as to what was appropriate or inappropriate. When we did not look or act Jewishly – there was suspicion and confusion.

A beard and payot, or a sheitl with full dress but devoid of piety and ethics in human interaction *is not the Jewish look*. I don't lie or cheat but I have no need of Jewish ritual *is not the Jewish look*, either. The Jewish look involves the realization of Torah responsibilities and expectations.

A man in the synagogue was once honoured with hagbah. As he lifted the Torah high above his head, he was heard to ask: "What do I do with it now?"

If we pack Torah away as ancient Jewish memory then we stand to lose the Jewish look. What the world needs now is that Jewish outlook in the streets, in the office and in the home. The Jewish look is a reflection on each of us.

Rabbi Zeitz is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Tikvah in Montreal.

Jewish Life

Parshat Hashavua

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

We are currently in the period of Sefirat Ha'Omer, the seven-week period which begins in Passover and culminates with the giving of the Torah at Shavuot. So what better time to resolve to learn more about the book central to Jewish life? If you'd like to study Torah or are looking for material for your bar or bat mitzvah speech, there's always something to discover on the Jewish highway.

There are dozens of online commentaries available on the parshat hashavua (the weekly Torah portion) from almost every perspective imaginable.

From Rabbi Shlomo Riskin's weekly Shabbat Shalom **[http://www.ohrtorahstone.org.il/parsha/parsha.htm]** to Torah Hayim – Living Torah Study for Reform Jews [http://shamash.org/reform/uahc/torah/tindex.html] to the writings of Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America **[http://learn.jtsa.edu/topics/parashah/]**. And some parshat hashavua Web sites come with a bonus. At Torah Fax in CyberSpace, you not only get a weekly Torah commentary but you also get a link where people with health problems can ask for a speedy recovery **[http://www.torahfax.net/refuah.html]**.

There are two different ways to join in the learning. You can either visit a Web site on a regular basis to check out that week's material and archived resources from previous years. Or you can join a list. Once you sign up, that week's commentary will be automatically e-mailed to you.

Some lists are one way only – you receive a weekly mailing. Others allow you to respond and offer your own insights. Most of these lists are "moderated" which means there is someone in charge to make sure the correspondence remains on topic – and civil. One of the most comprehensive list of links to parshat hashavua commentaries on the Internet can be found at Torahnet **[http://shamash.org/reform/uahc/torahnet/]**. Try out more than one to find rabbis or commentators who are best for you.

If you prefer to *listen* to a lecture rather than read one, try out 613.org: The First World-Wide Jewish Audio Since Mount Sinai. You'll find the parasha classes at **[http://www.613.org/parasha.html]**. According to the site, there are over 250 classes by speakers from all over the world. And there are more audio lectures at Think Jewish International **[http://www.thinkjewish.com/]**.

Of course, there are some sites with kids in mind. In Kinder Torah, Simcha Groffman looks at the weekly Torah portion and suggests to parents some lessons that they may want to pass on to their children **[http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/parsha/kindertorah/index.htm]**. For example, parshat Emor contains the mitzvah of sanctifying God's name.

Kinder Torah explains how that can be a message to children to be representatives of God by giving up a seat for an older person or playing nicely. And for something different, go to Torah Tidbits **[http://www.ou.org/torah/tt/]** and click on Parsha Pix & Stats. Every week, you'll get a screen full of pictures that relate in some way to the Torah portion. Sometimes that relationship is straightforward; sometimes the connection is a bit cryptic. As the site says "ParshaPix are a great way to go over the parsha with your children, challenge them before they challenge you."

So learn, discuss and enjoy. But as you travel the Jewish Highway, please remember that what you print will often include God's name.

Respect the sanctity of the material.

In a future column, how to read the Torah in both Hebrew and English from the comfort of your keyboard.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home.com.

Slender volume conveys much

***Ravelstein*, by Saul Bellow Viking $35.**

At 84, Quebec-born Saul Bellow is still vigorously creative in various ways. His new book, his 19th, was published just a few months after the birth of his daughter, his fourth child.

A recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature (1976) and a three time National Book Award winner, he is the most visibly erudite of living American fiction writers. His books display awareness of an impressive amount and variety of modern intellectual thought.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Often Bellow's humour and narrative skill are overlooked by critics in search of cerebral content. "I know," he asserts somewhat disconcertedly, "they tend to think of me as a brain."

How Jewish is Bellow? His major characters, from Asa Leventhal to Augie March, from Moses Herzog to Artur Sammler, are infused with Jewish sensibility and emotion. Undoubtedly, he has never forgotten his rejection by the chair of the department of English at Northwestern University. He was told that as a Jew and the son of Russian Jews, he would probably never have the right "feeling" for Anglo-Saxon traditions or for English words.

Yet he is reluctant to describe himself as a Jewish writer. Some years ago, he insisted, "I have never consciously written as a Jew. I've never tried to appeal to a community. I never thought of writing for Jews exclusively…I think of myself as a person of Jewish origin – American and Jewish – who has had a certain experience of life, which is part Jewish. I had a Jewish life to lead in the American language."

Ravelstein is a thinly disguised fictionalized portrayal of Bellow's late, close friend, Allan Bloom, who achieved both renown and great wealth for his book, *The Closing of the American Mind* (1987), which became a surprising best-seller. The book was an indictment of the state of American higher education as well as of the 1960's counter-culture.

'Five years after his death, Chick (short for boychick) the novel's narrator – and obviously Bellow himself – recollects with deep feeling and some wonder his relationship with his friend, 20 years his junior and a many-sided teacher and scholar.

Ravelstein emerges as colourful, charismatic, overflowing, brilliant and witty. At the same time, this Falstaffian figure can be clumsy, insulting, self-centred and offensively gross and vulgar.

Short on plot, the novel is filled with good talk and detailed observation. The reader learns of Ravelstein's relations with his students and disciples, his love for the enduring verities of classical literature and his sybaritic delight in fine clothes, gourmet food, expensive furnishings – and sundry other pleasures. Bellow reveals what some readers will find shocking, that Bloom who was critical of homosexuality was himself a homosexual.

For both Chick and Ravelstein there is an abiding affection for Jewish ideas – especially the antic world of Jewish-American popular culture. Little given to religious faith, Ravelstein is nevertheless supremely self-conscious about his Jewishness. Surprisingly, at one point, he suggests to Chick that he attend High Holy Day services with his wife.

After his friend's death, Chick suffers a severe attack of food poisoning that almost leads to his death. He is lovingly nursed back to health by Rosamund, evidently his young and devoted wife. Both friends engage in spirited discussions about death and immortality, an ever-present reality for these two elderly polymaths.

Meditative and wise, this book swells with artistic irony and stylistic grace. It is a slender volume that conveys much.

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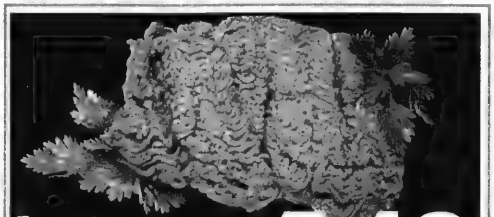

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הגדה בוערת

המתיחות עם הפלשתינאים הולכת וגואה, והמסכים מראים מראות אלימים שלא ראינו כמותם מאז ימי האינתיפאדה ההבדל העיקרי בין ברק ונתניהו הוא שנתניהו היה נוטה להפסיק בעקבות האלימות את כל המגעים, בעוד שברק חידש את המגעים למחרת היום. לא משנה מה דעתכם במפה הפוליטית, אני כמעט בטוח שתסכימו שהתפקיד הכי קשה וכפוי טובה שאפשר לחשוב עליו הוא של ראש ממשלת ישראל.

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SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS: Students at PlayLearn Preschool in Richmond Hill celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut. From left: Danit Freedman, Avital Krikunetz and Isaac Tobiannah marked Israel's birthday and the successful completion of a fundraiser for the Jewish National Fund.

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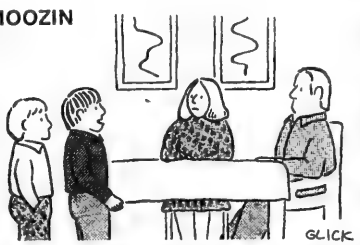

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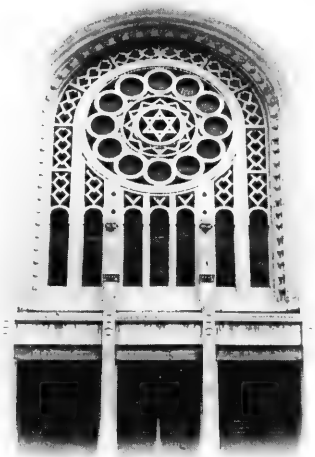

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Coast to Coast

Opposite sides join over immigration bill

Continued from page 1

Several Liberals, along with the Bloc and Alliance parties, supported the amendments, but their challenge was fended off and the bill advanced to third reading without the proposed changes.

Under current procedures, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration kicks off the legal process against suspected war criminals by serving legal documents warning that their citizenship may be revoked. Should the suspect contest the revocation, the case goes before a Federal Court judge, who determines whether the suspect gained citizenship on fraudulent grounds – that is, whether he lied about his wartime activities.

There is no court appeal from this finding. The proposed amendments to the bill would allow both sides to ask the Federal Court of Appeal to reconsider the case.

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan, however, said the granting and revocation of citizenship must remain the prerogative of the federal government, not of the courts.

The case that has brought the issue to a head was a Federal Court decision last February in which Oberlander was found to have lied to immigration authorities about his wartime role as an interpreter with Einsatzkommando 10a, a killing unit responsible for murdering tens of thousands of Jews. He now faces an order-in-council revoking his citizenship, and subsequent deportation.

MP Andrew Telegdi, Caplan's parliamentary secretary, resigned last week when the government refused to include amendments that would allow for an appeal of the judge's decision.

"I did it because of the process of revoking citizenship in this country," Telegdi said. "We don't have due process of law."

Telegdi, who represents Kitchener-Waterloo, Oberlander's home-town, said the Oberlander case "triggered the unfairness of the process for me."

The absence of an appeal and the fact that a political body – the cabinet – makes the final decision on citizenship offends him, Telegdi said.

Legal researcher Kenneth Narvey, chief operating officer of the CCC, agrees. "The present system is bad for everybody. The government can't appeal and the friends of the accused feel it's unfair not to have the right to appeal… What we want are fair judgments that everybody can have confidence in."

David Matas, honorary legal counsel of B'nai Brith, said he favoured amendments to allow appeals from trial court decisions. Such a step could expedite legal remedies against Nazi war criminals, he said.

Currently, it can take one to two years from the time a Federal Court makes a finding against a suspect to the time his citizenship is stripped. In addition, lawyers for suspects are finding other ways of challenging the system, further bogging it down in litigation, he said. (Oberlander's lawyers have filed a 100-page brief with Caplan arguing against revocation of Oberlander's citizenship. She said she will review the arguments.)

By granting both sides the right to seek an appeal by the Federal Court of Appeal, the process would become fairer and quicker, it would negate a host of legal challenges and it would allow the minister the opportunity to seek a reverse of decisions, as in the Dueck case, that "are eminently appealable," Matas said.

Caplan told *The CJN* the government has made "a policy decision" to retain the right to strip people of their citizenship. It is a process that is used "in most Commonwealth countries" and it is fair, she said.

"There is an appeal to the cabinet and it is reviewable all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada," she said. "The government's view is that in a parliamentary democracy the government should stand accountable. The courts do not grant citizenship, the government does."

Policy decision to retain Cabinet's final authority

Canadian Jewish Congress president Moshe Ronen backed the minister, though he acknowledged the legislation may have to be changed at some point. But "not at a time when a Nazi accomplice is before the cabinet to be stripped of his citizenship," he said.

Ronen questioned Talegdi's concerns over the issue. "The timing is very suspect. It smells foul," he said. "There is no question in my mind that this is politically motivated.

"The amendments, in our view, are compromised by their origins. Considering the timing and their concern, we're not prepared to support them."

The *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*, meanwhile, recently published a 12-page summary of the Oberlander case and the issues it raises. In an article headed "Case sparks debate over justice," Philip Jalsevac reported that "thousands of people, many of German or Ukrainian background, have signed a petition demanding Ottawa take no action against Oberlander."

The newspaper's editorial backed Talegdi, noting he is supported by "the Ukrainian Congress, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and – most gratifyingly – B'nai Brith Canada. This in a proposal that would benefit Oberlander if it were law today, is extraordinary."

The editorial agreed with Talegdi that "Canadian citizenship is too precious to be kept or lost on one person's opinion, even if that opinion belongs to a judge."

Chaplain links prisoners to community

Continued from page 3

There are between 60 and 70 Jews in the Ontario prison system at any one time – at least that's the number who identify themselves as Jews, Rabbi Weiss states. Of that number, about 10 percent are "frum," or observant Jews.

"The single greatest ethnic segment of the Jewish prison population is not Canadian-born," he continues. "It fluctuates. For many years it was Israelis, but in recent years, it's Russian-born first, then Israelis. Canada is third."

Many of the Russians who have been incarcerated are doing time for drug-related offences. Israelis, he said, seem to be involved in immigration issues.

Prior to his career ministering to the needs of the Jewish prison population, Rabbi Weiss served as a pulpit rabbi in Binghampton, N.Y. and Springfield, Mass. In addition to working with the prison population, he provides pastoral care to Jews in other institutional settings. Part of his routine is to visit Jews in 33 hospitals, 45 nursing homes and 24 prisons, most of which are within 50 kilometres of Toronto.

To aid him in this daunting task, Rabbi Weiss can call on seven part-time professional clergy who are on fee for service contracts.

In addition, Rabbi Weiss is supported by 36 trained "para-chaplains," lay volunteers who make visits to Jews in institutions, and "I have an army of 140 friendly visitors to go into different facilities, mostly hospitals and nursing homes," he said. "They provide a link, a bridge, to the community. It gives people a friend, a friendly face, someone they can trust."

On our visit to Metro East, the three prisoners we met clearly enjoyed their time with Rabbi Weiss, if only for the prestige an outside visitor gives them among fellow prisoners.

The first prisoner we meet is Igor (all the names have been changed by agreement with the inmates). He's in his mid-20s, tall, well-built and facing 10-12 years on drug trafficking and firearm charges. Although he's resigned to spending years in jail, he doesn't seem bitter. He's more concerned about what happens afterwards. He's not a Canadian citizen and he's sure he'll face deportation proceedings once he's served his time.

He hails from the former Soviet Union, a territory that is now controlled by Muslims. "The Muslims are throwing the Jews out. We came here as refugees."

Igor grew up in the Bathurst and Finch area of Toronto and he has ties to the Jewish community. He knows of 10 to 12 other prisoners at Metro East who are Jewish. Most are in different ranges spread across the facility, he said.

Like the other Jewish prisoners, Igor appreciates the kosher food he gets at dinner, sometimes also at lunch.

Igor, who's been awaiting trial for eight months, said he's experienced some anti-Jewish sentiments from other prisoners, but "it's not that bad here." He recalls seeing some inmates who had swastika tattoos. "They're mostly going against Blacks," he said. The fact he's a big guy and can take care of himself might be a deterrence, he acknowledged, and the guards keep on top of things.

On a personal level, Igor is grateful for the visits by Rabbi Weiss and the fact he brings him Russian newspapers and books. His visits also "give me someone to talk to. At least someone cares that I'm here."

***

Michael is in his early 20s. Unlike the others, he's Canadian born though his parents are both immigrants. He's been in Metro East for three months on drug charges and he spent two months before that at the Don Jail.

Michael has had some minor connections to the Jewish community. He attended parties at the Jewish Community Centre but admits he knows very little about Jewish life and tradition.

Like Igor, Michael enjoys the rabbi's visits, which give him another voice to talk to and someone to listen to his concerns. In prison, "you hold things in all the time. When you get together, you feel more joy," he said.

Michael has been in and out of prisons for nine years. In that span, he says he hasn't spent more than one year at a time out of jail.

Michael claims he's learned his lesson and promises to seek counselling once he's out of jail. "When I get out, I'd like to get help from the Jewish community," he said.

***

Alexander is in his mid-20s and was born in the former Soviet Union. At five his family moved to Canada. He's been in Metro East for two months awaiting sentencing on a conviction for fraud.

Alexander grew up in the Finch/Bathurst area and "all my friends are Jewish."

He says he enjoys speaking to "a Jewish person who understands my religion." He'd love to be in the same range with the other Jewish guys, but he knows that's not likely to happen.

Alexander has a sweet smile and angelic appearance. He admits he had a run-in with an anti-Semite during one of his various prison stays. He was put into the same cell with a neo-Nazi who had placed a swastika on the wall and who constantly made anti-Semitic remarks. Michael handled the situation jailhouse style. A mischievous smile comes to his face as he recounts the episode.

***

It's time to leave. Visiting hours are over and afterwards, with the Passover supplies delivered, Rabbi Weiss explains his pastoral philosophy.

In short, he says, he will not try to impose any value system on the prisoners.

"I don't come in with an agenda. I would never come in and try to push religious observance. I try to strengthen their observance if they ask me." For the 10 percent of the prisoners who are observant and who request it, Rabbi Weiss will provide tallitot and tfillin. However they're kept under lock and key in the chaplain's office. Even tfillin, with their long leather straps, can be used as weapons, he points out.

"I try to strengthen their ties to the outside community. That's what I see the chaplaincy doing, building a bridge to the outside so they don't feel isolated, alone.

"Even though they're apart from the community, they're part of the community. We feel they're important and shouldn't feel they're forgotten."

The visits "definitely make a difference," the rabbi continues. "I don't think the Jewish community pays that much attention to jails. It's not something they see as impacting on them. It's certainly significant that the community provides a chaplain and it's important that the community knows about it."

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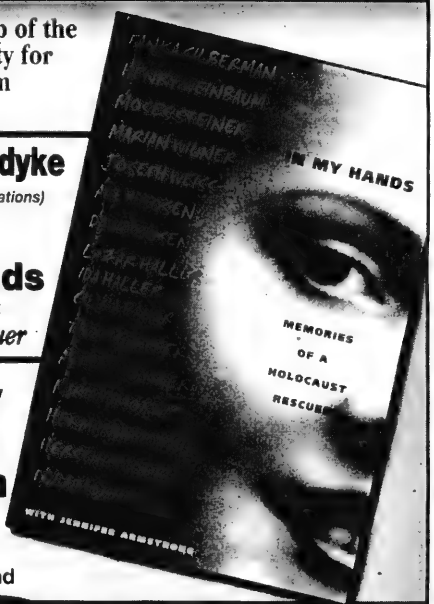

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On Campus

Web site provides insight into travelling in Israel

By NOAM SUGARMAN
Special to The CJN

Israelexperience.org features majestic pictures of the Jewish homeland and is user-friendly.

Personal accounts of people who have been on trips to Israel will make you long for your own fun-filled adventure. One young man, identified as Arthur M., describes his thoughts and feelings after reaching the top of Masada.

"I remember thinking about the mass suicide that happened up there years ago and I felt a tremendous amount of freedom and independence. It was amazing. No picture could ever capture the full impact of that morning."

The site was originally launched by Israel Experience Inc., but was relaunched in September 1999 by Birthright Israel, an organization that sponsors trips to the Holy Land. The site has an entire Birthright Israel trip section which answers frequently asked questions.

The site allows you to customize your own trip by selecting criteria from three categories: "Challenge Yourself" includes choices like camping, internship opportunities, and watersports; "Expand Your Mind" offers options like gaining an academic credit, teaching English or learning Hebrew, and the last category "Live the Culture" includes choices such as having an encounter with Israeli peers or participating in an army simulation.

A trip which best fits your criteria will be chosen from a list of over 200 trips.

This site is designed both for people who have already experienced Israel and for people who are contemplating travelling there.

The message board allows people who have never been on a trip to Israel to communicate with people who have been. It also provides a way for alumni of Israeli trips to keep in touch with each other.

The site's recently launched alumni corner allows ex-travellers to keep alive the feeling they had on their trips. It also provides a description of cultural activities and job opportunities within the Jewish community.

Afterword to host conference

TORONTO — Interested in the media? Interested in journalism? *Afterword*, a national paper for Jewish students, is hosting its second annual National Media Conference for Young Jewish Adults.

The conference will feature several journalists, including Rebecca Eckler of the *National Post*, Elie Tesher of the *Toronto Star*, Marsha Lederman of Talk 640 and "Humble" Howard Glassman of CFNY Radio.

Participants will meet students involved in the media across the country, listen to seminars on Jewish current events and engage in writing and editing workshops.

The conference runs from Sunday, May 28, to Tuesday, May 30, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Lipa Green Building (Canadian Jewish Congress), 4600 Bathurst Street, Room 420. Cost is $100 (includes all seminars and meals) or $40 for a one-day ticket. Register at afterword@compuserve.com or view the Web site at www.come.to/afterword or call Dave Gordon at 416-631-8053.

800 expected at annual Hoops for Hope

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — On Sunday, June 4, the parking lot at the Promenade Shopping Centre in Thornhill won't be filled with the usual cars, minivans and teenagers walking with shopping bags.

Well, maybe the teenagers.

Instead, it will turn into a huge basketball court, as, organizers hope, some 800 people will take part in the annual Hoops for Hope basketball tournament.

Proceeds will be divided between the Gift of Life Foundation (formerly Canadian Friends of Jay Feinberg), which raises funds for bone marrow donor testing and recruitment, and the Audey Stanleigh Leukemia Research Foundation, which currently funds a hematology lab at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children that is trying to develop innovative cures for leukemia.

Talia Edell, director of the Hoops for Hope Tournament, has been an organizer of the event since the beginning.

"This year's Hoops for Hope will be supported by the Raptors Foundation and Headlines Sports. It will feature a slam-dunk competition; food; an expanded high school program; and prizes, which will include a car, gift certificates, sporting items and hotel stays.

Audey Stanleigh founded Hoops for Hope as a way to thank the community for helping him get a bone marrow transplant. Not as fortunate as Feinberg, he died from his illness in 1996. His family is still involved, and will be at the tournament, as will the family of Mark Walfish who died last year at the age of 20.

"It's so exciting," said Edell. "We are beginning to see Audey's dreams actualize."

Hours of play will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The rain date is June 11.

For more information, call 416-250-PLAY (7529) or e-mail www.hoopsforhope.com.

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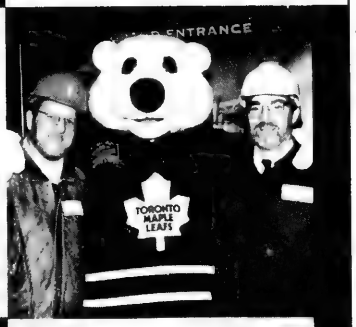

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פרקי אבות ב:ה

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Each year, we recognize the unique contributions of the many volunteers across the spectrum of community life. The year 2000, the first of a new century, has become a year of particular focus on history and its lessons. The critical lesson is that when we work together in the spirit of tzedakah, we are successful as a community.

As Jewish Toronto Tomorrow demonstrates, UJA FEDERATION is on a course emphasizing community partnership and collaboration. Voluntarism is at the heart of our future as we build the community of tomorrow.

Let us do more than dream. We can join together to create and build an even greater future for our community.

On behalf of UJA FEDERATION, I want to express our appreciation for your efforts today and for what we will do together tomorrow.

Alan Sandler

ALAN SANDLER
President

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A Community of Communities

by Helen Finder-Guttman
Chair, Community Development
UJA FEDERATION

This Volunteer Supplement is the first to be produced by the newly-constituted Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC). Our mandate is to ensure that UJA FEDERATION is accessible and responsive to the needs of our constituent parts – to ensure that we are truly a community of interconnected communities with shared goals and ideals.

Volunteers are the crucial component that ensures the integrity and viability of this model. It does not matter how or where one volunteers. What is fundamental is the choice to contribute.

This Supplement serves to recognize, although in a limited fashion, the efforts of some of the numerous individuals who selflessly give so much of their time to enhance our community. We are all truly richer for their actions.

To those featured here - and to those who are not – a most sincere thank you. The vitality of our Jewish community has been strengthened by your contributions. This community is now proud to be able to publicly honour you.

Yasher koach.

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Building Community - One by One

Soon we will read the Torah portion of *baMidbar*. At the very beginning of this parsha, we learn that G-d commanded Moses and Aaron to conduct a census "…by the number of the names…." What do the "names" add to the census? Aren't the numbers alone sufficient to render appropriate demographic statistics?

The answer, of course, is that every Jew is a unique individual with a special contribution to make to our community. Each "name" is holy in its own way.

This Volunteer Supplement acknowledges that there are numerous individuals who quietly give of themselves to the betterment of our community and who deserve recognition. They have been recognized as symbols of inspired and inspiring leadership. These "names" reflect the importance of each individual's contribution to community strength.

The book *baMidbar* is called "Numbers" in English even though it means "in the wilderness." Even a wilderness can be transformed into a spiritual garden if the numbers are treated with respect and dignity. The community is only as strong as the unique Jews who inhabit it and help to build it.

This is the message of both our Torah and this Supplement. We wish all those honoured here, as well as the thousands of other community volunteers they represent, a long and healthy career in community service. ***Mei chayil el chayil! From Strength to Strength!***

by Dr. Seymour Epstein, *Vice-President for Jewish Education*
UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto

A Tribute

Welcome to the sixth annual tribute to our community's volunteers. While each community group was asked to recognize only one volunteer, the faces you see here represent the thousands of individuals from the very young to the most senior members of our community who play a key role in building our agencies, schools, congregations and organizations. Their unselfish commitment in providing both "front-line" service and "behind the scenes" planning strengthens our community and improves the quality of Jewish life here in Toronto, in Israel and around the world. We salute these volunteers for their exceptional contributions to our Jewish community.

Join these dedicated women and men who represent the spirit of voluntarism across the broad spectrum of our Jewish community. ***THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU!***

Terri Weintraub
Chair, Volunteer Recognition Project

ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Encourages the religious life of the Jewish community, while perpetuating and promoting Conservative Judaism. www.adathisrael.com

Sheldon Parker

"Having gained immeasurably from my association with Adath Israel over the years, I now have the opportunity, as President, to repay my Congregation for all the wonderful blessings my family and I have shared."

ALPHA OMEGA DENTAL FRATERNITY

The collective Voice of the Jew in Dentistry – Alpha Omega is the international dental organization based on Judaism, professional excellence and fraternalism.

Dr. Gary Elman

"Alpha Omega was, is, and will continue to be an integral part of my professional and social life. Being involved has afforded my family and I opportunities that we would not otherwise have had."

ASSOCIATED HEBREW SCHOOLS OF TORONTO*

Provides students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education based on Torah values in a safe and supportive learning environment. www.toronto.com/associated

Esther Zeppieri

"My involvement with the Parent Teacher Council is truly a challenging and stimulating experience. It is indisputably an unparalleled reward to be able to promote Jewish education, along with an appreciation of our heritage and love of our culture, to tomorrow's leaders."

BATHURST JEWISH CENTRE*

A community organization providing quality programs and services that meet social, educational, cultural, recreational and citizenship needs of constituents. bjc@interlog.com

Sabina Rafailov

"The joy of watching kids smile, play and talk or share their stories with me has brought a great deal of happiness into my life. These kids are the number one reason why I love to volunteer in the day care centre."

BAYCREST CENTRE FOR GERIATRIC CARE

Enriches the quality of life of the elderly. www.baycrest.org

Jean Goldstein

"My work entails interviewing and assessing potential volunteers and matching them to jobs and people that would allow them to contribute to our wonderful centre. My joy and satisfaction in making 'a perfect match' cannot be measured."

*Denotes 1999-2000 beneficiary agencies and departments of UJA FEDERATION

BBYO*

A youth-led, worldwide organization that provides opportunities for Jewish youth to develop their leadership potential, a positive Jewish identity and a commitment to their personal development. www.bbyo.on.ca

Sheldon Baker

"Working with the teens at BBYO has given me a great opportunity to teach leadership skills while expanding on my own. It's most rewarding to watch these young people grow to become socially and politically active with a love & pride in their Jewish heritage."

BEIT HALOCHEM CANADA

Raises funds to help support the disabled veterans in Israel, and establishes meaningful relationships between the veterans and the Jewish community in Canada. www.interlog.com/bhcan

Anna Spivak

"When my husband and I hosted a veteran in 1982, I realized how Beit Halochem Canada was so vital to the Israeli veterans, and I decided to devote my efforts to this organization. Since hosting again in 1984, I have been a member of the Board of Directors."

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING*

A non-profit multi-cultural centre committed to maximizing the quality of life for seniors.

Tova Szajman

"Coming to Canada from Israel many years ago, I became thoroughly involved with my new community and gradually found myself drifting away from my Israeli roots. Becoming an active volunteer I am now Chairwoman of the Israeli Ejrog Club and joyfully feel I have reconnected to my roots."

BETH AVRAHAM YOSEPH OF TORONTO CONGREGATION

A family Synagogue emphasizing the warmth of Torah tradition.

Salim Kobrossi, Benny Karakowsky & Elaine Genesove

"We enjoy doing things that make BAYT members happy, and provide support for their commitment to prayer and learning."

BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION

Dedicated to cultivating, developing and sustaining Judaism and Jewish living in accordance with the ideas and standards of the Conservative Movement. www.bethdavid.com

Daryl Beber

"It is an honour and privilege to have the opportunity to volunteer for one's own Synagogue. Working with our youth, serving as Sisterhood President, and, most recently, as President of the Congregation, have been fulfilling and rewarding experiences."

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE

Fosters a full and joyous way of life rooted in a heritage of traditional Conservative Judaism, committed to Jewish values, education, spiritual well-being and community. www.beby.org

Uri Lenga

"My best experience has been working with our many dedicated volunteers who help make Beth Emeth a great Congregation."

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE

A vibrant forward-looking Conservative Synagogue dedicated to fostering spiritual and Judaic growth and fulfillment. www.bethtikvah.on.ca

Sasha Schaeffer

"It is very satisfying to assist with youth activities, which inspire leadership, promote Jewish identity, and foster ethical behaviour. Our young members are encouraged to assume responsible roles within the Congregation and society-at-large."

BLOOR JCC*

Dedicated to serving the cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto through programs and services guided by Jewish values. Open to all members of the community, regardless of race, ethnic origin, or religious affiliation. www.bloorjcc.on.ca

Wendy Hernick

"During my four years serving as a Board member and committee head, I have been fortunate to have been part of a very dynamic group of individuals. They have shown me that so much can be accomplished with so little. Our collective will has made and continues to make this a very special place."

B'NAI BRITH CANADA

Serves the Jewish community through: combating anti-Semitism, bigotry and racism in Canada and abroad; activities that ensure the security and survival of Israel and Jewish communities worldwide; and, community service. www.bnaibrith.ca

Dr. Harriet Kravitz-Morris

"It has been my privilege to work with wonderful volunteers and staff at B'nai Brith Canada who are committed to positive change. I am especially proud of our work in human rights advocacy, in promoting awareness of national and international issues, and in Jewish based and inspired programs."

CANADIAN ASSOCIATES OF BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

The University acts as a driving force in the development of the Negev and seeks to excel as a major centre for education and research in Israel. canbgu@idirect.com

Gary Fine

"A national mission to green the desert; excellence in education and research; and through cooperative research projects, the building of bridges of peace between Israel, her neighbours & other countries: these elements attracted me to BGU."

CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR MASORTI JUDAISM

Supports the work of the Masorti/Conservative Movement in Israel, promoting Torah, Zionism, religious tolerance and pluralism within the context of modern Israeli society. mercaz-masorti@interactivepages.com

Dr. Irv Siegel

"Being part of an effort to raise Jewish awareness in secular Israeli Jews has been a gratifying experience. An understanding of our religion and heritage is paramount to truly be 'a light unto the nations.'"

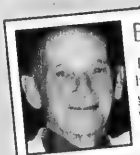
VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE:

A Community Honours Its Own

The women and men pictured here have made tzedakah and community involvement constant priorities in their lives. Their unrelenting commitment to Jewish values and to preserving human dignity help enrich the lives of so many and instill enormous community pride in us all. They will receive their **Volunteer Recognition Awards** on behalf of the entire community at UJA FEDERATION's Annual Meeting, Wednesday, June 7th.

SHEM TOV AWARD RECIPIENTS

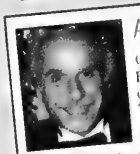
The Shem Tov Awards are presented to leadership representing the highest levels of excellence in volunteer service to Toronto's Jewish community.



BERT COHEN

Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa Bert, known for his generosity of spirit, sense of humour and intelligence is on the Board of Directors, having served previously as Chair of the Business Loan Committee, United Way liaison and Office Committee Chair.

"My role in commending loans to individuals who succeed in their business is truly humbling. It is my pleasure but is immensely gratifying to me. I derive as much pleasure as the recipients do."



AL (ALEX) GORLICK

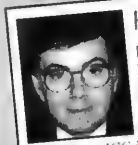
Circle of Care A volunteer since '92, he joined the Board in '95 and became Secretary in '97. He is part of the delegation to support the United Way of Greater Toronto's grant process. A leader, motivator and speaker, Al is a dedicated advocate for seniors.

"Circle of Care is an organization of people who can do so much for so many. I am very pleased to work with and be a member of this most rewarding and fulfilling cause. I respect all volunteers."

MARK JADD

Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto Mark's involvement reflects his transition from student to professional volunteer. He has been involved for five years, and serves as the agency's in-house legal counsel as well as a member of the Executive.

"While being involved with JCS from its beginning, I have witnessed the dream of a vibrant and effective Jewish campus organization evolve into a reality. It has been my great honour and privilege to be part of the lay and staff team and, most importantly, the enthusiastic students on the various Toronto campuses who have created this reality."



HARVEY G. KOTLER, Q.C.

Bloor JCC A member of the Bloor JCC for over 30 years, his commitment and expertise have helped promote a new long-term development vision. Harvey currently is Chair of the Board of Advisors and immediate Past President.

"The Bloor JCC is a marvelous, magical place representing the passion and excitement of a vibrant downtown community facility. My involvement as a Board member and President for the last two years has enabled me to help preserve its facilities and programs for the next generation."

TOM LOBEL

Bathurst Jewish Centre A man of diverse interests, Tom is currently studying at Harvard University for his Ph.D. in International Relations. He is Past President of the BJC and currently sits on the Strategic Planning Committee and Executive.

"Volunteering to me is the essence of being a Jew. If you can make time, you must."

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARD WINNERS

Leadership Development Awards were established to encourage young men and women to assume community leadership roles.

They are presented to individuals who demonstrate extraordinary community commitment and service.

DAVID BERON

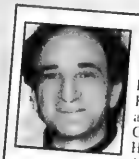
David's commitment to voluntarism began as a young activist in his native South Africa where he volunteered as a Madrich for Betar, a student youth group. His UJA FEDERATION involvement began three years ago as a founding member of the innovative Hands on Toronto program. Currently, Co-Chair of Young Leadership Division and the UIA Canadian Young Leadership National Executive. David has just returned from Poland and Israel where he was a chaperone on the 2000 March of the Living.

"Through volunteering, I get far more out than I put in. I have the opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives."

DR. MIRIAM ROSENBERG

Actively involved with UJA FEDERATION since '95, Miriam has demonstrated outstanding leadership as past Chair of Young Leadership, Young Health Professionals, the Walk for Israel, Canvasser Training and Super Sunday. Miriam, who is deeply committed to Israel, has led missions on behalf of the Young Leadership Network. A very busy dentist, Miriam is also an active member of the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity.

"I feel fortunate and privileged that circumstances in my life have afforded me the opportunity to give my time to the Jewish community. Being a volunteer has been rewarding and fulfilling."



KEITH RAY

Kehilla Residential Programme Active for 16 years, Keith has strongly supported the management of all Kehilla related projects and has provided input into all activities. He serves as Treasurer, Chair of the Finance Committee, Treasurer of the Avenel Non-Profit Housing Corp. Board, and Treasurer of the Mutually Assisting Residential Community (MARC) Board.

"I am pleased to have contributed to Kehilla's accomplishments of helping bring to fruition affordable housing projects to life in the Jewish community. I also enjoy meeting and working with the other volunteers and UJA FEDERATION staff who have devoted a great deal of their time and energy to this worthy cause."

MICHAEL ROSENBERG

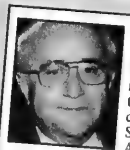
UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto Michael has been Co-Chair of the Societies Division for more than a decade and was instrumental in creating a Societies Advisory Executive and Board. His keen interest in youth precipitated his involvement with the Societies Endowment for the March of the Living.

"Volunteering means giving of oneself to the community. It has helped me to build myself and the Jewish fabric of this Jewish

NANCY RUTH

Board of Jewish Education of UJA FEDERATION Nancy's commitment to both Jewish continuity and Jewish education has been reflected in her life-long activities as a volunteer and a professional. A member of the BJE Executive and Board for the past three years, she is Chairman of the Supplementary School Committee & member of the Affiliations Committee.

"My involvement as a volunteer at Holy Blossom Temple, UJA FEDERATION's Board of Jewish Education, and the community-at-large has been a life-enriching experience."



RALPH SNOW ז"ל

UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto mourns the recent passing of Ralph Snow, who exemplified the true meaning of community commitment. A tireless campaigner, Ralph was most recently Co-Chair of the Societies Division. Ralph was awarded the Shem Tov Award shortly before his death.

"Decade after decade, Toronto's Societies have extended a helping hand to fellow Jews, without seeking anything in return. That's what Ralph did as well. He was a gentleman who symbolized tzedakah. We'll miss him very much."

Alan Sandler, *President*

JEFF WAGMAN

BBYO Jeff's involvement began in '72 as a member of Chapter Lorac. Quickly rising through the ranks, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Commissioner of the B'nai Brith Youth Commission, and member of the Board Development Committee of B'nai Brith International.

"We should all be very mindful of the type of community we are leaving for the next generation. I am committed to volunteering because I have a very strong interest in the continued growth and development of my community 20 and 30 years from now."

Lending Time to Tomorrow

With the recent launch of UJA FEDERATION's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) initiative, there are now even more opportunities for everyone to get involved in the community.

JTT is a long-term plan – a blueprint for what we want our community to look like now, and 20 years from now. Through the UJA FEDERATION annual campaign, endowment funds and coordinated capital campaigns, JTT will ensure both refurbished facilities and ongoing services for Toronto's rapidly growing Jewish community.

Three vibrant campuses of Jewish life – downtown, midtown and in York Region – are key components of the JTT vision, so individuals and families can access Jewish programs and services in their own neighbourhoods. Through JTT, renovations will be taking place to the Bloor Jewish Community Centre and the Bathurst Jewish Centre, and a new 50-acre north Bathurst Street campus in York Region, is slated for development.

But JTT is also about a new community partnership in which organizations with dreams about new ways of meeting community needs will be matched with philanthropists who also share those dreams.

This emphasis on innovation will increase participation in Jewish life, and create more opportunities for volunteers to lend their professional skills to joint projects and management teams. JTT hopes to encourage a new era of community creativity, as schools and organizations come forward with their own innovative dreams.

"Jewish Toronto Tomorrow is a dream come true for anyone who takes pride in our incredible community," says Leslie Gales, Co-Chair with Barry Sherman of the Jewish Toronto Tomorrow Steering Committee. "It's a new way of looking at community planning – allowing us to harness the energy and creativity of our communal organizations to meet emerging needs."

Jewish TORONTO Tomorrow

But Gales points out that JTT's success is dependent on getting people involved in community in new and different ways. JTT projects will require active volunteers skilled in a variety of key areas such as finance, development, management, marketing and strategic planning. If all goes as predicted, dozens of fresh projects will emerge in the years to come that will require significant new volunteer resources to help make these dreams come true.

For more information on Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, visit **www.jewishtoronto.net** or e-mail tomorrow@jewishtoronto.net ■

Stage Set for the International Year of Volunteers

The year 2001 has been proclaimed "International Year of Volunteers" (IYV), following a United Nations General Assembly declaration, and our community's volunteer organizations are enthusiastically endorsing the initiative.

"We, in the Toronto Jewish community, publicly acknowledge the importance of our community's volunteers each year," notes Helen Finder-Guttman, Chair of Community Development, UJA FEDERATION. "During the International Year of Volunteers 2001, we will proudly add our voice to other organizations around the world in applauding the valuable efforts of volunteers – something we consistently recognize and support."

IYV 2001 provides an opportunity to highlight the achievements of millions of volunteers worldwide and to encourage more people to volunteer.

More than 120 countries supported the proclamation, including Canada, the United States, and Israel.

To learn more about the International Year of the Volunteer 2001, visit their web site at **www.iyv.org**

THERE'S A PLACE FOR *YOU!*

Volunteer in the Jewish community

- **SHARE** your expertise and talents
- **OFFER** your time to someone who needs you
- **GAIN** experience or develop new skills
- **MAKE** new friends and contacts
- **EXPERIENCE** the satisfaction that comes from helping others
- **DEVELOP** a stronger connection to your Jewish community

Call Shelly at UJA FEDERATION (416) 635-2883 ext. 137 for more information or visit our web site www.jewishtoronto.net

New Community Development Plan Underway

A new initiative to enhance and strengthen relationships among organizations in the Toronto Jewish community has been announced by UJA FEDERATION. Its new Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) will respond to the needs of all community constituents.

"Community development is not a new concept," says UJA FEDERATION President Alan Sandler. "The philosophy of '*Kol Yisrael areivim zeh ba zeh* – all of Israel is responsible for one another' – is not a passive imperative. It is a call to action – to contribute!"

The CDAC will strive to broadly expand communal involvement in social, recreational, educational, cultural, fundraising and community services, while drawing upon the unique abilities of all constituents to do so.

"We hope to encourage involvement and participation by all members of our communal family," adds Sandler.

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University (Toronto Chapter)

Develops and promotes awareness, leadership and financial support for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. www.cfhu.org

Harvey Naglie

"The Hebrew University of Jerusalem pushes a number of my philanthropic hot buttons: Judaism, Israel, scholarship. This, combined with the wonderful Canadian Friends that I have been able to meet and work with, explains why my involvement has been so fulfilling and enjoyable."

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Provides support for the educational goals of Tel Aviv University, facilitated by enhanced public awareness of the University's achievements, fundraising and the development of a strong local membership. www.tau.ac.il

Debbie Godfrey

"The opportunity to meet and learn from professors and students has been challenging. The diversity of programs and outstanding caliber of these individuals makes me proud to be associated with Tel Aviv University."

Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation

To support and promote educational, research and patient care programs at Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem. www.szmc.org.il

Evan Sone

"Creating the Shaare Zedek Ski Day and watching it become a successful fundraising event has been very rewarding. As the father of premature triplets, raising funds for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Shaare Zedek is especially meaningful to me."

Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science

Expresses the commitment of the Canadian Jewish community to help Weizmann Institute maintain its standards of excellence and its significant contributions to world science and Israel. www.weizmann.ac.il

Brian J. Steck

"Weizmann represents what's best about science, technology, research and Israel. I'm extremely proud of its contributions to all of humanity and consider it a privilege to serve as the incoming President of The Canadian Society."

Chabad Lubavitch

Dedicated to preserving and perpetuating Judaism through innovative programs, learning opportunities and publications that encourage ritual observance. www.chabadtoronto.org

Jack Schwartz

"Watching 'Yiddishkeit' grow in our great city makes all the work with Chabad Lubavitch worthwhile."

Chaplaincy Services of Jewish Family & Child Service

Supports and promotes the development of individuals and families through prevention, protection, counselling, education & advocacy services within the context of Jewish values. www.toronto.com/jfcs

Louise Goldberg

"Visiting the sick (Bikur Cholim) in a hospital allows me to reach out to members of the Jewish community. The courage shown by the patients and their families inspires me to demand more of myself."

Circle of Care

Facilitates and supports independent living in the community and promotes individual health, well-being and quality of life. www.circleofcare.com

Ruth Fox

"Kosher Meals on Wheels has provided me with the opportunity to give time and effort to those who cannot provide for themselves. The enjoyment of working with dedicated people is beyond measure."

Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT)

Striving for excellence in all aspects of education, CHAT provides each student with a Judaic and General Studies education in a co-educational setting. www.jewishtoronto.net

Baila Lubek

Since January 1999, Baila Lubek has served as the first woman President of CHAT. In an action-packed year of dynamic leadership, she has steered CHAT through major construction projects, initiated future planning and brought new cadres of volunteers on board.

Downtown Jewish Community Council

Promotes Jewish institutions and organizations; encourages Jewish educational opportunities; unifies the downtown Jewish community in all its diversity; promotes outreach to the unaffiliated; and, promotes community activities and holiday celebrations. www.bloorjcc.on.ca

Paul Appleby

"What a challenge to be a member of the DJCC, whose member organizations represent such different perspectives! Working on the Learning Council and helping make a Community Seder has all been a joy."

Downtown Jewish Community School

Provides Jewish students with a basis for Jewish identity in a pluralistic community. Students are taught the concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and to feel comfortable within a Jewish setting. www.jewishtoronto.net

Leslie Mendelson

"My earliest involvement in the school was my most meaningful experience. I have chaired a Board of wonderful volunteers but I most enjoyed the years I spent facilitating holiday celebrations in this terrific community."

Dr. Abraham Shore Academy/ She'arim Hebrew Day School

Canada's first and only Jewish school for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. Programs are designed to help students reach their personal and academic potential by providing them with strategies to manage their difficulties.

Debbie & David Diamond

"At Canada's only Jewish day school for children with learning disabilities, the opportunity to do community work for these children and see the difference any volunteer can make is truly rewarding."

Emunah Women of Toronto

An international women's Zionist organization with a long history of providing children and adults in Israel with a broad education and strong Jewish values. www.icomm.ca/emunah

Edie Kalb

"Emunah has given me the opportunity to develop my creative and leadership skills and to work with women from the whole spectrum of our community for the benefit of the citizens of Israel."

Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residences Corp.

A unique living environment based on recognition of the changing needs of older adults. Committed to providing an environment that fosters a positive Jewish identity. habayit@volnet.com

David Herlick

"I have been a volunteer with Circle of Care for 25 years, having served as both Treasurer and President. During all that time, seeing the establishment of Habayit Shelanu was the most meaningful experience. It is not only bricks and mortar, but is truly a place one can call 'home.'"

Holy Blossom Temple

A Canadian Congregation of Jewish men and women who are committed to the principles of Reform Judaism.

dtameanko@holyblossom.org

Matilda Bigio

"During 19 years of membership, I've received a great deal of support from fellow congregants. My way of giving back is by volunteering. I lead services as lay cantor; act as Gabbai; sing in the choir; volunteer in the gift shop; and, in the 'Out of the Cold' and 'Bikur Cholim' programs."

Israel Cancer Research Fund

Utilizes Israel's resources to find cures for cancer. www.icrfonline.org

David Liss

"My parents have instilled in me the importance of voluntarism and community work. My involvement in ICRF began at age 9, stuffing envelopes and filling loot-bags. Today, I bring my computer skills and telecommunications knowledge. It gives me great pleasure to have organized an event to help raise funds for cancer research."

Jewish Camp Council of Toronto

Provides residential, recreational camping services to the community, geared to the social needs of the recipient, regardless of ability to pay. Camping services for children provide an opportunity to learn and enjoy recreational skills, while gaining independence and self-sufficiency in a caring Jewish environment. www.campnbb.com

Betty Winston

"Working with seniors was the beginning of my involvement. However, the additional experience of the bright and happy looks on the faces of the children arriving from camp has continued to provide meaning to my activities."

There's A Place For You!

Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto*

Committed to building Jewish identity, nurturing intellectual development, and fostering spiritual growth in a pluralistic university and college setting. www.jewishcampusservices.com

Meny Grauman & Jeremy Zacks

"Promoting Jewish life on campus is the most natural thing for us. In fact, we did not realize that we were volunteers until someone mentioned it to us."

Jewish Family & Child Service*

Supports and promotes the development of individuals and families through prevention, protection, counselling, education and advocacy services within the context of Jewish values. www.toronto.com/jfcs

Asher Tabak

"There is always enough time to do the thing that is important to you, like making a difference in a child's life. Being a Big Brother is meaningful to me because it has helped me become the positive role model I have always wanted to be."

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (Toronto)*

Facilitates the lawful entry and resettlement of Jewish refugees and immigrants arriving in Canada. Advances their well-being through settlement services/programs and expedites integration into the Jewish community and society-at-large. www.jewishtoronto.net

Guidy Mamann

"Jewish newcomers to Canada deserve our help to make their transition into our community and its institutions a smooth, joyful and fulfilling experience. Working with the wonderful people at JIAS to see this happen is extremely rewarding."

Jewish National Fund*

Part of the international family known as Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel, an agency given primary responsibility with regard to afforestation and reforestation in Israel. tor@jnf-canada.org

Marla Dadoun

"Volunteering over the past six years has been a very fulfilling experience. Working together with JNF people with the common goal of developing Israel and having the opportunity to see JNF's work firsthand has been most rewarding."

Jewish Russian Community Centre*

To ensure Jewish identity, continuity and integration within the Toronto Jewish community among the Jews from the former Soviet Union by providing education, religious services and community development.

Rhoda Singer & Marya Grad

"There are approximately 35,000 Jews who arrived from the FSU in the last years. It is most fulfilling and gratifying to volunteer for this organization that provides so many individuals with daycare, Sunday and day schools, adult education, holiday and youth programs and family counselling."

Jewish Women International of Toronto

Strengthens the lives of women, children and families and perpetuates Jewish values through education, advocacy and action. www.jewishwomen.org

Emma Lieberman

"Upon receiving the 'Molly Friedman Memorial Award,' I have realized that I don't stand alone – therefore, no one in need shall. The support of JWI volunteers makes our task at hand no task at all."

Jews for Judaism*

Dedicated to counteracting the multi-million dollar efforts of numerous cults and missionary groups who target Jews for conversion, offering an extensive variety of preventive education programs and counselling. www.jewsforjudaism.org

Sarita Walerstein

"Helping Jews to leave Christianity and cults and return to their roots at Jews for Judaism is a fulfilling experience for me. It's a privilege to be part of the mitzvah of ensuring Jewish survival."

JVS of Greater Toronto*

Provides educational and vocational services to assist clients in identifying educational and vocational goals; develops the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve those goals; and, deals effectively with educational or vocational disabilities. info@jvs.org

The staff of JVS would like to express our appreciation and thanks to all of our Board, committee and service volunteers for their dedication and commitment. We appreciate your interest and support.

Kehilla Residential Programme*

Identifies and champions affordable housing initiatives responsive to the needs of the Jewish community through education and advocacy, project sponsorship, development consultation, research and management. www.kehilla-rp.org

Bryan A. Tannenbaum

"As a graduate of UJA FEDERATION's Leadership Development Program, I have continued to stay involved in community as a Board member of Kehilla since 1993 and its President since 1998. I take satisfaction in furthering Kehilla's mission through initiatives such as Two Neptune Drive and the recent Affordable Housing Conference."

Kehillat Shaarei Torah

Serving the Bayview-York Mills area, this modern Orthodox Synagogue prides itself on providing an open and welcoming setting where all feel at home. tradburk@interlog.com

Sharon Klug

"Volunteering is personally rewarding. I can do something to enhance the growth of our shul and the community."

Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning

A pluralistic, egalitarian progressive communal adult education centre that, through the study of traditional texts, gives students Jewish "roots" – a connection to their heritage – and Jewish "wings" – the freedom to apply that knowledge as they best see fit. www.kolel.org

Marla Buck

"I have had the opportunity to create a vibrant meeting place for today's thinking Jewish minds. This gave new meaning to the term 'Living Torah' – taking what one's been given, seeing the good, and bringing it to life. The colourful, warm and appreciated result is a true reflection of Kolel's generous, genuine and infectious spirit."

*Denotes 1999-2000 beneficiary agencies and departments of UJA FEDERATION

Leo Baeck Day School*

Reform Jewish day school where families, professionals and Board members, together, create a learning environment in which each student experiences a multi-faceted Hebrew/Judaic and General Studies program in a warm, family atmosphere.

Philip Gordin

Philip completed his term as President of the Board in 1998. He has played a key role in the growth and development of the school over the many years of his involvement. The entire Leo Baeck family is grateful for his continuing leadership and advocacy on behalf of the school.

Mount Sinai Hospital

Serves the community as an internationally-recognized health sciences centre that provides quality, compassionate care and contributes to the development of innovative approaches to effective health care and disease prevention through research and teaching. jfine-schwebel@mtsinai.on.ca

Eva Markus

"I have been a volunteer for ten years in many areas including the Breast Centre, Emergency, Maternity and Surgical areas. The key to providing exceptional care is to see every patient as unique, supporting each one according to their own personal needs."

Na'amat Canada – Toronto

Goals include enhancing and safeguarding the status of women, children and families; responding to humanitarian concerns in a diverse society; and promoting Jewish identity to ensure Jewish continuity. naamatca@aol.com

Orit Nusbaum

"Working with dedicated women within Na'amat on various fundraising projects throughout the years has been a rewarding experience for me, as well as knowing that all of our efforts here assist so many women and children in distress in Israel."

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

A non-profit volunteer service organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals through research, education, community service and social action. www.ncjw-ts.org

Rachel Ornoy

"Working with abused women and their children, with donations of housewares to 11 shelters, furniture to women just out of shelters and now Out of the Shelters – Women's Support Club monthly outings, is most meaningful to me at Council."

Netivot HaTorah Day School*

An Orthodox Jewish day school striving for excellence in a full program of Judaic and General Studies incorporating the Zioni Dati philosophy and Halacha and Halachic principles.

Michele Herrmann

"All the work we do is for our kids. We want to make their experience a more enjoyable, fulfilling one. We want the best for the kids."

Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles

The Guild brings together people who are interested in studying and creating textile art and needlework based on Jewish themes.

Sarita Frasko

"The Pomegranate Guild has enhanced and broadened my appreciation and awareness of Jewish artwork. I have also learned extensively from the diversified talents of the Guild members."

REENA

Enables people with developmental handicaps to realize their full potential by forming life long partnerships with individuals and their families within a framework of Jewish culture and values. Skeshen@reena.org

Marty & Elva Strom

"Running bingo for Reena, together with Lil Sawicky, Roman Mazepa, Jeff Wilson and Sheri Bader, gives us tremendous satisfaction. We're happy to raise money to enable people with developmental disabilities to more easily help themselves."

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

Provides for the spiritual, intellectual and social lives of the Jewish community through religious services and educational, cultural, social and recreational activities. ebader@shaarshalom.on.ca

Carolyn Bowman

"As a volunteer, I have been provided with many opportunities to give, to grow and to be of service to our community. It is extremely rewarding and gratifying to be a part of Shaar Shalom."

STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS

Through the sale of Israel Bonds, provides a steady source of investment capital for the development and expansion of Israel's essential industry and infrastructure. www.israelbonds.net

Lorri Kushnir

"Like all developed nations, Israel borrows internationally to finance its long-term growth. As a lawyer, I know how important it is to a borrower to have debt held in sympathetic and friendly hands. Israel Bonds ensures that a significant portion is in such friendly hands – our hands."

TEMPLE EMANU-EL

A Reform Congregation that is committed to perpetuating Judaism within the home and the Synagogue through worship and study. Central to the activities of the Congregation is concern for issues of social justice. temanuel@pathcom.com

Helene Rudolph

"Temple Emanu-el's decision to initiate programming for younger children offered me the opportunity of a lifetime – establishing the Primary Learning Centre and Camp Yossi. In fifty years, no one will remember the clothes I wore or the car I drove, but the difference I helped make in a child's life."

TEMPLE HAR ZION

Fosters commitment to Judaism through the mitzvot of worship, study and good deeds, in a warm inclusive environment. Templeharzion@globalserve.net

Sandra Benjamin

"Everything here at the Temple is meaningful to me, from daily minyan, participation in workshops, singing in the choir, the wonderful people and seeing my children and grandchildren participating and regarding Temple as a second home."

We gratefully acknowledge the support and generosity of *The Canadian Jewish News* in publishing **"There's A Place For You!"**

Supplement coordinated by UJA FEDERATION

Alan Sandler, *President*
Helen Finder-Guttman, *Chair, Community Development*
Daniel Fine, *Community Development Associate*
Shelly Rotman, *Community Development Administrator*
Howard English, *Communications Director*
Editor: Ina Glick, *Senior Communications Coordinator*
Tamar Satov, *Contributing Writer*
Layout and Design, *Flying Mouse Design*

TORONTO HADASSAH-WIZO

Enhances lives in Israel's communities and promotes women's issues in Canada. hadassahwizo@pathcom.com

Vivien Sharon

"As an active member for over 20 years, I feel very proud that I was able to serve as Toronto President for two years and I continue to remain very involved at the Chapter, Toronto and National Executive Board levels. Toronto Hadassah-WIZO cares for others. It is an organization with a heart."

TORONTO JEWISH FILM FOUNDATION

Through the presentation of international and Canadian films, the Festival aims to be both a window to and mirror of Jewish culture. www.tjff.com

Claire Benezra

"I have been the Volunteer Coordinator for the past three years of my eight year volunteer career. I am continually amazed by the devotion, enthusiasm, cooperation, good will and hard work shown by the 145 volunteers that help out with the Film Festival."

TORONTO JEWISH FREE LOAN CASSA *

Provides non-interest bearing loans, guaranteed by a minimum of two people of sufficient worth, to recipients for the purpose of establishing/re-establishing their self sufficiency. www.jewishtoronto.net

Alan Mostyn

"My volunteer experiences with Loan Cassa over the past 18 years have been both meaningful and rewarding. Our mandate is 'to help others help themselves,' and we aspire to improve our clients' lives with each dollar that we lend."

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM – CANADIAN REGION

Serves as a resource to its affiliated congregations. Canadian Region is one of 19 regions and includes Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. canadian@uscj.org

Marvin Miller

"How fortunate we are to live in such a richly Jewish community – but it takes a great and continuing effort from professionals and lay people alike to keep it that way."

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL *

A nurturing and respectful community that strives to provide excellence in integrated Judaic & General Studies programming, focussing on the needs & growth of students in order to foster a lifelong love of learning.

Elie Newman

"The act of supporting Jewish education was central to my parents and grandparents. Continuing in this tradition has been deeply satisfying. It is great working with so many exceptional lay and professional people at USDS."

VE'AHAVTA: THE CANADIAN JEWISH HUMANITARIAN & RELIEF COMMITTEE

Raises the consciousness of all of its members to the world's ills, and actively engages in efforts to repair the world's inequities and imperfections, as part of the Jewish value of *'tikun olam'* – 'repairing the world'. www.veahavta.org

Miriam Kalushner

"The Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless has increased my awareness of what's going on in the streets of Toronto as well as my Jewishness and my sense of humanity. It's everyone's human right to have shelter and food. I feel it's a privilege to help the homeless and to work with our volunteers."

UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO

Serves as the central Jewish communal organization, dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of Jewish life in the Greater Toronto Area and to the perpetuation of the community's identification with Israel www.jewishtoronto.net

ACTION COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH CONTINUITY *

Cal Avertick

"I am continually amazed both by the quality of the people who volunteer in our organization and by the dedication and sense of purpose of the staff. This enhances greatly the satisfaction volunteering provides."

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN *

Charles Newman

"I take pride in the generosity of our community - from the modest donation from a fixed income pensioner to that of a more affluent person - all caring for their fellow Jews."

COMMITTEE FOR YIDDISH *

Dedicated to preserving Yiddish language and culture as an essential part of Canadian Jewish life. www.jewishtoronto.net

Chana Berman

"Growing up in a totally Yiddish-speaking home, with my sister Bella Sanderson, it's no surprise that we love Yiddish and wish to nurture and preserve it for future generations. As a teacher of Yiddish at Bialik, it was natural for me to volunteer for the Education Committee and I love it."

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION & MEMORIAL CENTRE *

Committed to remembering the victims of the Holocaust and to educating the community-at-large about the dangers of anti-Semitism and other discrimination. www.jewishtoronto.net

Barbara Rusch

"Named after my great-grandmother who perished in the Holocaust, I feel a special commitment to Holocaust education as a means of perpetuating her memory. Working with other equally dedicated volunteers has been an immensely rewarding experience."

JEWISH INFORMATION SERVICE *

Reaches out to individuals and community organizations, serving as a link and a point of access to Jewish community life in the Greater Toronto Area. www.jewishtoronto.net

Ruth Talesnick

"I have been an Information and Referral Volunteer for close to four years. It has given me such satisfaction being just one of a group of some 20 volunteers who weekly handle many different kinds of questions about Jewish community life and services."

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN & ADVOCACY *

Reflects the integration of two critical areas- fundraising and advocacy - on behalf of Jews. Women involved show a strong commitment with a unified voice for concerns in the community. www.jewishtoronto.net

Danita Dubinsky Aziza

"Raising awareness and advocating on behalf of issues such as poverty, women abuse and the environment have been at the forefront of our agenda. Being an active member of the team has been a rewarding personal experience and allowed me to affect change in our community."

*Denotes 1999-2000 beneficiary agencies and departments of UJA FEDERATION

Coast to Coast

Federal politics generates lots of irony

Politics in Ottawa is capable of generating lots of irony. Take for example, privacy commissioner Bruce Philips' recent discovery of the files on 33.7 million Canadians that have been collected over the past 15 years.

However you may regard the fact of the database, it' s got to make you chuckle that the Keeper of the Knowledge is Human Resources and Development. The very department that cannot accurately account for $1 billion is responsible for tracking and protecting the confidentiality of our life histories.

Irony is also the common thread that weaves through many of the other mainstay stories followed in the media. You will recall that just prior to the Liberal party meeting in Ottawa last March, a Paul Martin-led cabal was revealed and served as the backdrop to the convention. Chrétien spoke tough, Martin was reined in and the fire smoldered on.

Before this, it was common knowledge that Chrétien's principal advisor, his wife Aline, was urging him to step down before the next election. Word now has it, that she was so offended by the meeting Martin held with his supporters, she has insisted that Chrétien stay on for a third run.

Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

Irony extends to the labour movement as well. Following a huge victory against the government on the pay equity issue, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (the largest union in Canada) had a convention of its own. Outgoing president, Daryl Bean told his members that PSAC was bankrupt and that just when PSAC members stood to collect $3.4 million, dues would increase substantially for PSAC to meet its own pay-equity obligations.

The irony award of the week, however, has to go to the Tories. First, the Progressive Conservative party was judged a modest victory for Joe Clark. The highlight of the convention was a three-hour cameo appearance by Ben Mulroney, who iced the evening by shaking hands with Clark's daughter Catherine. For those of you who recall the bitter feuds between Clark and Brian Mulroney, what could be more ironic than Brian's proxy being sent to lend support to Clark through Catherine?

Well, the only thing that could be more ironic than that is Clark claiming victory in the Newfoundland by-election that the Tory candidate won by a margin of 159 votes. This is a seat the Tories have held for the last 37 years. Only one so desperate as Clark could see that as a victory.

BAYCREST CHALLENGE: Linda Harris (centre) spent Mother's Day morning with her two girls Rachel (left) and Melissa at the Baycrest Challenge 5K walk. Harris has been taking her children to the annual fund-raiser since they were born. More than 1,400 took part in the walk in a bid to raise $190,000 to help Baycrest Centre .

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Ronald Appleby, Q.C.

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Canadian Friends of The Hebrew University gratefully acknowledges **Osgoode Hall Law School of York University** for making Chief Justice Barak's visit possible.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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Guest Speaker
IRENE GUT OPDYKE
Tues., June 6
7:30 p.m.
Ontario Science Centre
(416) 785-1333
— See Page 22 —

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 29, is deadline for June 8 issue, and Monday, June 5, is deadline for June 15. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, May 25

KOSHER CONSUMER

Learn How to be a Clever Kosher Consumer, lecture for those who have or are planning to keep a kosher kitchen, to ensure that you bring home only kosher products. Find out what products need kosher supervision and why with Rabbi **Mordechai Levin**, director of COR, Kashruth Division of Canadian Jewish Congress, 8 p.m. at Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W.

Sunday, May 28

ANTI-SEMITISM

A symposium on Anti-Semitism in America and theatrical movie premiere of *The Lynching of Leo Frank*, with producer **Simcha Jacobovici**, director **Yuval Daniel**, special guest **Prof. Clifford Kuhn** of Georgia State University, 7 p.m. at the Hyland Theatre, 1501 Yonge St. All proceeds go to the Riverdale Jewish Community Centre. For tickets 504-6662, ext. 229.

WINGATE BRANCH

General Wingate branch, Royal Canadian Legion, general members meeting, 9:30 a.m., 788 Marlee Ave.

GRAND SOCIETY

GRAND Society, a support group for grandparents/seniors seeking access to their grandchildren, meets 1-4 p.m. at North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. W. **Leonard Rubenstein**, voted Senior of the Year for 1997 and 1998, speaks on Taking Charge of Your Life.

LEMONADE FOR CHARITY

Amanda Belzowski, 3 years old, is holding her 2nd annual Charity Lemonade Stand for the benefit of the Heart & Stroke Foundation and hopes to double last year's contribution of $470. Drop by 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 10 Briancliff Dr. (Lawrence/Leslie) 444-1241. Rain date June 3.

Monday, May 29

JEWISH PARENTING

First Narayever Synagogue's Jewish Parenting series continues with Jewish Family Values Meet Multiple Intelligences, with speaker **Gail Baker**, Toronto Heschel School, 8 p.m. Information/registration **Rona Sherebrin** 781-0282.

THE JEWS OF FRANCE

Beth Tzedec lecture series, The Jews of France from Voltaire to Vichy with **Prof. Arnold Ages** concludes with The Jews of France and the Holocaust, 7:30 p.m.

CHUG TANACH

Chug Tanach meets 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study Jeremiah chapters 19-20. Presenter **Dr. David Novak.** Text in Hebrew, discussion in English.

Wednesday, May 31

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Jewish Genealogical Society meets 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Felicia Carmelly** speaks on The Jews of Transnistria – Shattered: 50 Years of Silence.

CANCER SURVIVORS

The L'Chaim Women's Cancer Support Group training session for volunteers to support newly diagnosed patients. For information, **Marsha** 905-764-0422.

LUNCH & LEARN

At Holy Blossom Temple Lunch & Learn in Retirement podiatrist **Dr. Neil Naftolin** discusses Humour in Happy Feet at noon. Bring lunch. 789-3291.

Continued on page 25

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Continued from page 24

CANCER AWARENESS

Man to Man and Side by Side prostate cancer awareness meeting 7:30-9:30 p.m., Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Agenda – A prostate cancer survivor's brief story and a discussion on radiation therapy by **Dr. Padraig Warde**. For information, 932-8820.

Thursday, June 1

CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Israel Cancer Research Fund invites all those in their 20s and 30s to HYPE It Up at Society, 137 Peter St. at 8 p.m. $25 in advance, $30 at door. Tax receipts to the maximum allowed by law. 487-5246.

And What Else Is New

ADVERSITY CHALLENGE

The Canadian Council of Reform Judaism presents Adversity Challenge, a workshop led by the Community and Social Planning Council of Toronto allowing participants to experience the struggles and challenges faced by low-income Canadians every day. Sunday, June 4, 10 a.m. at Leo Baeck Day School, 36 Atkinson Ave., Room 107. Workshop runs 3-4 hours. RSVP **Carly Steinman**, CCRJ social action coordinator, 905-709-2275.

COMMUNICATING

Circle of Care is sponsoring two free communication workshops on the topic Have You Ever Wondered What to Say to a Friend Who is Depressed or is Becoming Forgetful? Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 31, Visiting and Communicating with People Who Have Depression or Mild Personality Disorders, presented by Circle of Care staff and community mental health therapists; and June 7, Visiting and Communicating with People Who Have Memory Loss or Mild Cognitive Impairment, presented by the Alzheimer Society of Canada. Register. **Susan Samila** 635-2860, ext. 461.

SEEKER'S CORNER

A special informal program facilitated by **Rabbi Michael Skobac** to explore issues of Jewish spirituality, personal growth and inspiration. Seeker's Corner runs 5 weeks beginning May 30 at 8 p.m. at Jews for Judaism Centre, 800 Steeles Ave. W. No charge. 905-761-0040.

COUNTING THE OMER

Mystical Insights on Counting the Omer classes with **Rabbi Moshe Kirsh** Tuesdays, 8-9:30 p.m. May 30 and June 6 at First Narayever Synagogue, 187 Brunswick Ave. For information, 539-8257.

VILLAGE SHUL CLASSES

Classes offered at Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. 785-1107.

Day by Day, Mondays 9:30 a.m. for women. **Reb. Zale Newman** walks you through your day, Jewish style.

Navi, the Book of Joshua, Thursdays 9:30 a.m. with **Rebbitzen Faigy Hoch**.

Partners in Learning, for men, in a group, one-on-one. Bring your son, your dad. Thursdays 8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Seniors' Safety fair, Thursday, June 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nathan Phillips Square. Opening ceremony 11 a.m. 808-7040.

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting, Thursday, June 1, 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Topic: The Impact of Violence Upon Women: Its Cause and Aftermath. Speaker **Lynn Cohen** of the Barbara Schlifer Clinic. **Goldie** 635-2860.

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group: If you have not travelled to Alaska or the Yukon, visit the land of the grizzlies and the icebergs through the eyes and the lens of the camera of **Sir Kirk Wipper**, Monday, June 5, 8 p.m. at Beth Tikvah. $3. **Cherry** 221-3433, ext. 0.

LZA Seniors: Tickets for *Hello Dolly* at Stage West Dinner Theatre June 14, and *Fiddler on the Roof* at Stratford Sept. 13, call **Libby** 782-2059. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. and Cultural Club Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For information, Libby, or the office 630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Thousand Islands trip June 11-15; *Vaudeville* at King's Wharf Theatre June 14; trip to Catskills Paramount Hotel July 23-30; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23; Sunday dances June 4, 25; Casino Rama May 31, June 7, 21. 395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). May 25, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: *Second Time Around* at Gryphon Theatre July 14; *Damn Yankees,* Drayton Festival Theatre Aug. 22. **Lena** 785-5773.

Young at Heart Seniors holiday at the kosher Raleigh Hotel in the Catskills, July 28-Aug. 6, air-conditioned bus, gratuities, everything included, double occupancy $1,365 Canadian, single $1,620. Partners available. **Helen** 635-6343.

New Image 50 Plus dance for single seniors Saturday, May 27, Earl Bales Community Centre. **Mollie** 733-3634.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

The Future Role of Doctors and Emergency Care in Ontario, presented in partnership with Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens Organizations (OCSCO), Wednesday, May 31, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Panelists **Doris Grinspun, Dr. Yves Talbot, Lynn Simmons, Dr. Wendy Graham**. OCSCO general membership meeting 1 p.m.

Spring dance, Sunday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.

Arthritis Management Clinic with **Bev Tobe,** therapist with Arthritis Society, Thursday, June 1, 1-4 p.m. Make appointment with Wellness Department, ext. 131.

Israeli Club Etrog meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. May 30, picnic in the park; June 6, movie. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *The Story of Us*, Sunday, May 28, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

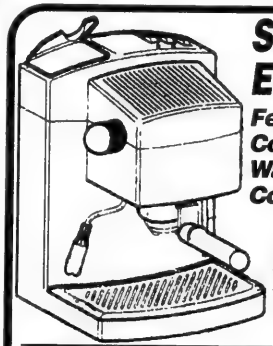
The Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto and the Bloor JCC present *Einstein's Gift* by **Vera Thiessen,** a dramatized reading directed by **Corinne Copnick**. Sunday, May 28, 2 and 8 p.m. at the Bloor JCC. Non-members $10. For tickets, call Bloor JCC.

Bloor JCC Seniors Club: Thursday, May 25, 2 p.m., the film *Life is Beautiful;* Thursday, June 1, 2 p.m., **Blima Rhodes**, Stories About Shavuot.

ENDOWMENT AT YORK UNIVERSITY: The Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University has established an endowment at York University to provide bursary assistance so that York students have the opportunity to study at Tel Aviv University in Israel. This gift received matching support from the Ontario government's Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund. From left are Pearl Grundland, executive director, CFTAU; Florence Weinberger, York University; Marty Goldberg, CFTAU; Gary Smith, vice-president, York University; Michael Brown, director, York Centre for Jewish Studies; and Orna Benayon, CFTAU.

IN APPRECIATION: Kurt Rothschild (centre), presents a mounted Jerusalem Stone to Bernard G. (Bernie) Abrams on his retirement as president of The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, as Alex Grossman, chairman of the board, looks on. Rothschild, the organization's executive chair, praised Abrams for his dedication and devotion to Shaare Zedek Medical Center during his six-year tenure. [Big Dipper Communications photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20



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Please RSVP to (905) 763-8254 ext. 7052 (24 hours)

REENA
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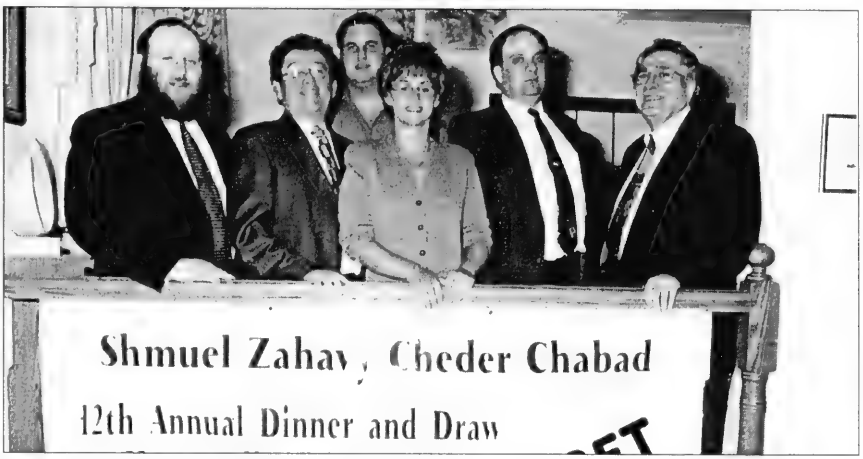
Coast to Coast



CHEDER CHABAD DINNER DRAW: Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad has selected accountant Allan Grossman, senior partner at Horwath Orenstein, as its honoree at its upcoming 12th annual dinner and draw. The event is scheduled for Thursday June 22 at the Sephardic Kehila Centre. Organizers hope to raise $350,000 to support the school, which educates more than 200 boys. Seen here are, from left: Rabbi Yona Shur, the school's executive director, Grossman, Elliott Snitman, Cheder Chabad's director of development, Janine Grossman, the honoree's wife, Gary Gladstone, Cheder Chabad's director of development, and Yehezkel Zahavy, 1999 honoree.

Top court rejects Katriuk appeal

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Vladimir Katriuk faces denaturalization and deportation following a recent failed appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Katriuk was judged by the Federal Court in January 1999 of having hidden his Nazi-linked past in order to enter Canada in 1951.

The Supreme Court said it would not listen to an appeal by the 78-year-old retired Ormstown beekeeper, whose case was the first war crimes case to be heard in Montreal by the Federal Court.

Last December, the Federal Court of Appeal, which is one step below the Supreme Court, also ruled that Katriuk could not appeal his conviction.

In the original Federal Court judgment against Katriuk following proceedings launched by the minister of citizenship and immigration in 1996, Judge Marc Nadon found that Katriuk concealed his volunteer membership in Ukrainian SS Unit 118 when he applied for a visa for Canada.

The unit, which was under German control, was implicated in numerous war crimes against civilians, including Jews, in Byelorussia (now Belarus), from 1942 to 1944.

Nadon ruled that when Katriuk applied to come to Canada from Paris, where he had fled after deserting his battalion – it had retreated to France in the face of advancing Soviet forces – he "must...have been asked to answer...details regarding his participation in Battalion 118."

At the same time, Nadon said there was no proof that Katriuk was actually involved in atrocities against civilians, only that he applied to come to Canada under false pretenses.

"The respondent's [Katriuk's] evidence was simply that the visa officer did not ask him anything. I do not find his version of events plausible," Nadon ruled.

In 1958, Katriuk was granted Canadian citizenship, even after admitting to federal officials that he used his brother-in-law's name, Nicholas Schpirka, when he applied to come to Canada.

Katriuk's lawyers had argued before the Court of Appeal that denying him the right to appeal contravened the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. But Canada's Citizenship Act stipulates that individuals found to have entered Canada fraudulently have no right to appeal.

Media reports indicate, however, that Nestor Woychyshyn, Katriuk's lawyer, has said he will still try to appeal to the immigration department or to the federal cabinet.

A second Montreal war crimes case, against 80-year-old Rosemount resident Walter Obodzinski, is currently before the Federal Court.

Obodzinski is also being investigated for allegedly concealing information – his membership in a Nazi-run police unit in Poland – from Canadian immigration officials, when he applied for a Canadian visa.

The unit was implicated in the murder of 4,000 Jews and the deportation of thousands of Poles to slave-labour camps.

Obodzinski became a Canadian citizen in 1955.

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See Page 36

"Confessions" mounting from the trial in Iran

Continued from page 1

"They are illegal because they were secured in detention and without counsel present," Cotler told *The CJN*. "These defendants have been held incommunicado for over a year. That constitutes deprivation of liberty and thus, the confessions secured are inadmissible under international law and under Iranian law."

Besides, Cotler believes the confessions were coerced and scripted. And Iran's definition of espionage, he noted, is broad. Even sending a greeting card to a relative in Israel is a criminal offence.

However, Cotler is hopeful on two matters: A spokesperson for the court last week stated that the charges against the detainees are not punishable by death under Iranian law because none had violated the Islamic legal tenet of *moharebeh* – taking up arms against God or the state.

However, Cotler believes than the nine who have confessed, and possibly the one who hasn't, face prison terms of between 10 and 15 years on reduced charges involving espionage.

He feels the verdict in those cases has been pre-determined by the closed-door Revolutionary court, which is not part of an independent judiciary.

Cotler and other international observers agree that the three Jews who have been out on bail will likely be acquitted on all charges and freed.

They have been told to return to court this Wednesday, May 24, without their lawyers, to confront those who have testified against them.

All the 13 Jews have had their rights violated under Iranian law because of "major pre-trial violations" and their denial to fair hearings, Cotler said.

According to one report last week, one of the defendants, Javid Beit-Yacoub, 42, told the court that religious motives drove him to collect photographs of Iranian military facilities for Israel, which he visited for 45 days in 1993. It was not immediately clear whether Beit-Yacoub's testimony amounted to a guilty plea.

Cotler and others point out that the judge in the case also acts as the prosecutor. There is no jury. Revolutionary courts try espionage, murder and economic crimes.

Israel has steadfastly denied that any of the detainees were its spies.

The nine "confessions" have cast a shadow over the proceedings, as well as on Iran's 25,000-member Jewish community.

"Based on the way the trial has been portrayed, and broadcasting two of the confessions on television, the entire community is now suspect," said Pooya Dayanim, spokesperson for the large Los Angeles-based Council of Iranian American Jewish Organizations.

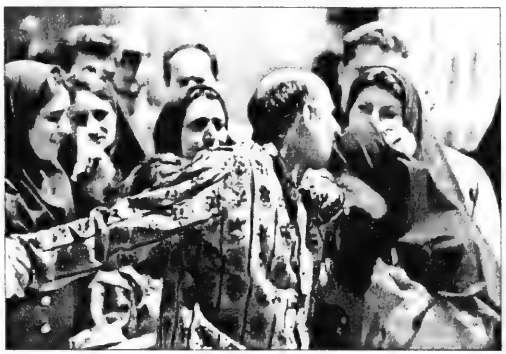
"It also points to the prevailing anti-Semitism among the Iranian people, that they have been so willing to buy into this propaganda."

Meanwhile, Dayanim and others expressed skepticism about the Iranian judiciary official's assurances that none of the 13 will face execution.

"I don't know how much we can trust these things they say," said Sam Kermanian, secretary-general of the Los Angeles-based American Iranian Jewish Federation.

"At the end of the day, it will depend on the political climate. The verdict will not be a judicial decision; it will be a political decision. We have to be prepared for the worst-case scenario at all times."

Many hardline Iranian clerics have reportedly portrayed the "Iran 13" as traitors and called for their executions.



Javeed Beit-Yaqoub, one of the accused, embraces his family outside the court. He had "confessed" to the charges earlier. [Kahl photo]

This month's closed-court confession of Asher Zadmehr, the senior religious leader in Shiraz, where the trial is taking place, came on the heels of a similar "confession" earlier by another religious leader, Nasser Levi-Haim, 46.

Zadmehr, 49, is believed to be a university English instructor and the most learned of the Shiraz Jews, a very Orthodox community.

Zadmehr, also the oldest of the 13 Jews on trial, reportedly admitted he had lived briefly in Israel before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, but returned home soon after.

He was quoted as having admitted that he collected cultural information about Iran and analyzed material brought in by other accused spies.

But Zadmehr also denied he was the mastermind behind the spying, as some Iranian media reportedly asserted.

Outside the courtroom, Zadmehr burst into tears after being embraced by his distraught wife and two children, according to news reports.

Dayanim said the latest developments were prompting concerns about the community's physical safety.

"The Jewish community is shocked and scared. Many have stopped going to work and sending their children to school, because they're afraid of being taunted."

In another sign that Iran is trying to quell international criticism, the judge in the case allowed the first two foreign observers – two lawyers from the French-based organization Lawyers Without Borders – to visit the courtroom last week, but only when it was empty.

They were barred from the actual hearings, according to news reports.

In what may be an effort to paint this case as not explicitly anti-Jewish, court officials, for the first time, offered vague descriptions of the eight Muslims said to be accomplices in the spy ring.

Several work as high-level figures in the provincial military and health services, though they remain unnamed and out on bail, officials said.

According to Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, verdicts and sentences could be handed down by the end of this month.

Regardless of the Iranian manoeuvres, advocates like Hoenlein are working to ensure that Iran pays a price for its handling of the case.

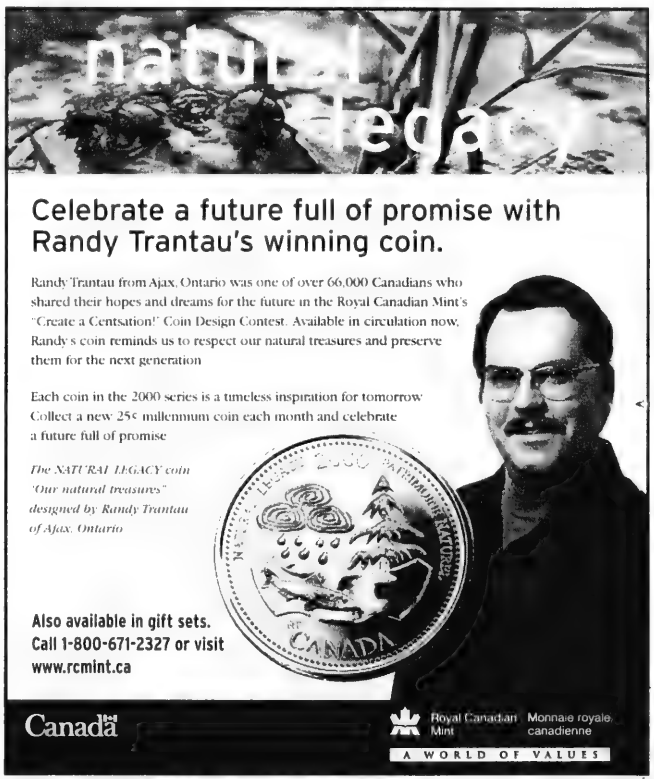
U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has warned that the outcome of the trials could have international repercussions.

While some countries have indicated they may withdraw their ambassadors from Iran and cut their diplomatic relations if the judgments are seen as excessive, Hoenlein wants to hit Iran where it hurts – financially.

His organization was planning to press member countries of the World Bank to further delay or cancel a planned $231 million loan package to Iran at the World Bank's meeting last Thursday.

The larger of the two loans, for $145 million, would improve waste water collection and distribution for some 2.1 million people in greater Tehran. The second loan, for $86 million, would improve the quality of primary health care and family planning services in both rural and urban areas.

Canada, the United States, Austria and France are fighting against the loan, said Hoenlein, while Germany supports it.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A WORLD OF VALUES

Plan would create PA zones in J'lem

By NADAV SHRAGAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — An Israeli team in Stockholm for "back-channel" final status talks with the Palestinians has taken along a paper that outlines a detailed plan for setting up autonomous Palestinian quarters in Jerusalem within the framework of Israeli sovereignty over the city.

The plan, which the team is to use to guide it in negotiations, has been termed as providing a "intermediate solution" intended to get around the divisive issue of sovereignty over the city. However, the intended duration of this intermediate solution and a final date for settling the issue of Jerusalem has not been stipulated in the plan.

According to the paper, the Palestinian quarters in Jerusalem would get broad municipal responsibilities as well as symbolic security powers. Under the proposal, two boroughs would be set up – one Jewish and one Arab – with a joint municipality over them to be headed by a Jewish mayor, since a majority of the city's population is Jewish.

The Palestinian quarters and borough would be linked to the Palestinian Authority.

Civilian affairs such as education, health and culture would be administered by the Palestinian quarters, which, along with the Palestinian borough, would be empowered to set taxes and establish their own courts for local affairs. East Jerusalem would also have a Palestinian civil guard, with responsibilities similar to those currently carried out by the Jerusalem civil guard.

Under the proposal, the authority for planning and building would not be handed over to the Palestinians, but a way would be found to have them take part in that aspect of the city's life.

Leadership in the Palestinian quarters would be determined by the the Arab population of east Jerusalem. They would be linked in some fashion to the PA – in precisely what manner remains to be negotiated – so that the PA could provide services to east Jerusalem residents.

The Arab quarters would not include the Old City or other holy sites, which are envisioned as holding a special status and being administered through a joint Jewish-Muslim-Christian religious administration. Religious shrines would remain under the control of the religious group that currently controls each shrine.

Under the plan, the Temple Mount would be defined as a religious site, but the Palestinians would be allowed to fly their flag or a Muslim flag only on the mosques there. Access to worshippers of all religions would be guaranteed at all religious sites, including to Jews wishing to go to the Temple Mount.

TAU to inaugurate 'Jewish Nobel Prize'

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — Tel Aviv University has announced plans to award "the Jewish people's Nobel prize."

The university president, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, made the announcement last week, a few days before a scheduled Board of Trustees meeting. Rabinovich said the university would set up a fund that would award three prizes worth $1 million each on an annual basis.

Rabinovich explained that each prize would be awarded to an individual or a group in three different areas – past, present and future.

The "past" prize will be awarded for work in areas such as history or archeology; the "present" prize will be given to someone recognized for contribution to public welfare; the winner of the "future" prize will be for work in the sciences.

The project is being financed by Jewish businessman Dan David, who currently resides in Italy. David made his fortune in the field of printing and photography and is head of the board of directors of Photo-Me, an international firm with automatic photobooths in 100 countries around the world. He is to be awarded an honorary doctorate from the university.

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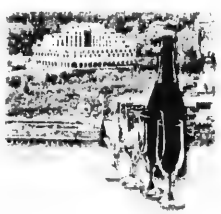
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Early IDF withdrawal from Lebanon possible

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The recent escalation of fighting in southern Lebanon has strengthened IDF assessments that there may be no choice but to bring forward the withdrawal, according to military officials.

Three soldiers were wounded last Thursday, two of them seriously, in heavy Hezbollah shelling of outposts across the security zone. Shells also fell inside Israel.

The army is scheduled to complete most of its preparations for the withdrawal by June 1. It could take place as soon as a week or two after that.

Senior military officials said last week this could become the IDF's recommendation, if the situation in Lebanon continues to deteriorate. The army's main fear is of losing control of the situation, they said.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak will also have to take the political aspects of the crisis into consideration. Officials are aware that Israeli public opinion is not likely to be very understanding of casualties suffered in outposts such as Reihan and Ishiya, far from the northern border, so close to the pullout date.

Meanwhile Barak is sticking by his position that there is no reason for a significant change in the timetable. He believes the withdrawal must be completed in accordance with the United Nations, which is expected to rule on whether Israel has withdrawn in keeping with UN Resolution 425. The UN still needs time to reorganize its troops for deployment in the south.

Under instructions from Barak, the army is, for the present, refraining from responding harshly to Hezbollah's persistent shelling of IDF outposts along the border.

Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz said last week Israel must take care not to walk into a Hezbollah trap and escalate the situation. Hezbollah is testing its methods of operation for the period after the IDF pulls out.

Hezbollah is strengthening its artillery forces and has received long-range rockets from Iran which could hit Afula and the outskirts of Haifa.

The Week in Israel

May 15

• Five Palestinians were killed and hundreds more wounded during violent clashes in the West Bank and Gaza with Israeli troops. The riots were organized by Palestinian leaders to mark Israel's 52nd anniversary.

May 16

• Israel transferred two military outposts in south Lebanon to the South Lebanese Army as part of its plan to evacuate the IDF from Lebanon by July.

• Israel and Egypt again discussed an underwater pipeline to supply natural gas from Egypt to Israel. If completed, the proposed pipeline would carry gas from Egypt to Turkey with exits at Israeli power plants.

May 17

• Political sources in Jerusalem told Israel Radio Israel had threatened to bomb PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters if Palestinians did not stop firing on Israeli forces during the rioting earlier in the week. The head of the IDF Central Command denied the report which originally appeared in the *New York Post.*

May 18

• IDF officers met with Palestinian representatives to discuss plans to transfer security control over three Arab villages outside Jerusalem to the PA. The IDF said the transfer would not be conducted until an inquiry was held to determine who was responsible for the Palestinian gunfire on IDF soldiers last week.

May 19

• The cabinet approved a two-year package of grants and benefits worth approximately $400 million US to strengthen communities along the Lebanese border.

Files from JTA and The CJN

Israel & the Jewish World

Russian Jews fear backlash against Jewish moguls

By LEV GORODETSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — A caller to the Russian State Radio Service's Jewish program made no attempt to hide her venom.

"You Jews have seized the TV and the radio and the newspapers. You are everywhere. You annoy everybody," said the caller, who identified herself as Yelena K.

Her words, typical of the many recent anti-Semitic calls to Jewish Radio made by ordinary Russians, expressed displeasure with the high-profile role played by Jews in the Russian media.

While the scale of anti-Semitism in Russia is sometimes exaggerated in the West, many of the nation's 145 million people have mixed feelings – at best – about the "Jewish influence" in the mass media, which proved to be a powerful political force in Russia's recent parliamentary and presidential elections.

After the recent search of the offices of one of Russia's most powerful media figures, Jewish communal leader Vladimir Goussinsky, some Jews are worried. They fear that a crackdown on Goussinsky and his fellow tycoons, some of whom are Jewish, could foment anti-Semitism and harm the Jewish community in Russia.

The raid itself appears to have been politically motivated – and had little to do with anti-Semitism.

Goussinsky may have piqued the Kremlin further by publicly criticizing Russia's war against Muslim separatists in the Caucasus, calling on the government to grant independence to Chechnya.

In addition, one of Goussinsky's main media rivals is Boris Berezovsky, a controversial Kremlin insider with Jewish roots, who is widely believed to be the main schemer behind President Vladimir Putin's meteoric political rise.

Berezovsky owns several important newspapers and controls the state-owned national TV channel ORT.

ORT, which reaches practically every Russian household, was used as a highly effective instrument of "character killing" during the last election campaign, when it destroyed two main potential contenders for the presidency – former prime minister Yevgeny Primakov and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

Russian Jews have a generally negative view of Berezovsky. He renounced his Israeli citizenship – which he had acquired in the early 1990s, when his political position was shaky – and was baptized.

Moscow's chief rabbi, Pinchas Goldschmidt, called Berezovsky "a double traitor to the Jewish people." But to many ordinary Russians, he is the archetype of the opportunistic Jew who schemes behind the scenes with unclear, but destructive goals.

Some observers see the raid as the first step in a campaign against Goussinsky. The raid may lead to a broader crackdown against Berezovsky and other media moguls as well.

Putin, after all, has vowed to chase the oligarchs, as they are known here, from the corridors of political power.

Others view the crackdown as an attack on freedom of speech.

But, as is always the case in Russia, there is concern about exacerbating anti-Semitism.

Many Jews think that any clamp-down on the Jewish oligarchs would strongly harm the Russian Jewish community.

Such moves would further the stereotypes about the "Jews who have sucked out and used to their own benefit all Russian resources, including the mass media, and now are being rightfully wiped out," said Alexey Vayman, a 26-year-old Moscow university student. "All of us would be held guilty for their real or alleged crimes."

How to file a WWII claim

Jewish Telegraphic Agency and CJN Staff

The following are telephone numbers and Web sites for information on how to file Holocaust-related claims.

Insurance claims

The International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims has set up a process to handle insurance claims of Holocaust victims, survivors, and their heirs and beneficiaries.

For claim forms and information, call toll-free in Canada, 1-800-496-1974 (French speakers may call 1-800-498-2091).

Information is also available on the Internet at http://www.icheic.org

Payments from Germany and Austria

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) in New York has negotiated compensation payments for Holocaust victims from Germany and Austria. There are several programs, including the long-time Article 2 Fund, with varying eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

For further information, call the Claims Conference directly at 212-696-4944 and ask for the Department of Services.

As well, the United Restitution Organization (URO) may be contacted in Toronto at 416-630-2920 or in Montreal, 514-931-7933.

Detailed information about these programs is also available at http://www.claimscon.org

German slave and forced labour payments

A process for making claims has not yet been created. The Claims Conference promises that the application form will be "short, simple and non-bureaucratic," but says the application process will not begin before the fall.

In March, Germany and German companies announced a $5 billion (US) restitution fund for war-era slave and forced labourers.

Again, the Claims Conference or URO may be contacted for details.

Swiss funds

In August 1998, Switzerland's leading banks agreed to pay $1.25 billion to settle Holocaust-era claims. A U.S. court still has to approve a distribution plan. Once that happens, information about how to file a claim will be made available in a worldwide ad campaign.

Also in 1998, Switzerland set up a $185 million fund for needy Holocaust survivors. Of that, $2.5 million was allotted to Canada. Those funds were distributed last year by a committee headed by Rabbi Gunther Plaut of Toronto. Roughly 5,000 claimants received an average of $500 each.

Further information

Potential claimants can also obtain information by contacting Canadian Jewish Congress, their local Jewish federation or Jewish family service agency.

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- **Ward 1, Thursday, May 25, 7:30 p.m., Maple Community Centre, 10190 Keele St.**
- **Ward 2, Monday, May 29, 7:30 p.m., Woodbridge Memorial Arena, 5020 Highway #7, at Islington**
- **Ward 3, Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m., Chancellor Community Centre, 350 Ansley Grove Rd.**
- **Ward 4, Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m., Dufferin Clark Community Centre, 1441 Clark Ave. W.**
- **Ward 5, Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m., Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 510 Clark Ave. W.**
- **Full Council Public Meeting, Thursday, June 22, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Vaughan Civic Centre**

Written submissions are also encouraged and should be addressed to the City Clerk no later than June 15, 2000.

For more information visit the City Web Site: www.cityvaughan.on.ca under "Top Stories", or contact the City Clerk's Department.

John Leach
City Clerk
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Vaughan, Ont.
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LET'S BE READY! GET INVOLVED!

Israel & the Jewish World

Barak meets with CJC Peace and Security Mission

OTTAWA — To show support for peace and security in Israel, the national executive committee of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) recently sent a mission for meetings and briefings in Israel.

In Jerusalem, the group met with Prime Minister Ehud Barak and his staff in the government cabinet room. In response to the stated objectives of the mission to support peace and security and to express solidarity with northern Israel, Barak gave his assurances that security would be strengthened in the north after the withdrawal from Lebanon. He said retaliation against any attack would be much firmer in the future.

Barak and his staff also indicated that Israel is working with the United Nations, the United States, Russia, France and others to secure the northern border.

Michael Elterman (right), CJC Pacific Region, meets with Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak as CJC President Moshe Ronen looks on. *[Israel Photo]*

They said that peace with the Palestinians is based on six firm principles: Jerusalem to remain the united capital of Israel; no foreign troops to be allowed between Israel and the Jordan; no right of return for Palestinians except for humanitarian cases; no return to the 1967 borders; the Jewish settlements of Judea and Samaria to remain under Israeli sovereignty and to be annexed to the state; separation between the two peoples for security and political purposes; and cooperation for economic purposes.

The talks concluded with an overview of other topics, including Jewish unity and the fate of Jewish prisoners in Iran.

In northern Israel, the executive visited the Golan and Metullah, the recent target of rocket attacks from Lebanon.

"We could still see the smoke from mortar fire and hear bombardments in the distance during our visit to the town where the Canada Centre is located," said CJC president Moshe Ronen.

"We were struck by the courage and determination of all who continue to resist terror and to remain in the face of physical danger. The strategic importance of this small piece of land leaped out at us as we looked down from the Golan Heights on the whole of northern Israel and the Sea of Galilee."

Peace with Palestinians based on six principles

In Jericho, the mission met with the Dr. Sami Musalam, director general of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's office there. It was the first-ever CJC visit to Jericho and even more historic because it was the first-ever World Zionist Organization partnered trip that included a visit and meetings in the Palestinian Authority.

Mission members were impressed with efforts to enhance tourism as a way to promote peace. There were, however, considerable differences of opinion between the Canadians and the Palestinian representative with whom they exchanged views.

The mission was also briefed by Israeli military leadership at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, which crosses the Jordan River and is a main throughway between Israel and Jordan. Joining his Israeli counterpart during the briefing, was the Jordanian commander in charge of the bridge. The briefing gave the executive members a clearer insight into the ways in which Jordan and Israel can co-operate in the spirit of peaceful coexistence.

"We had the opportunity to see and support the efforts and sacrifices Israel is making to achieve peace and security in the Middle East." Ronen said. "This mission will have long-lasting effects on each of us. It is something we hope to share with others in the coming months."

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Eating disorders program provides food for thought

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There are some things kids are just more comfortable talking to other kids about. That was part of the reasoning behind the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's program called Challenges, Beliefs and Changes.

In the program, better known as PAD (because it is sponsored by Parents Against Drugs), trained CHAT students meet with their junior high school counterparts at feeder day schools to address issues related to drugs and alcohol.

The PAD program inspired CHAT guidance counsellor Margaret Klompas to propose a new program, What's In and What's Out!, in connection to issues surrounding eating disorders.

The program had its pilot this month, when 14 CHAT students – both male and female – spent two sessions with eighth-graders at Bialik Hebrew Day School.

At the request of CHAT, the program was designed by Jane Koh, in-school prevention program co-ordinator for Sheena's Place (a support centre for people with eating disorders and their families), along with a medical student doing a placement there. To the best of the organizers' knowledge, the program is the only one of its kind.

Bialik instituted the pilot as a preventative measure to put students in touch with issues like body image and self-esteem, said Debra Danilewitz, school counsellor.

For the high school students, the program is educational and provides them with the opportunity to take on a leadership role, said Klompas.

Bialik students (from left) Sarah Cappell, Daryl Drabinsky, Ariella Naymark and Nicole Shomair talks about the collage they made to demonstrate media depictions of realistic looking women. [Frances Kraft photo]

There have not been many cases of eating disorders among CHAT students, but the issue is on the minds of both parents and students, said Rabbi Howard Sacknovitz, the school's head of guidance. "Our focus is educational. We are educating toward a positive approach to body image. We feel it's a significant issue in the Jewish community."

The program touches on things that all kids face, said Janice Bacher, a Grade 10 CHAT student.

As part of a collage-making activity, groups of students selected realistic versus idealized images from popular teen magazines.

"We're looking for people who don't look like they starve themselves," said Bialik student Meredith Guberman.

"On one page it says it's okay to be the way you are, then you turn the page and there are skinny models," said her classmate Molly Rottapel.

"Normal people" don't have the kind of time models do to work at looking a certain way, noted Grade 10 student Ryan Banach. He also pointed out that the "ideal" girl, as skinny as she may be, is not necessarily healthy.

"Be happy with who you are," Bacher told the group of girls she worked with. "If you fall for these stereotypes, you'll never be happy."

With files from Adam Segal, CJN student intern.

Osteoporosis: the silent thief

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Osteoporosis, a bone disease that destroys both the quantity and quality of the bones, is called "the silent thief," because it develops over a long period of time, with no symptoms.

But the results of this disease, which affects one in four women and one in eight men over 50, are anything but silent.

Bones become so fragile that they are susceptible to fracture, Jerry Tenenbaum, associate professor at the University of Toronto department of medicine division of rheumatology, and consultant in rheumatology at Mount Sinai Hospital, told a packed house at the Leah Posluns theatre. He was speaking at a program called Osteoporosis: the silent disease, part of the hospital's healthy living lecture series.

He used overhead slides to show how osteoporosis causes a loss of height, and the ribs being forced closer to the pelvis, so that a simple attack of coughing can cause a broken rib.

The most dangerous fracture, Tenenbaum said, is a broken hip. "Breaking a hip when you are old is as bad as cancer. The reality is that 40 percent of those elderly who fracture a hip die within a year."

There have been tremendous advances in treating osteoporosis since the 1980s, he said, including bone densitometry, which measures the condition of the bones, drug therapy, and other therapeutic techniques for treating it once it has occurred.

Risk factors for osteoporosis include family history, being female, estrogen deficiency (for instance, after anorexia), calcium and vitamin D deficiencies, age, being of white or Asian ancestry, smoking, a very thin frame, the use of corticoid drugs, excessive intake of caffeine and alcohol, and premature menopause.

Proper nutrition, weight bearing exercises, prevention of falls, and lifestyle modification, can do much to help, as can hormone replacement therapy; newer drugs such as raloxifene and calcitonim, and fosomax, which increases bone density seven to eight percent. Tenenbaum said that this can decrease fracture rate by 50 percent.

He stressed the need for more research into osteoporosis, "at least as much as for cancer and HIV."

Joan Murphy, chief of gynecology and gyn-oncology, at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University Health Network, said that there is a relationship between hormone replacement drugs and an increase in cancer, especially breast cancer, but "the relative risk is small – an increase of two percent a year – after taking it for five years."

Each individual must be assessed according to their own risk factors and health, and "must decide for themselves on the risk-to-benefit ratio," she said.

The bottom line, Murphy said bluntly, is that hormone replacement therapy is "one of the best medical treatments for osteoporosis. People on estrogen live longer than those who aren't."

Nutritionist Fran Berkoff, Mount Sinai Hospital dietician, compared building strong bones to an RRSP – it is best to start at 15, not at 40.

Adequate calcium intake is essential, she said – 1,000 mg a day, rising to 1,200 after menopause.

If necessary, take a calcium supplement, she suggested. Tenenbaum, in response to questions from the audience, suggested that either calcium citrate or calcium carbonate are acceptable.

Vitamin D, which is necessary to absorb calcium, is also essential, either from the summer sun, or such foods as fluid milk, fortified soy foods and beverages or margarines.

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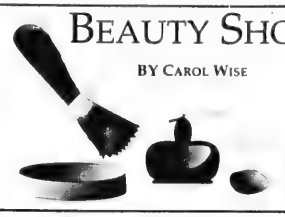

This summer is all about breaking rules. Wait until you see the colour palettes, they are like a box of crayola crayons. There is absolutely no right or wrong. Lips are either drenched in juicy tangerine or paled with silver frost. Eyes are painted with electric blue or simply highlighted with a cool violet. It's time to walk on the wild side and let your spirit lead the way.

The sun's rays feel so good and can give us a healthy glow. Moderation is the key and always wear sunblock. Did you know that UVA rays can go through windows and clothing on sunny and cloudy days? UVA penetrates deeply, causing damage of collagen and elastin without necessarily leaving a tan. UVB rays are the ones that turn your skin red, so be careful, sometimes it's just not worth the damage.

Check out some selftanners, they are terrific, easy to apply, smell good and you can enjoy a sun kissed look with one easy application.

Make time to exercise daily, you will want to feel sexy on those balmy summer evenings. Make healthy choices, eat lots of fruits and vegetables and drink at least eight glasses of water daily. Get out your blender and mix up some shakes, they are low calorie, delicious and filling. Freeze fresh berries and add them to a water or soya milk-blend and you have a great drink in seconds.

CAROL'S TIPS

Skin Care: Body *Clinique* is a new collection of exquisite body care products. This comforting line wraps both body and mind in a silky cocoon. Cleansers, exfoliators and moisturizers are all housed in easy shower-friendly flip-top tubes. Get that just-back-from-the beach glow with *Clinique's* new Face Quick Bronzed Tinted Self-Tanner and Self-Tanning Lotion for the body. The Face Quick Bronzer is for Type A personalities. Instantly you are evenly bronzed and this two-timing product will impart a natural looking self tan in just 2-3 hours. *Elizabeth Arden* has a three-in-one product – Daily Bronzer Self-Tanning Boost for the Face. It is an oil-free moisturizer, light self tanner and instant colour that gradually builds up a natural self-tan with repeated use. Also look at their Quick Spray Tanner for the Body – it's mistake-proof and dries in 10 minutes. *Dior* treats us to two Instant-Glow tinted self tanners for the face and body. Both are exquisite. *Lancome's* Flash Bronzer welcomes a new self-tanning milk for a beautiful soft glow. Now with all these products, is there a need to bake in the sun? Of course not! Tackle fatty deposits with Body Light from *Christian Dior.* This triple action formula helps define your figure, giving it a firmer appearance.

The skin under the eyes is more sensitive. So, don't forget your eyecream, morning and night – *Dior's* Capture contour gel is great. *Estee Lauder's* Resilience Lift Eye Cream has an exclusive "lift complex" that promises to boost the quality of natural collagen so skin looks lifted and toned. Roc introduces Retinol Bi-Actif Pur that promises to reduce wrinkles in 12 weeks. It combines AHA and retinol to optimize the best results. *Stila's* h2off cleansing cloths are a must at all times this summer. These little wipes are housed in a sleek, very cool container and available at Holt Renfrew.

Foundation: Just a subtle sweep of *Clinique's* blended face powder in transparency bronze will flush your cheeks and shimmer your shoulders. Light Enhancing crème compact from *Lancaster* is silky, light and sheer. Perfect for touch ups and full coverage. *Quo* comes up with the perfect answer to sleepless nights – Bags Away will make dark circles disappear like magic and is available at all Shoppers Drug Mart stores.

Sweet Cheeks: Pinch My Cheeks from *Quo* is a light tinted gel that creates a soft flush with a bit of glitter – great fun. *Elizabeth Arden's* sugarplum blush is just the right colour for any skin shade – the no mistake blush. If you want a bronzer look at their bronzing Powder Duo. Art Stick from *Bobbi Brown* is great for cheeks and lips and what a great traveller. Check out *Mac's* Sheer Shimmer Powder in the colour Trixie, it is not only a great colour but wait until you see the glitter!

Eye Candy: *Aquadior* Waterproof Mascara and eyeliner pencils from *Dior* come in pretty colours and yes they do stay on. Limelight and sungold are gorgeous eye shadows from *Elizabeth Arden's* Easy Colour collection and the liquid eyeliner is great – wear it bold or smudge, but keep it close to the lash line. *Bobbie Brown's* sparkledust will add a touch of fantasy to your eyes and can also be swept on your cheeks or lips. Try *Bobbi's* cream shadow stick, it is easy to apply, making application foolproof. It is also long wear and water-resistant and contains vitamin C and E to help protect the delicate skin around the eyes. *Bobbie Brown* is available at Holt Renfrew's Bloor location. Mac's new eye paints are an absolute must this season. They remind me of my days of painting canvas with oils and acrylics. The texture, colour and long wear are phenomenal. Take a look at *Stila's* electric blue and lightning white eye gloss, they are just like lip gloss only specifically for your eyes.

Kissable Lips: *Estee Lauder* introduces Go Pout Lipcolour. This unique technology promises to give lips the appearance of fullness in one simple swipe, luscious, poutier, notice me lips will be yours in 10 fabulous colours. Long Last Soft Shine Lipstick in glow bronze from *Clinique* has a feminine touch of pink and be sure to dip your toes in their nude glosswear nail enamel — very sexy. *Rouge Diorific* in Mambo Pink is a "for sure" show stopper, worth the look! *Mac's*

Continued on page 33

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Continued from page 32

B-Cup and Bombshell lipsticks are irresistible and be sure to top them up with their "underage" lipgloss.

Hair: Total abandonment is what's new for hair this summer, says Daniel from *Salon Daniel* (79 Yorkville-Toronto). Just wash your hair, massage in some styling lotion and let it be. Curls get curlier and texture and movement are key, he adds. Try *Redken's* new Active Express speed control. It is a one-step smoothing treatment and styler that lets you say good-bye to frizz and hello to smoothness. Also from *Redken*, try their new Sun Fit line consisting of Sun Shape shampoo, rehydrator and sun shield – great way to keep your hair fit all summer long. *L'Oreal's Kids* Tangle Tamer is fabulous for the "no" crying game.

Fragrance: *Oscar de la Renta* for men is fabulous in the balm, lotion or spray; my guy just loves the balm. This seductive scent punctuates Mr. De la Renta's philosophy that the traditional male values of chivalry, honour, style and romance are back. *Alfred Dunhill's* scent Desire inspires a world of energy, passion, lust and longing. *Escada* treats the ladies to Lily Chic, a silk veil of flowers that tingles our senses with the freshness of a summer breeze. Try *Lancaster's* Sunwater scented hair and body gel – it turns the daily grind into a day of sunshine – a new note of Riesling flowers is used for the first time. Aqua-Fitness is a group of three products from *Biotherm Homme* – eau de toilette, an aftershave gel and a shower gel. Scents of lemon, mandarin and cedar combine to give your man a "take me I'm yours" appeal. *Chanel's* Allure hair mist is not only chic and alluring, it conditions and contains odour captors. *Hermes* continues to spoil us with Caleche, Faubourg and Eau d'Orange Verte, all classic and great scents for the summer months. Check out *Gucci* Rush Body cream, it is true pleasure without guilt. It's non-greasy and luxurious enough to wear all over. *Lacoste* fragrance is like a breath of fresh air and is available at Boutique Lacoste.

Author Elaine Dembe at the Blossoms gala. **[Carol Wise photo]**

Floral designs benefit Sick Kids Hospital

By CAROL WISE
Special to The CJN

The Blossoms gala hosted by Holt Renfrew (50 Bloor St. in Toronto) was a surreal experience catering to all the senses.

The show of one-of-a-kind designer gardens was in support of the Hospital for Sick Children's Motherisk Program, created in 1985 to provide information about the potential risks to the developing fetus or infant from exposure to drugs, chemical, diseases, radiation and environmental agents.

The flower arrangements were inspired by some of the best known fragrances in the world, as 28 companies, including Chanel, Calvin Klein, Sisley, Hermes and Dior, had designers choose the flowers to best reflect one of their fragrances.

Designing these spectacular displays were some of Toronto's most talented florists such as Suzanne Gardner, Lidia Tacconelli and Frank Rea.

Celebrities in attendance included Alannah Myles, Mike Bullard, Amy Sky, Renee Taylor, Joseph Bologna, Jon Voigt, Julia Ormond, author Elaine Dembe and the kids from the *Lion King* – Steven Allerick and Saskia Garel.

People watching was especially fun. The outfits were fabulous and colourful. Women wore hats adorned with everything from delicate rose petals to full gardens.

This was the first of what is planned as an annual event. Watch out for next years Blossom Gala. The Motherisk Program is truly a great cause – and what a party!

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Arts & Travel

Moshe Bromberg's art on display

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — For the first time since his death in 1982, a selected collection of classic art works by Polish-Israeli artist Moshe Bromberg will be exhibited in Toronto.

The collection, which includes biblical miniatures, still lifes, portraits and landscapes, will be on exhibit at the Link Gallery, in the Civic Garden Centre at Edwards Gardens from June 5 to 18.

The historical works of Bromberg, who is also known as Bar-Am, spanned prewar Europe, the Holocaust, the State of Israel, religious themes, and Canadian scenes.

Throughout his lifetime, his extensive collection included oil paintings, pencil sketches, bronze sculptures and wood engravings.

Before his death, his works were exhibited at the Beth Tzedec Museum in Toronto, and in England, Israel, Argentina, Poland, Germany and throughout Europe.

In Germany at an exhibition of his paintings, he received a medallion of merit.

Bromberg, whose works can currently be found in Polish, German and Israeli museums, was born in Piotrokov, near Lodz, Poland in 1920. He studied in Munich and returned to Poland to continue his art studies. At that time, it was virtually unheard of for a Jew to be allowed to study at an art school in Poland.

In 1939, he was in his third year at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow when the Nazis invaded Poland. He and his entire family were taken away.

He was interned in a concentration camp where he secretly found ways to sketch his environment – grey paint captured Jewish prisoners pulling a giant roller over human bones as well as other tragic scenes of hiding, persecution and misery.

He escaped into the forest and made his way to Russia. In Lvov, he was able to continue his artistic studies. Only he and his brother survived.

He returned to the Lodz area after the war. From 1945 to 1950, he had many exhibitions throughout Poland and was honoured by the Polish art community.

In 1950, he immigrated to Israel and began to study his historical roots, finding the Bible a comforting source of inspiration.

He was greatly affected by the bright sunlight in Israel, and he created colourful paintings of landscapes and people.

After extensive study, he began working on a series of intricate biblical miniatures rich in detail. The miniatures are framed in illuminated art also found on Italian manuscripts and decorated prayer books.

He used a single strand brush to create, layer by layer, the tempera colours and awesome details. Each miniature took Bromberg six months to complete – more than 10 years to complete the collection.

The 20 miniatures include scenes of Belshazzar at the feast, King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, the Maccabees, scenes from the Book of Esther, the Song of Songs, and others.

In the early 1970s, Bromberg turned down $200,000 for 18 of his miniatures. He said that he would not sell his works because he hoped to have them on display in a permanent exhibition.

In Tel Aviv, he was a high school art teacher and an art consultant at the Ramat Gan Museum. His two children, Eddie, a mechanical engineer and Miriam, an architect, had emigrated to Canada. Eddie told *The CJN* that he and his sister were educated by the ORT system in Israel.

Moshe Bromberg and his wife Berta made several visits to their children in Canada and joined them in 1980. In his two years in Canada, Bromberg created some outdoor scenes and had several acclaimed exhibitions.

Eddie Bromberg says that his mother is the motivating force in exhibiting her husband's works. The originals are not for sale and the family has arranged to produce several limited copies of Bromberg's works.

The artist's self portrait.

The opening of the exhibition will be held on June 7 from 6 to 9 p.m.

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PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR BOOK AWARDS

Nancy Huston's *The Mark of an Angel* (McArthur & Co.), a complex love story set in Paris during the Algerian War of Independence, has been named the winner of this year's Martin and Beatrice Fischer Prize for fiction.

The award, which includes a $1,000 honorarium, is to be presented at a festive 12th annual Jewish Book Awards evening June 7 at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

The prizes celebrate books on Jewish themes published in Canada during the previous two years. They are awarded annually by the Koffler Centre's Jewish Book Awards committee.

Painting by Erika Simon Gottlieb.

A special feature of this year's Awards is the launching of **Chava Rosenfarb's** two novels, *Bociany* and *Of Lodz and Love*. Originally written in Yiddish, both books were recently published in English translation by the Syracuse University Press.

Rosenfarb, the celebrated Yiddish author who has won the Manger Prize and many other awards, is slated to read from her work at the ceremony.

Other winners include **Kathy Kacer** for *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser*, a children's book; and **Bruce Muirhead** for *Against All Odds*, a biography of **Louis Rasminsky**.

Poets **Seymour Mayne** and **B. Glen Rotchin** are being recognized for *A Rich Garland*, a collection of poetic tributes to **A.M. Klein**. They will share the poetry prize with **Malca Janice Litovitz**, whose recent poetry collection is called *To Light, To Water*.

Holocaust historians **Naomi Kramer** and **Ronald Headland** are being recognized for *The Fallacy of Race and the Shoah*; the late **Arthur Schaller** for his memoir, *100 Cigarettes and a Bottle of Vodka*; Biblical scholar **Adele Reinhartz** for *Why Ask My Name?: Anonymity and Identity in Biblical Narrative*; and **Shlomo Zalman Elazar Grafstein** for *Judaism's Bible: A New and Expanded Translation*.

Sara Silberstein Swartz and **Margie Wolfe** are being honoured for their edition of *From Memory to Transformation: Jewish Women's Voices;* as is Yiddish poet **Simcha Simchovitch** for his volume of translations of his own poetry, *The Remnant*.

A reception with refreshments follows the awards ceremony. The evening is free and the public is invited. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. June 7, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

Three-in-One: Holy Blossom Temple Stagecraft Company presents its spring production, *From Darkness to Light: A Collection of Three One-Act Plays*. The first play is *I Don't Know Where You're Coming From At All!*, a Holocaust drama by **Shirley Lauro**. The second, *In the Cemetery*, is a dark comedy by **Michael Hardstark**. The third is *When God Comes for Breakfast You Don't Burn the Toast*, a satiric farce by **Gary Apple**.

Performances are June 1, June 3 and June 4. Curtain 7:30 p.m. Adults $10 in advance, $12 at the door; seniors and students half price on June 1 and June 3. Eisendrath Auditorium, Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst St. 416-789-3291, ext. 511.

* * *

Oil pastel by Peter John Gottlieb.

Mother and Son: European-born and trained artist **Erika Simon Gottlieb** and her Canadian-born son, **Peter John Gottlieb**, share the family name and a passion for colour and experimentation with styles. But their canvases are markedly different.

Peter's oil pastels and graphics represent a surreal vision that combines elements of German expressionism and Canadian native art with vivid colours and Gen-X attitude. Erika's oils and water-colours, meanwhile, are distinguished by love of nature and psychological portraiture.

Their joint exhibition runs May 25 to June 29. York Reception Centre, 1100 Millwood Rd. 416-486-7970.

* * *

At the Galleries:

• Holy Blossom Temple presents a retrospective of paintings by **Eleanor Schott**. Until June 28.

• New work by Seattle glass artist **David Levi** is on view at Sandra Ainsley Gallery. Levi, whose work is part of a permanent collection at the White House, is best known for his bright vibrant vessels featuring hand-blown birds. Exchange Tower, 130 King St. W. 416-362-6815.

TV special chronicles Reichmann saga

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The reclusive Reichmanns will be coming into living rooms across the country May 29 at 9:00 pm. when Global Television broadcasts a two-hour documentary on the Orthodox family that built one of the largest real estate empires in the world.

Faith and Fortune: The Reichmann Story is directed, written and produced by Montreal independent filmmaker and television producer Alan Handel. The film is based on an award-winning book by Anthony Bianco, a senior writer for *Business Week* magazine, which is based in New York.

The film, which documents the rise and fall of the family's real estate empire, focuses on the enigmatic character of Paul Reichmann, the current patriarch, who risked the family fortune on the Canary Wharf development in London. The family lost $10 billion and was ruined financially – at least, temporarily.

The film, like the book, was not authorized by the family.

The documentary features interviews with more than 30 people, but none with any of the Reichmanns. However, Philip Reichmann, the son of Paul's brother Albert, helped arrange certain interviews.

"For a long time, I hoped Paul would participate…he had been interviewed for the book. I'm not entirely sure why he didn't," Handel said.

"He may not have been entirely happy with things in the book, or more likely he is not totally comfortable in the medium of television, something he probably has not watched a lot of.

"I tell the story as I see it...I believe it is accurate, incisive and independent. I'm not looking for the approval of Reichmann or to get into trouble."

That's an allusion to the hefty lawsuit the Reichmanns brought against *Toronto Life* in 1987.

Handel believes that article was wrong in suggesting Paul's parents Renee and Samuel had questionable dealings with the Nazis while they were living in Tangier, Morocco, but he does not shy away from dealing with the topic.

Samuel became wealthy as a currency trader in Tangier, a free-for-all international zone, Handel said. "There's no question there was a flight of capital from Europe during the war, and that money was laundered, which was illegal by the laws of the country it left, but it was legal in Tangier. Whether it was moral is another question."

Handel said he has the highest regard for Renee, whom he credits with heroically saving thousands of Jews from the Holocaust by obtaining exit visas. It is true, he said, that she dealt with the Red Cross of Spain, an ally of Germany, but only for the purpose of getting food parcels into the concentration camps.

Handel said he is fascinated by the Reichmanns' determination to maintain their strict, religious life, including its insularity, while becoming fabulously rich in the New World. Paul actually trained as a rabbi.

"Unlike the Rothschilds, Warburgs and other great Jewish families, the Reichmanns resisted assimilation and never modified their fundamentalist adherence to Jewish law."

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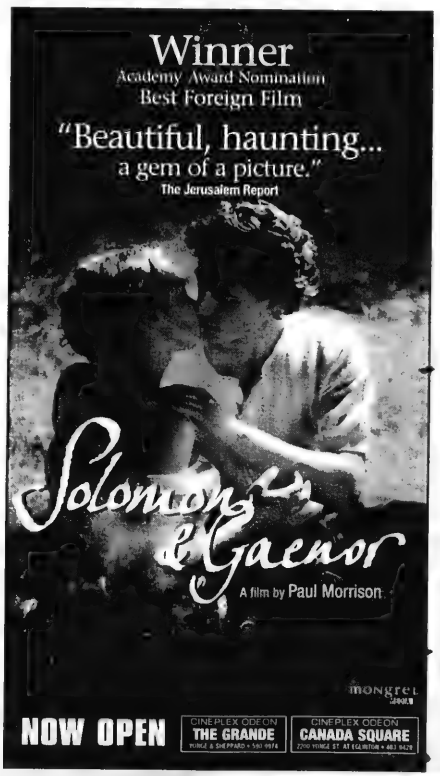

TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED AT ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG

When David slew Goliath, neither combatant could have realized that Canadian volunteers would excavate the historical remains of Goliath's home town one day.

The Philistine city of Gath lies in central Israel, between Jerusalem and Ashkelon. Tel Es-Safi is an archeological hill at Gath, which hides the ruins of several civilizations, and which is due to be the focus of a dig this summer.

Despite intense archeological interest in Gath, little is known about the city that Goliath called home. It is believed to have been the most important of Philistine towns.

Excavations at Gath began in 1997, and have already revealed a huge trench surrounding the town, which was likely built for military purposes.

Aren Maeir, a professor at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv, is directing this year's dig at Gath with the assistance of Carl Ehrlich, a professor at York University, Toronto. Scheduled for July 23 to August 18, the work is expected to uncover more information about Philistine life and the two Iron Ages from the 12th to the 8th centuries BCE.

The project has been set up as a credit course at both universities, and volunteers are being sought.

Volunteers (minimum age 16, with parental consent) receive room and board in comfortable facilities, plus trips to adjacent sites. The fee is $1,500 US. Participants are responsible for their own health insurance and a return ticket to Israel.

For more information on the Goliath dig, contact Prof. Ehrlich at 416-736-2100, ext. 77097, or e-mail ehrlich@yorku.ca.

Volunteers are also sought for other archeological projects in Israel. For details contact the Israel Government Tourist Office, 416-964-3784.

* * *

Jewish Museum: New York's Jewish Museum is hosting a comprehensive exhibition of the work of Berlin-born Anni Albers (1899-1994), a major textile designer of the 20th century. The show includes more than 200 works, including 25 weavings as well as a broad range of drapery materials, wall coverings, fabric swatches, jewelry designs and drawings. Also on view is Albers' late masterpiece, *Six Prayers*, a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. May 28 thru Aug. 20.

Continuing at the museum are exhibitions about Jewish artists working in Paris in the first third of the 20th century, and a children's exhibit about late-19th-century Jewish life in two distinct locales – the Lower East Side of New York, and Persia (now Iran). The museum's core exhibition, Culture and Continuity, was recently reinstalled on the fourth floor.

Located at 1109 Fifth Ave., New York. 212-423-3271. www.thejewishmuseum.org.

Volunteers at an archeological dig in Jerusalem.

* * *

Painters' Paradise: Artist Linda Bester and her family have opened up their country estate to vacationers. Situated in Shallow Lake, northwest of Owen Sound, Ont., the Bester bed-and-breakfast experience includes art instruction and critique, guided painting and sightseeing trips, exclusive accommodation, as well as many other amenities. 519-371-4744 or www.besterstudios.on.ca.

HORA GALGALIM DATE CORRECTION

Hora Galgalim, the dance troupe made up of disabled Israeli army veterans, will be performing at the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts on Thursday June 1, not May 31 as reported in last week's *CJN*. For tickets call 416-787-8950. Israeli singer Ilanit will also be performing.

The CJN apologizes for this error.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

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355 AUDIO-VISUAL SALES/REPAIRS
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450 PAINTING/WALLPAPERING
452 PARTY SERVICES
455 PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO
460 PLUMBING
465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
470 RENOVATIONS
472 RETIREMENT HOMES
475 ROOFING
477 SECOND HAND STORES
478 SCHOOLS
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
482 SIGNS
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
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510 UPHOLSTERY
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520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
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CLASSIFIED Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.com

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

RUSSELL HILL ROAD ON THE RAVINE!
$1,195,000! 50 x 148.5' south lot. 3 storey home, 3 bedrooms. Walkouts from 2 levels. Cathy Kwinter* 488-2875

JUST LISTED! PRIME OTTER CREEK
Totally renovated 40 x 186 ft. lot. Huge main floor family room + kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

LOWER FOREST HILL GEORGIAN - $889,000
Renovated 4+ bedrooms, 5 baths. Eat-in kitchen, family room. Private garden, 3 car parking. Maunce Gherson* 488-2875

1ST AD! CUSTOM BUILT 8 YEARS AGO!
4+1 bedrooms, 6 baths, sauna. Backs onto south ravine. 3 car garage parking. Steps to everything! Lynne Elkind* 488-2875

LARGE CEDARVALE HOME SOLD
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, grand marble foyer, spa in basement, $$$ upgrades. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

CEDARVALE - TUDOR STYLE HOME
$519,000. Gorgeous stone exterior. 3 bedrooms, 4 baths. Main floor den + powder room. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

AVENUE ROAD/LAWRENCE $499K
Recently renovated 1999. Quiet cul-de-sac, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished basement. 50 x 100 ft. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

PRIME CEDARVALE JUST $439,900
Immaculate home, 3 bdrms., 2 baths, main floor den. Private drive. Finished basement. 35 x 100 ft. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

5 MITCHELL AVE. OPEN SAT./SUN. 1-4
Only 3 left. New freehold TH. 1,700', 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, large decks. Cac, cvac, alarm, parking +++. Marty Roth* 488-2875

ADELAIDE WALK 7 NEW TOWNHOUSES
Queen Street Village. 1,300' plus basement. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, cac, large decks, garage +++. Marty Roth* 488-2875

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53 FAIRMEADOW AVE.! UNBELIEVABLE!
$928K! Vendor says sell! Lux. 5+2 bdrms., 8 baths, mn. fam.+lib.+ lau.+2 pce. W/o bsmnt. 60x125' Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

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$1,895K! Soap opera style stage set! Be Young and Restless & enjoy the latest technology! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

2 CHEVAL DR.! MOTIVATED VENDOR!
$539K! Denlow Estates beauty! 4+1 bdrms., 4 baths, main fam.+2 pce.! Nanny ste.! 58x110'! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

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2,200' CONDO BAYVIEW/EGLINTON
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EXCEPTIONAL 5TH FLOOR UNIT
Quiet 56 Suite building, new 1999. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 9' ceilings, eat-in kitchen, jacuzzi. Carole Rea* 226-1987

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

WATERFRONT COTTAGE ORILLA AREA
5 bdrm. year round, stone fireplace, finished basement, sauna, nanny room, 3,000 sq. ft. $489,000. Renee Seligman* 226-1987

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

FOREST HILL REAL ESTATE INC. ANNOUNCEMENT
Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. is pleased to announce that MARTY ROTH has rejoined the company. He brings with him over 10 years of experience in residential and commercial real estate. We wish him every success. Call Marty Roth (416) 488-2875.

NEW LUXURY CUSTOM HOME - PRIME YORK MILLS
54 HARRISON RD. - $1.8M. - OPEN HOUSE SAT./SUN. 1-4 P.M.

Sing., det. 5+1 Bdrm., 3 car gar., 85'x143', approx. 6,100 sq. ft., Al Mendrycki design, Garden Springs Homes, *3-D colour floor plan/details:* To view: **RON WU (416) 726-2008, H/L GOLDEN EAST BUS. (905) 415-1331**

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RESIDENTIAL

JUST LISTED! 151 LISA CR., THORNHILL New synagogue, park, schools. 3 bdrms. with main floor fam. room, fireplace, entrance to garage from home, three 4 pc. baths, fin. bsmt. New roof, new CAC. Asking $274,900.

JUST LISTED! 205 HILDA AVE. 2 bdrm. condo, 2 parking spaces. Asking $155,000.

COMMERCIAL

ITALIAN RESTAURANT Fine dining in an exceptional atmosphere of elegance. Surrounded by office towers. Executive clientele. Asking $430,000.

EXCITING SPECIALTY COFFEE FRANCHISE For details on purchasing this successful franchise, please call for appointment.

RESTAURANT, BILLIARDS & SPORTS BAR all in one! Approx. 8,000 sq. ft., full-scale restaurant with LLBO for 280 seats plus 30 seat patio. Big screen TVs, dance floor, game room, satellite, lots of parking. Very busy! Asking $470,000.

OFF TRACK BETTING! 375 seats, 10,000 sq. ft. VIP lounge, 70 TV monitors, fully licensed, LLBO, restaurant, Canadian Jockey Association, restaurant. Asking $775,000.

OFFICE FURNITURE BUSINESS, very successful, owner leaving country. Serious inquiries only! Asking $1,650,000.

MAJOR FURNITURE MANUFACTURER selling their retail furniture store, 25 mins. from Toronto. Very profitable. Asking $350,000 plus stock.

INDUSTRIAL CONDO on Tomken Road in Mississauga, next to 401. About 2,400 sq. ft. with truck-level shipping door, fully A/C, mezzanine of 1,200 sq. ft. not included in total square footage. Completely ready and set up for the garment industry with sewing machines, pressers, steam and much more! Asking $250,000.

LARGE ALUMINUM-RELATED MANUFACTURING CONCERN, established for many years, owner retiring, very successful. Serious inquiries only! $2,250,000.

CAR INTERIOR RESTORATION BUSINESS! Exciting franchise opportunity. Currently there is an opening in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Established since 1982 with over 17 successful franchises, investment from $85,000, serving dealers and corporations.

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Cust built, 4 bdrm, 5 bths, up-to-date kit, built-in appls, huge liv & din, den, fam rm, w/out, main flr lndry, fin. lower lvl, Great buy & location!

AVENUE RD WILSON
Mod. store + 2 apts, fully rented, pkg., A-1 location!

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Extra lrge 4 Bdrm. bung. cent. air, cent.vac.huge LR/DR plank floors, dble gar.,100 x 180 ft. in-law apt. Walk to shul. Live in or Build! MOTIVATED Act fast!

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HOME MART GILA WOLF 222-6669

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83 Gilmore Cres. Asking $271K. Sun-filled 3 bdrms., sitting rm. & fam. rm., 3 baths, wonderful garden.

28 YORK DOWNS DR.
$499,000. 4 bdrms., 50' lot. Great liv./din. rms., fin. lower level. Best location in Armour Heights. **Open House Sun. 2-4**

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FINE PROPERTIES

BURTON ROAD – $2,950,000
Breathtaking home on 90 X 184 ft. grounds boasts main floor library & family rm. Master suite + sitting rm. + ensuite bathroom; 5 children's bdrms. + separate nanny's quarters. Fabulous lower level. Call *Edith Weiss.

LOWER VILLAGE – $2,390,000
Exceptional residence features wonderful principal rms. 5 bdrms.; updated bathrooms & kitchen; Family rm., library & study. Circular drive & double garage. Call *Leslie Dennis.

THE MANSIONS OF RUSSELL HILL
A rare opportunity to own 1 of these fabulous custom-built residences by Messina. Spectacular park setting. Come view the experience of this exclusive life style. For details call *Doug Mathias.

BRIDLE PATH – $1,350,000.
Luxurious bungalow with 4+ bdrms. Den with fireplace. Master w/dressing room. Inground pool & cabana. Circular drive. *Edie Winberg.

ROSEHILL PENTHOUSE – $945,000.
Fabulous suite. Approx. 3,000 sq. ft. Master suite w/sitting area & huge walk-in closet. Built-ins + fireplace. Skylight. Elevator into suite. 2 parking spots. *Ruth Kerbel.

FOREST HILL – $918,000.
Stunning 2 family home.Each level features 2 bdrms., eat-in kitchen, den, gas fireplace. Finished lower level. Private drive & double garage. *Susan Copeland.

ALLENBY SCHOOL - $639,000.
Unique centre hall plan home with 2 sty. addition; eat-in kitchen; main floor family rm. & powder rm.; 4 large bdrms. (master ensuite); 3 fireplaces. **Don Wagman.

FOREST HILL TUDOR - $598,000.
Handsome 4+ bdrm. Modern kitchen & breakfast rm. Updated baths. Leaded windows, wainscotting, fireplace. Private drive & built-in garage. *Carol Cotton.

BATHURST/LAWRENCE – $589,000.
Exquisite (1 yr.) new home w/traditional touches. 4 bdrms. Maple kitchen w/walk-out to deck. Main floor family rm. Crown mouldings, fireplace, central air. Private drive & garage. *Ruth Kerbel.

UPPER MADISON - $229,900.
Prime condo suite w/fabulous northwest view. 2 bdrms. Updated kitchen. CAC. Parking. *Marni Lokash.

ST. CLEMENTS/YONGE. - $399,000.
Lovely 4 bdrm. home. "Open concept" main floor with walk-out to patio & private garden. CAC; Private drive & garage. *Ruth Kerbel.

CEDARVALE - $359,000.
Affordable 3 bdrm. family home offers eat-in kitchen, leaded windows, wainscotting. Great location, close to all amenities. Call *Marlene Federman.

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Brand new custom home, luxurious 4 + 2 bdrms., dramatic open concept, family room, maple hardwood floors, dream maple kitchen. **A MUST SEE!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

CLANTON PARK — NEW LISTING!
Charming 3 bedroom bungalow, sep. entry to in-law suite, shows well! 56 x 115 ft. lot, asking $310,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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Exclusive listing! New home to be built, approx. 3,000 sq. ft., quality custom builder, pre-construction price only $699,000. **ACT NOW!** For details call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — LUXURY CONDO
Penthouse suite with 10 ft. ceilings, approx. 2,200 sq. ft., 2 bdrms. + den, 70 oz. broadloom, marble foyer, loaded with upgrades. Call for details! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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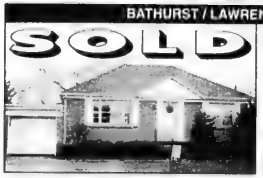
Family size custom-built 4 bdrm., 2 storey home, family room, hardwood floors on both upper levels, 12 years new, shows to perfection! Only $409,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Spacious 3 bedroom bungalow on 50 ft. lot. Addition at rear, finished basement, asking $329,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

CLANTON PARK — HOUSE RENTAL — RENOVATED & DECORATED
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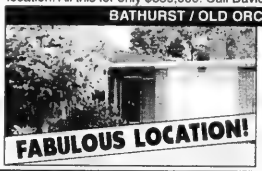
BATHURST / STEELES — SPACIOUS 4 + 2 BDRM. BACK-SPLIT
Huge fam. room, office, nanny's quarters, double garage, desirable location! All this for only $359,000! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / OLD ORCHARD



Spacious ranch bungalow, 4 + 1 bdrms., main floor family room, gorgeous 45 x 155 ft. lot, quiet cul-de-sac, fin. bsmt., asking $469,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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Super large corner bdrms., 2 baths, bay, immediate poss. Move-in condition.
SOLD

JUST LISTED
$309,000. Willowbrook-Holme. Super 4 bdrms., 3 baths, huge family room, 2 car garage, house completely reno. 44 x 137 lot.
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631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

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Skymark Zenith: exclusive. S.E. corner, 2 sep. bdrm. & fam. + sol. 2 ens., 2 prk., 1,711 s.f.
Skymark I: rare opportunity. Customized 2 apts. Approx. 3,300 s.f. $499,900. For my updated inventory, colour brochures & virtual tour, call

SANTEE LEUNG, E.R.L. SKYMARK SPECIALIST

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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

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Bath/Wilson, lux. 3 bdr, 2 bth., 5 appl, pkg.$1500/mo 783-6831

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Male U of T student is looking for room & board with a family, starting in Sept. Shomer Shabbos. **Call 613-722-7030, eves.**

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

East of Scarborough - Nice furn. room avail in lovely townhouse. Female pref. Avail. imm. $290/mo incl. 905-420-1027.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Balfour Beach/Camp Katonim Lake view, lge 5 bdr, 2 bth., firepl., screen-porch, 1/2 acre. 416-925-3591 or 416-924-2762

Lake Simcoe waterfront cottages, Belle Ewart. 3 - 4 bdrms. Available for the summer. Call Bernie at 705-456-2999.

Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area,lux. 4 bed. Sandy beach, sunsets, tennis. Seas/mo. 226-0009, 749-6600.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Hallandale - large 1 bdrm. condo, P/H, call: 416-259-1860

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Clear Lake - first lake north of Lake Rosseau, 20 mins. south of Parry Sound. Min. one month, seas. pref. Cozy (850 sq. ft. on 2 floors), 3 bdr. cottage. 300 ft. of shoreline on approx. 1 acre of land. Up-dated, fully furn., fireplace, screened-in porch. Avail. for season July & Aug. (min 1 mo.) at $1000/wk. June & Sept. nego. Call Jack, 905-793-7083 ext. 265 (any time) & leave message.

180 OUT-OF-TOWN PROPERTIES

LAKE SIMCOE WATERFRONT

A rare find, this 3,400 sq. ft. brick home features 7 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 fireplaces and spacious principle rooms including a main-floor family room and den. Located in a prestigious area of Jackson's Point, this 100' x 150' lakefront property is fully-hedged for the ultimate in privacy. Only 1 hour from Toronto, it's perfect for family get-togethers or for entertaining friends. Asking $449,900.

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Call Franchising Department @ 416-365-3333 or fax @ 416-365-7264.

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Japanese health technologies company - 25 yrs. old, annual global sales $2.5 B, $600 M in N.A., D&B 5A1. Looking for entrepreneurs with established networks in Israel & Canada. Special previews.
Vancouver - May 29th, Toronto - June 3rd, 2000.
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232 BUSINESS FOR SALE

KOSHER RESTAURANT
for sale with option for partnership. 416-256-9537

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Shomer Shabbos lady to join religious staff at Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel. Call Mrs. Balter at 663-9060.

Required Immediately
Temporary part-time (3 days per week) bookkeeper with computer skills needed for non-profit organization. Knowledge of AccPac & Lotus an asset. **Please fax resume to: 416-636-9897, attn: L. Pressman.**

TEACHERS WANTED for permanent afternoon positions in English & Math, grades 3-8, in an observant Jewish school. Only experienced, certified teachers will be considered. Fax resume with references by June 1, 2000 to 905-764-3130.

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ECE, warm, prof., good people skills, Jewish knowledge req'd. **Fax Resume to: 905-886-0421**

Lifeguards/Instructors
Summer 2000. Guaranteed wage. 416-636-1880, ext. 252.

North Toronto Funeral Home seeking Shomer Shabbos person. **Send Resume to:** CJN Box 7277 Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205 North York, ON M3B 3K4

Reform Jewish Cong. in London, ON., seeks capable energetic office administrator. Computer literacy, desk-top publishing skills, Hebrew pref., bookkeeping an asset. 25 hrs./wk with fluctuations. Apply in writing with resume, two references: **Temple Israel, 651 Windermere Rd., London, ON, N5X 2P1. Attention: S. State.**

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Babysitter/housekeeper avail. immed.Excel refs.905-294-8778 or 1-800-604-3493.

Cleaning lady available seven days. Refs. 416-531-9717.

Exp. child & elderly caregivers and housekeepers avail. Excellent refs. **Tender Care Domestics: 416-516-7846.**

Exp. housekeeper looking for day's work. Call 416-654-8844

Filipino workers available to clean homes & babysit. Live in or out. Call 905-669-0793.

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
Wee Care Placement Agency 416-789-3070 .

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"Five stars above the rest"
Housekeepers, elderly care, nannies, cleaning ladies, party helpers. 905-771-6543.

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora or Sasha, 416-736-1179, or pager: 416-390-7349.

Kind, intelligent caregiver for an older person. Four years exp. in geriatric nursing. Excellent ref.'s, etc. 416-461-6331.

Looking to care for elderly. Light housework. Live-in. Call Sylvia at: 905-453-2286.

Nannies, live-in/out, cleaning. F/T & P/T. **In-home elderly care** by RN's, HCA's. Bonded, refs.**416-224-9907 Servicing Toronto since1985. *NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.***

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Live-in help wanted for 3 and 9 year olds. A love of children, creativity, and flexibility needed. Fluent English. Housework and cooking. Non-smoker. Legal. **Bath/Eglinton. 416-789-1671.**

COMPANION for elderly man, live-in Mon-Fri. Some cooking & light housekeeping. Exp. & refs. a must! 905-475-9022, ext. 228.

Housekeeper/nanny needed. Bilingual English/Spanish, live in/out. Call 416-658-9963

Weekend babysitter needed for 3 and 9 year old. From Saturday at 5pm until Sunday at 7pm. Non-smkr. Fluent English. Excellent skills with children. **Bath./Eglinton. 416-789-1671.**

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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China, sterling & crystal - like new. 41 pce. Doulton crystal (Georgian); 48 pce. Doulton china (English Renaissance); 75 pce. sterling silver (London engraved). Total retail value approx. $10,972. Showing: Sun. May 28 2-4pm, 211 Queen's Quay West, Suite 1203. Offers after 4pm. Info: 416-203-8177.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN BER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK GERSTL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, at 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Cemetery
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

330 OBITUARIES

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Please note these upcoming early deadlines for Classified and Service Directory advertising:

For the issue of June 15, the deadline is Tuesday, June 6, by 4 p.m.

For the issue of July 6, the deadline is Tuesday, June 28, by 4 p.m.

The Canadian Jewish news

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RUTH GOLDBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, 9:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
KALMAN MAPA ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, 2:00 p.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Royal York Road
Chmielnicker Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument in loving memory of
SELMA MAYER ע"ה
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Clanton Park Section
HANNA WEIL & GRETA MUNK
and family invite all relatives and friends to attend

330 OBITUARIES

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EFIM MULTIANER ז"ל
loving husband, father & grandfather
will take place
Sunday, June 4th at 12:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Chaim Section (#51)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ELLIOT MINTZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 4th, 9:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section Phase III
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ADELE ZIMMERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 28th, 10:30 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Lubliner Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

From the Family of the late
MARK GOTLIB ז"ל
We wish to thank our family, friends and acquaintances for their kindness and support and for honouring Mark's memory with cards, donations to worthy causes and for being here for us in these very difficult times. It is gratefully appreciated.
Regina Gotlib and Family

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Women seeking Men

To respond to an ad, Call: 1-900-451-4552 Ext. #65

MARRIAGE MINDED

Separated Israeli, female, mother of 1 child, 5 yrs, attractive, Hebrew teacher Seeks male, professional or self employed, handsome, 5'10" or over, non-smoker, non-drinker, fluent in Hebrew for serious relationship AD#1193

CLASSY LADY

Single Jewish female, 62 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, selective, enjoys music, the theatre Seeks male elegant, classy, for loving monogamous long term relationship AD#1054

FAMILY ORIENTATED

Single divorced Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm with great sense of humour Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat and respect a lady who was previously married and experienced family life AD#1396

ANIMAL LOVER

Single Jewish female, tall, with long dark hair and dark eyes, enjoys travelling, the outdoors, and loves animals Seeking a tall male, with a good sense of humour, who's easy to talk to AD#1387

LET'S LAUGH

Single female, 40 yrs, a beauty, zestic, fun loving, lives large and respects life Seeking nice Jewish male, 35-75 yrs, who's open hearted and minded, is financially secure for a wonderful friend and kind loving companion AD#1392

FRIEND AND COMPANION

Single Jewish female, window, 55 yrs, 5' attractive, intelligent, caring, raised with traditional values. Seeking male, 55-65 yrs, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, to share laughter and more. AD#1518

BE MY MENSCH

Attractive female, 5'8", creative, active, adventurous, youthful and elegant feminist Seeks emotionally available mensch, 50-56 yrs, to share arts, nature and more. AD#1409

FRIENDS FIRST

Single mom, 40 yrs, attractive, slim, 1 ten year old son, university educated, employed, ambitious, outgoing, enjoys dining dancing, cooking, reading, long walks, sports, cross country skiing Seeks male, non-smoker, social drinker in the same age group with similar interests AD#1359

MUSIC LOVER

Divorced female, from the Hamilton area, originally from Montreal, vivacious, fit, attractive, early 50's, enjoys travel, dining and dancing, theatre. Seeks male, outgoing, financially independent, likes classical music and jazz good sense of humour, loves tennis for possible long term relationship. AD#1605

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Jewish female, divorced, 40 yrs, very attractive, well educated, physically fit, good sense of humour. Seeking male with same attributes, who's financially and emotionally secure, professional, honest, reliable, 40-50 yrs, and knows how to live life to the fullest AD#1642

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Divorced female, 40 yrs, with 10 yr old son, 5'3fi, very attractive, slim, adventurous, university educated, employed, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys movies, sports, dancing and taking walks. Seeking male who's university educated, non-smoker and drinks very little. AD#1369

COMPANIONSHIP

Female, 5'2", blonde hair with medium build, employed full time and works out at YMCA. Seeking gentleman who's nice and honourable as a companion. AD#1357

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish female, 37 yrs, brown hair, hazel green eyes, slim, cute, petite, honest, sincere, smoker, enjoys cooking, singing, dining and dancing, movies, walks, talks Seeking Jewish male, 35-43, spontaneous, romantic, ambitious, smoker, who's ready to settle down and have children AD#1428

BUILD A FAMILY

Single modern orthodox Jewish female, blue eyes, brown hair, beautiful, educated, tall Seeks male, caring, intelligent, healthy, tall, 36-48 yrs, ready to build a happy, loving family AD#1665

WAITING FOR YOU

Single Jewish female, 40 yrs, 5'8", brown eyes, tall attractive, honest, sincere, secure, enjoy dancing, sports, dining and outdoor activities Seeking male 38-52 yrs, established, intelligent, romantic with similar interests and qualities AD#1730

GREAT PERSONALITY

Single female from Australia en route to England, 5'1", long dark curly hair, attractive, outgoing, feminine, fun loving. Seeks male with similar qualities AD#1154

MAN OF MY DREAMS

Single Jewish female, petite, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, brown eyes, red hair, enjoy the theater, movies, music, travelling Seeking a Jewish male, 52-65, non smoker, financially and emotionally stable, honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests AD#1253

FEMME DE JOUR

Slim Jewish professional female, dynamic and challenging personality, multi-faceted with great sense of humour Enjoys dancing, travel and exploring new horizons. Seeking an honest, established tall gentleman, mensch only. AD#1138

MARRIAGE ONLY

Separated Israeli female with 5 yr old daughter, attractive, a Hebrew teacher Seeks professional or self-employed Canadian-Israeli male, attractive, 5'10"+, speaks fluent Hebrew, non-smoker and non-drinker, for marriage only. AD#1139

SERIOUS CALLS ONLY

Single female, good looking, business woman, 48, 5'6", warm, spiritual , sincere, marriage minded, with 2 children, 1 married, other 14 yrs old Enjoy dining, dancing, movies and other interests. Seeking male 46-57 yrs for friendship first relationship AD#1449

SOULMATE

Semi-retired professional female, blond, slim, pretty, shapely, youthful, caring, with home here and in Florida Enjoys theatre, movies, dancing music, especially Jazz Seeking sincere, established male, 60-69 yrs, non-smoker, to share love, laughter and more AD#1325

SINGLE DADS WELCOME

Divorced Jewish professional mom, 43, 5'6", in Thornhill Seeks intelligent, stable, optimistic, happy, healthy, and energetic single Jewish mensch, who's family oriented, follows traditional Jewish values, sense of humour a plus , to establish a long term committed relationship, based on honesty and friendship AD#1516

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single female, Toronto born, family oriented, works in the medical educational field, enjoys sports. Seeks male, marriage minded, ready to start a family and raise then with traditional Jewish values. Leave details and self description, will return calls AD#1051

FAMILY VALUES

Attractive Jewish female, early 60's, seeking gentleman with integrity and who's family oriented AD#1676

LET'S MEET

Single divorced female, 38 yrs, 5' 4", attractive, sophisticated, warm hearted, romantic, professional. Enjoys music, the arts, tennis, dancing and travelling Seeking male, 37-48 yrs, who is intelligent, sincere, emotionally and financially stable AD#1175

LET'S BECOME FRIENDS

Optimistic, fun loving, attractive, professional, brunette, green eyes. Enjoys reading, travel, music, dancing, movies, theatre, walks, evenings at home Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, who is compassionate, honest, has integrity, strong family values, humourous and enjoys good conversation AD#1571

LOVES LIFE

Divorced female, 55 yrs, semi-retired professional, green eyes, blonde hair, attractive, caring, good sense of humour Enjoys music, sports, dining and dancing, cottage life Seeks male, 60-69 yrs, established, non-smoker, sincere, loves life and laughter AD#1159

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single female, attractive intelligent, professional, warm hearted, sincere, spiritual modern orthodox, wide variety of interests Seeks male, 39-45 yrs with similar interests and qualities for family oriented relationship. AD#1158

LET'S FALL IN LOVE

Single Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm, good sense of humour Seeking a male, over 47, secure, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat a lady. AD#1463

LET'S MEET

Single Jewish female, divorced, 38, 5'4", professional, attractive, slim, enjoy music, theater, philosophy, psychology, tennis, dancing, travelling. Seeking a Jewish male, 37-48, intelligent, honest, sincere, financially secure. AD#1226

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single female, divorced, 41, with 2 teenagers, fun, spiritual, sensual, happy, humorous Seeking a mensch who is family oriented, humorous, sincere, enjoys outdoors, movies, dining out, having fun, to share good and bad times together AD#1329

UNIQUE LADY

Single Jewish female, 50ish, 5'6", attractive, thoughtful, loving, caring, sensual, fit, professional, non smoker, positive outlook, enjoy sports, ballet, jazz, countryside Seeking a male, non smoker, down to earth, secure, to share life's treasures with. AD#1119

JAU DA VIVE

Single female, 58, writer, intelligent, attractive. Seeking a Jewish male, 60ish, who has strong ties with Israel. AD#1247

FAMILY VALUES

Divorced female, 42, 5'2", cute, slim, smart, 2 children, passionate, energetic, fun. Seeking a male, well educated, has good values, non smoker AD#1016

LOVE LIFE

Single Jewish female, 28, adventurous, ambitious, outgoing, friendly, enjoy sports, working out, reading, music, theater Seeking a Jewish male, never married, ambitious, trustworthy, honest, outgoing, ready to live life to the fullest AD#1564

COMPANIONSHIP

Single Jewish female, late 40's, attractive, professional, no dependents, enjoy movies, long walks, theater. Seeking a Jewish male, 49-60, with similar interests. AD#1390

FRIENDS FIRST

Single Jewish female, intelligent, honest, educated, kind, religious, wide variety of interests. Seeking a male, 69-75, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, possible future developments. AD#1050

It's absolutely **FREE** to retrieve your messages

Men seeking Women

To respond to an ad, Call: 1-900-451-4552 Ext. #65

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS

Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with AD#1038

WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family AD#1370

SPECIAL SENIOR DOLL

Single retired male, living in Toronto and Florida, seeking female, 65+, who's good looking, slim, and must have a good sense of humour, for meaningful relationship AD#1580

LOVE WAITS

Single male, 5'7", Greenish blue eyes, handsome, poor starving writer, reliable, enjoys sports, swimming, tennis, very down to earth, ready to start a family Seeks Jewish female, with similar interests AD#1195

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Single male, 34 yrs, seeking female with professional status, intelligent, good conversationalist, who enjoys movies, sports, dining, dancing, walks, reading, having fun and tender moments AD#1190

IT'S SPRING!

Single male, 46 yrs, special education teacher, 2 grown children, 23 yrs & 21 yrs, romantic, self-confident, enjoys roller-blading, travel, country walks, have eclectic tastes, good sense of humour. Seeks female with similar qualities and interests. AD#1498

FAMILY MAN

Separated male, 50 yrs, 5'7", 160lbs, with 3 teenage children, family oriented, fairly intelligent and financially secure Seeking female who enjoys dining, theatre, movies, outdoor activities and welcomes anyone with family AD#1533

LOVE & LAUGHTER

Single Jewish male, 33 yrs, good sense of humour, honest, nice, intelligent, happy, warm hearted, energetic. Seeks female, happy go lucky who's wants some good laugh AD#1442

TIMELESS LOVE

Single male, 49 yrs, 5'11", Brown hair, Brown eyes, handsome, successful, caring, supportive, romantic, passionate, sensual, open honest with feelings, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cooking quiet evenings at home Seeks attractive female 35-45 yrs, affectionate, emotionally healthy, passionate about herself and the man in her life. AD#1377

WANTS FAMILY LIFE

Divorced male, 53 yrs, a writer, no children, good hearted, good looking, good humoured and good brain. Seeking female to have children with and start a family AD#1151

TO SHARE LIFE

Single male, 41 yrs, seeks female who's attractive, nice, good sense of humour, lives in the Toronto, enjoys theatre, having a good time and the great outdoors to share my life with. AD#1265

SCHOLARLY MYSTIC

Attorney and international entrepreneur, cultured, aereodite, talmud, chachum, kaballist, thaumaturical healer, violinist, poet, parachutist, scuba diver, wishes to a new period. Seeks slender, intelligent, attractive, adventurous lady who's emotionally/financially secure as my queen. AD#1386

WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS MOST

Single male, 47 yrs, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies-especially Hitchcock, and drives in the country Seeking female, professional or non-professional, non slim okay, children okay, smoker on non-smoker, a basically nice, down to earth person AD#1055

GOOD IN EVERY WAY!

Divorced male, 53 yrs, no children, good hearted, good humoured, good looking Seeks female for loving relationship AD#1600

WARM & CARING

Single white male, 57 yrs, warm, caring, romantic, self-employed. Enjoys travel, movies, quiet romantic evenings, good conversation. Seeks female with similar interests and qualities. AD#1565

LET'S HAVE COFFEE

Single male, young looking, 45 yrs, 5'11", brown hair, brown eyes, cute smile, university educated, employed professional, good manners Enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, sporting events Seeks female 30-42 yrs, for casual relationship, possible long lasting relationship. AD#1598

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single male, 35 yrs, 5' 10", honest, sharing and caring, down to earth, enjoys movies, dining, and dancing, concerts, quiet romantic evenings Seeks female with similar interests AD#1660

LOVE AWAITS

Single Jewish male, late 40's , 5' 10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, loving, good sense of humour Enjoys the theatre, long walks, bowling, tennis Seeks female, 32-33 yrs, single or widowed, orthodox preferred but not required, intelligent, with similar interests AD#1161

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER

Single Jewish male, widower, blue eyes, brown hair, medium height, good looking, non smoker, very fit, work out, enjoy movies, dining, travelling, beach holidays, skiing. Seeking a female, attractive, good natured, to enjoy life with. AD#1393

GOOD MAN

Divorced male, 53, no children, good hearted, good looking, good sense of humour. seeking a female to share life with AD#1178

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Single male, unique and special, with traditional values, attractive, young looking, healthy, successful, enjoy life Seeking a female with similar qualities AD#1212

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, sincere, no children. Seeking a physically fit and sincere female, 25-35, for serious relationship AD#1189

WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single Jewish semi-retired business man in beauty supply, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, short dark hair, mustache, traditional, family oriented, enjoy swimming, bicycling, lot of educational reading Seeking a Jewish female to have children and a family. AD#1322

TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME

Single Jewish male, traditional, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, well educated, semi-retired, in the beauty supply business, handsome, short dark hair, mustache, enjoy swimming, cycling, educational reading, family life, ready for marriage and family. Seeking a single Jewish female, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1008

LIVE LIFE FULLY

Single male, divorced, father of 2, 48, 5'7", slim, fit, generous, Family Physician, enjoy philosophy, cultures, Latin dancing, cross country skiing Seeking a younger female, attractive, slim, highly intelligent, passionate, giving, sincere, emotionally and financially secure, likes children. AD#1318

HOUSE OF TORRAH

Single male, Canadian born, divorced, caring, professional, enjoy Torrah and Phycology Seeking a female, attractive, Jovio, 32-44, easy going, warm, gentle, spiritual, compatible for love, marriage, family AD#1222

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish male, Canadian born, lawyer, Sabth of servant Seeking a very intelligent and attractive female who wants children and family AD#1608

SOULMATE

Single male, 58, 6'1", 160lbs, Israeli origin, Canadian citizen, young looking and feeling, tolerant, compassionate, love nature, country side, animals, reading, dining, glass of wine, anxious for a real soulmate to enrich and fulfill my life AD#1424

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

Divorced male, professional, originally from Eastern Europe, 5'10", handsome, slim, fit, down to earth, non smoker, hopeless romantic, enjoy movies, sunsets on the beach, healthy lifestyle Seeking a female, affectionate, slim, attractive, late 30's, for long term relationship AD#1317

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, fit, non smoker & drinker, little shy, adventurous, enjoy movies, sports, dancing, walks Seeking a nice female, friendly, similar interests, non smoker, for friends first relationship. AD#1083

CULTURED SCHOLAR

Divorced male, 50's, attorney, handsome, author, poet, musician, pilot, parachutist, sky diver, scuba diver, lived all over the world, classical music enthusiast Seeking a female, attractive, intelligent, slender, gracious, compassionate, financially & emotionally secure, to share love & life. AD#1124

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single male, 6'3", 195lbs, fairly intelligent, enjoy running, reading, major goal is to get married and have a family. Seeking a female, enjoys reading and has goals AD#1631

I BET ON YOU!

Single male, tall, young, 6', medium build, enjoy good music, good food, dining Seeking a female who enjoys going to sporting events, wagering at the races, having a good time AD#1483

OPEN YOUR HEART

Single white male, 57, warm, loving, romantic, self employed, business man Seeking a female, similar qualities and interests AD#1426

VERY ACCEPTING

Single male, conservative looking, humorous, 46, enjoy dancing, old movies, especially Alfred Hitchcock's, drives in the country Seeking a female, 40-50, non slim OK, non professional OK, children from previous marriage OK, smoker OK, someone nice! AD#1591

OCEANS OF LOVE

Single Jewish male, 37, handsome, down to earth, fun to be with. Seeking a female, lovely, attractive, down to earth, 25-35, for compatible and understanding relationship AD#1177

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Single Jewish male, late 40's, 5'10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, compassionate, gentle, good sense of humour, enjoy the theater, long walks in the part, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking a female, single or widowed, intelligent, with similar interests and qualities, Orthodox preferred but not

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The Canadian Jewish news

Spring rekindles fan's love affair with baseball

By HARVEY ROSEN
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — I can't specifically recall when the love affair began, but it was perhaps around Grade 6 or 7.

For me, there was always a certain charm about Major League Baseball. Then again, it may have been that the opening of the season in early April was a harbinger of spring. The snow melted and the temperatures began their slow upward climb. On the other hand, it may have been my affection for statistics.

Hank Greenberg was before my time, but for obvious reasons I recall well third baseman Al "Flip" Rosen of the Cleveland Indians. And what Jewish kid didn't delight in the pitching of ex-Dodger left-hander Sandy Koufax, who was recently named favourite athlete of the 20th century by *Sports Illustrated*. And the furore when in 1965 Koufax refused to pitch the series opener because it was Yom Kippur. Not to mention his last six seasons when he compiled a 129-47 record and a sparkling 2.19 ERA.

These payers, had they been born in the '70s or '80s, would have commanded astronomical salaries. Which brings me to one Shawn David Green. The 27-year-old rightfielder, traded in the off-season by the Toronto Blue Jays to the Los Angeles Dodgers, is locked into a pact with the California club for six years at $14 million per season.

The $84-million contract is the fourth largest in baseball. Will it put pressure on Green? Last year the Dodgers, with one of the highest payrolls in baseball, finished the season at 77-85, 23 games back of the division-winning Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Dodgers presume the Jewish kid will bring some of the bat that banged out 42 homers, drove in 123 runs and produced a .309 batting average.

For the Jays, it was the most reluctant trade of all. But if a man doesn't want to work for your firm, then it's best that there be a parting of the ways.

One L.A. paper wrote following the swap: "For someone who had not had a bar mitzvah and does not attend services, Shawn had declared he would sign only with a team in a city with a large Jewish population."

The winner of the 1999 Golden Glove Award, after making only a single error last season, added that if it became a question of playing on Yom Kippur, like Koufax, he more than likely won't play – not for reasons of personal religious conviction, but to make a statement.

If L.A.'s current record is any indication of Dodger depth, then Green won't likely have to test his Jewish allegiance any time soon.

Another Jewish ballplayer under the microscope in the new millennium will doubtless be outfielder Gabe Kapler, acquired in the off-season by the Texas Rangers from Detroit in a blockbuster nine-player transaction.

Kapler, 24, formerly named Minor League Player of the Year by *Baseball Weekly* and *USA Today*, was only moderately successful in his rookie season with Detroit. He hit .245, banged out 18 homers and drove in 49 runs.

Seen as a replacement in right field for departed Ranger slugger Juan Gonzalez, Gabler has large shoes to fill. Gonzalez checked in last year with .326-39-128, the kind of numbers that open franchise vaults.

The rightfielder's family is Conservative, although Christmas was celebrated until he was nine. Attendance at Hebrew school followed shortly thereafter.

For the record, Kapler's claim to fame thus far is that he stole the final base ever at venerable Tiger Stadium on Sept. 27, 1999, before the team moved to its new downtown location.

Brad Ausmus, 31, whose mom is Jewish, is a mainstay with Detroit. The swift catcher (12 stolen bases) hit .275 last season, smacked nine homers and drove in 59 runs. His real forte is defence, having committed only two errors last year. His .998 fielding average led major league receivers. Not to mention his six triples. Brad was rewarded with a spot on the all-star team as a result.

Phillie catcher Mike Lieberthal, who has a Jewish dad, is only 28 and is a rising star. Also a Golden Glove winner in the NL last season, he hit .300, drove in 96 runs and set a record for Philadelphia catchers with 31 taters.

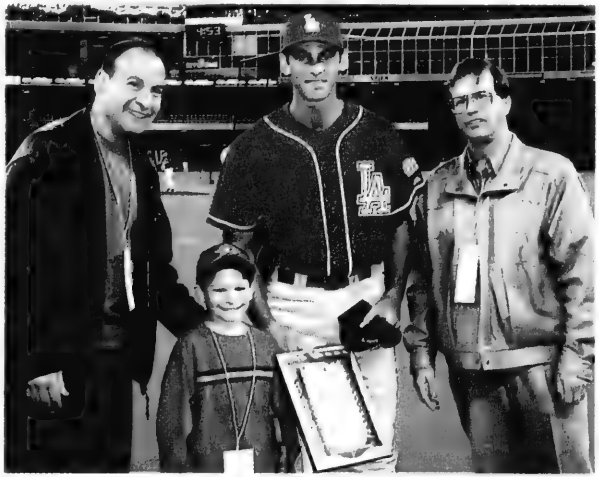
Scott Radinsky (Jewish mom) will be back as a middle reliever with the Cardinals. The hurler, who has overcome cancer, was 2-1 with an ERA of 4.88 in '99. The 32-year-old registered three saves before undergoing arthroscopic surgery in late July to remove bone chips from his left elbow.

Al Levine, 32, is being counted on again in the bullpen by the Anaheim Angels. He's a keeper with a 3.39 ERA in 85 innings and a 1-1 record.

On the cusp and names to watch in the future are David Newhan, a second baseman with San Diego; catcher Jesse Levis, making a bid with Cleveland; journeyman shortstop Eddie Zosky with the Brewers; and Dan Cey (son of Ron, an ex-Dodger and ex-Cub) in the Twins organization.

There is, incidentally, a bumper crop of Jewish minor leaguers ready to make the leap to the majors.

Now, bring on the best of all seasons.



From left, David Engel, co-chair, UJA FEDERATION Campaign 2000; Max Wolfond, Shawn Green and Howard Price recently at SkyDome.

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Wartime broadcast imagines life in Nazi-occupied Canada

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Canada lies prostrate under the Nazi heel. The swastika flies from the Peace Tower in Ottawa. *Deutschland über Alles* – the anthem of Adolf Hitler's Germany – is played at Toronto City Hall. Women are shipped off to Gestapo labour camps.

What gives?

If you were listening to J. Frank Willis' 1942 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio series, *Nazi Eyes On Canada*, you might think that the unthinkable – the German invasion and occupation of Canada – had come to pass. "What couldn't happen has happened," we're told in melodramatic tones.

The five plays, featuring an all-star, dulcet-voiced cast led by Orson Welles, Helen Hayes and Vincent Price, were based on reports written by Colin Ross, a German spy who travelled through Canada on a reconnaissance mission in the 1930s.

Broadcast during the darkest days of World War II, when German armies were on the march in Europe and North Africa, *Nazi Eyes On Canada* was part drama and part propaganda. It was ultimately designed to stiffen Canadians' resolve in the face of German military victories and to raise money for Canadian war bonds. In the words of a stentorian narrator, "We won't win the war unless we put all efforts into winning it."

Now the plays, whose running time is two-and-a-half hours, are available on two audio cassettes released by a Toronto company, Scenario Productions.

The first one, turning on the Welch family of Toronto, incorporates a speech made to the nation by former prime minister W.L. Mackenzie King a week before *Nazi Eyes On Canada* was aired. Denouncing Germany's "lust for conquest," King declared that its satanic objective was "to possess the world's soul."

The Welches, a typical middle-class WASP family of the era, are crushed by the weight of Germany's occupation. Joe, a demobilized soldier, is sent off to Germany to work in the mines. One of his beautiful sisters is dispatched to an Aryan breeding camp. "There is no future and hope anymore," wails her distraught mother. Weigmann, a Nazi administrator, retorts, "There is no place for silly sentiments in the new order."

The second episode, which takes place on an Alberta ranch owned by John and Cora Stevenson, emphasizes the theme of betrayal amid the spectre of a family breakup.

Dresser, the local Nazi heavy, requisitions the Stevensons' cattle, horses and grain. And in a final indignity, he places their 11-year-old daughter, Rosemary, under his protection. Thoroughly brainwashed by Nazi teachers, Rosemary turns against her parents.

Meanwhile, brave Canadian ranchers retreat to redoubts in the Rocky Mountains. They return as guerrilla fighters, blowing up oil wells. As the play ends, Canada's finance minister urges Canadians to fight with their hearts and souls to defeat Germany.

In the next play, the focus shifts to Sandy Smith and his family, residents of a town in the Maritimes. They, too, resist the predatory Nazis.

The subsequent play is set in Vancouver, and focuses on an imaginary takeover of British Columbia by Japan, Germany's Axis ally. Bob Maxwell, a solid, patriotic citizen, battles the sly and contemptible Hadaka, an ethnic Japanese fisherman who collaborates with Japan.

The last play unfolds in the prairies. German panzer divisions have overrun Canada and the Luftwaffe has rained death and destruction on Canadian cities.

If nothing else, *Nazi Eyes On Canada* reminds us of a perilous time when western civilization hung in the balance.

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1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup cocoa

Filling:
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(1) 11 oz can sweetened condensed milk
2/3 cup chocolate syrup
1 tblsp instant coffee granules
1 tsp hot water
1 cup whipping cream

Crust: Melt margarine. Stir in crumbs, sugar, cocoa. Reserve 1/2 cup crumbs. Press remaining crumbs in bottom and up sides of ungreased 9" springform pan.

Filling: Beat cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in condensed milk and syrup. Dissolve coffee in hot water and add to cheese mixture. Whip cream until stiff and fold into cheese mixture. Pour into prepared pan. Scatter reserved crumbs over top. Freeze at least 4-6 hours.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My boyfriend is Jewish and I am not. His parents have a real problem with our relationship. I was raised in a home where only my father was Jewish and I have always considered converting. Now that I have met a man I care for, I feel the time is right.

His parents are against our relationship. They don't want to know anything about me because they can't seem to get past the fact that I am not Jewish. They have told my boyfriend they do not want to meet me.

I'm not sure how to handle this situation. Any help would be appreciated.

Conversion Crossroads

Dear Conversion Crossroads,

You have a fair amount of soul searching ahead of you. Converting to Judaism is a major commitment, one that cannot be made on a whim.

I know you feel it would be easier in many ways if you converted. Your boyfriend's parents would accept you, your relationship would be religiously united and if you had children, they would be raised with a clear religious identity.

It all sounds great on the surface; however, you have to give some thought to what it means to be a Jew. Put everything else aside. Think and learn about the commitment of becoming a Jew.

Do you want to be converted by an Orthodox, Conservative or Reform rabbi? Do you know the difference and what it would mean to your life and lifestyle?

I think you need to do some research before you begin on your road to conversion. There are many books available on the subject and many rabbis with whom you could speak. This is a life-altering decision you are about to make. Don't make it lightly and don't be pressured into making it for anyone but yourself.

As far as your boyfriend's parents, I feel this is his problem to handle. He needs to explain to them what is going on and the difficult decision you are trying to make. With patience and time, they may come around.

Good luck.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. *But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

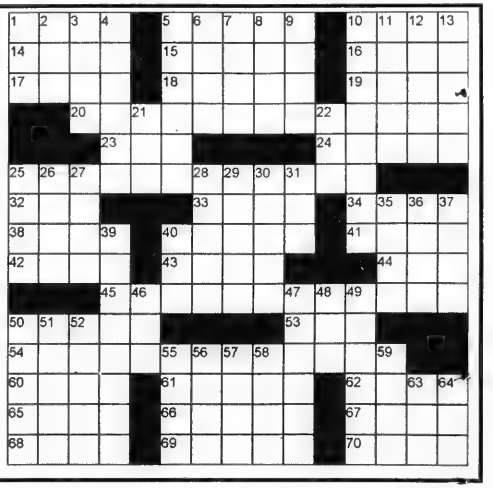
One, Two, Only One's A Jew

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across
1 Un-kosher animals
5 Profession of faith
10 Qumran feature
14 Aspirin target
15 LBJ, say
16 "Family Ties" character
17 Zachary Taylor, for instance
18 Make changes
19 Zippo
20 GOLDBERG
23 Aussie bird
24 Matzah lack
25 MOSES
32 Paul's singing partner
33 Mystery writer ___ Stanley Gardner
34 Some tides
38 Pro ___ (proportionately)
40 "Never ___"
41 Faucet trouble
42 "Butcher of ___"
43 Backtalk
44 ___-Wan Kenobi
45 MOSES
50 Masada event
53 Links org.
54 GOLDBERG
60 Reaction to Rich Little
61 "Close Encounters" subject
62 Pius XII, for example
65 Muslim holy man
66 "What, me ___?" (Alfred E. Neuman's catchphrase)
67 Cuddly film creature
68 Stiller and Affleck
69 It powered Fulton's boat
70 Give two thumbs up, maybe

Down
1 Dog's offering
2 I, to Einstein
3 F followers
4 Led into
5 *Yichus*
6 Prefix with sphere
7 Michael Eisner, for instance
8 Lion's pride
9 Time ___ half
10 Didn't trot
11 Shalom, in Honolulu
12 Earth neighbor
13 Utilize, as influence
21 Dallas sch.
22 Jewish ___ (bread type)
25 ___ of Derby (Disraeli's predecessor)
26 Skeleton key?
27 1943 Physics Nobelist Stern
28 Of concern to Brandeis
29 X out
30 Top party guests
31 Study
35 It may be furrowed
36 Israeli PM, casually
37 Politician's stance
39 "Israel" for "serial", and others
40 Hard wood
46 Driving tool
47 Kafka, vis-a-vis "Kafkaesque"
48 Driving force
49 Dressed to the nines
50 Master, in India
51 Part of Caesar's boast
52 Novelist Canin
55 Woodshed tools
56 ___ machine (Vegas sight)
57 Send a telegram
58 Sister of Zeus
59 Hawkeye's home
63 Gambler's winnings
64 Scrape (out), as a living

(Answers are on page 36.)



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This Week

National

Rikudiyah marks 1,000 years of Yiddish. *Page 2*

CJC lashes out at Ecker's remarks on funding. *Page 5*

Society sets impossible standards for moms, author says. *Page 13*

On Campus

U of T Jewish students to get new home. *Page 19*

Party Planner

Be happy....it's a party!

Look inside for our 52-page party supplement. *Section B*

Health & Lifestyles

Diet is a four-letter word, dietician says. *Page 20*

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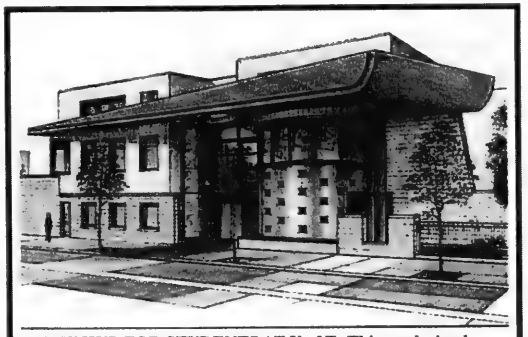
www.cjnews.com

Israel Funwalk 2000

The annual UJA FEDERATION walk for Israel, held last Sunday, raised over $200,000 for social services here and overseas. At left, the Lichtblau family was among the 8,000 participants: from left (back) are Perry, Reva and Shauna, 10; in front, Lori, 7, Ryan, 4, family dog Taffy, and Bradley, 11. Right, Joshua Weiss, 5, gets a hug from Tony the Tiger at Nathan Phillips Square before the walk begins. Walkers followed a route through old Jewish Toronto to Ontario Place. *[Frances Kraft photos]*



A NEW HUB FOR STUDENTS AT U of T: This rendering by architect Susan Friedrich depicts the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, to be completed next year at the northwest corner of Huron and Harbord in Toronto. *See story on page 19.*

Weizman resigns

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — President Ezer Weizman informed Prime Minister Ehud Barak last week that he will resign from his post by July 10 or 11 at the latest.

Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg told *Ha'aretz* that the Knesset would elect a new president in a secret vote on Aug. 1. Burg will serve as acting president until a new president is elected, in accordance with Israeli law.

Weizman decided to resign after Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Prosecutor Edna Arbel issued a report last week indicating that Weizman had behaved in an improper manner by accepting more than $300,000 from businessmen Edouard Saroussi and Rami Ungar while serving as an MK and cabinet minister.

Barak said last Sunday that he would support "[Shimon] Peres." The Likud party has nominated MK Moshe Katzav for the presidency.

Both sides in the race say that the outcome of the race between Katzav and Peres depends on how Shas votes.

The Likud is claiming that they have already won support from United Torah Judaism for Katzav, and that some Arab MKs have secretly promised that they will back Katzav.

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Bemidbar
Candlelighting: 8:35
Havdallah: 9:40

Update on Iranians' trial — please see page 22

Rikudiyah marks 1,000 years of Yiddish

Teme Kernerman

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Teme Kernerman didn't expect an armload of roses at last week's Rikudiyah, but in a surprise tribute, 30 youngsters presented her with a single rose each, symbolizing her 30 years of organizing the annual Israeli dance festival for children.

This year's Rikudiyah, held on Lag b'Omer at York University's Tait McKenzie Gymnasium, featured 289 dancers between the ages of eight and 12, representing 15 Jewish schools, including the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. The other schools are based in the Toronto area.

"To see young Jewish children dancing on Lag b'Omer is the best sign of creativity and growth in our community," said Seymour Epstein, director of the Board of Jewish Education, which co-sponsored the event along with the Koffler Centre of the Arts-Bathurst Jewish Centre, where Kernerman is based.

The gym reverberated with the sound of Yiddish music — songs like *Az Der Rebbe Zingt* and *Alle Brider* — as children from all the schools danced simultaneously in individual circles. To explain the theme of this year's Rikudiyah, Kernerman noted that just as Lag b'Omer marks a story of survival in the pages of Jewish history, so has the Yiddish language survived. It is now experiencing a strong revival, she added. Thus, Rikudiyah 2000 celebrated its own 30th anniversary as well as 1,000 years of Yiddish. All the dances were set to Yiddish music and participants were taught some of the dances and lyrics to the song *Ot Azoi*, performed by the Hot Latkes Klezmer band.

The Chai Dancers, Kernerman's dance group for seniors, opened the program with a dance called Shtetel *Sher. Sher*, explained Kernerman, is the Yiddish word for scissors. The dance, influenced by the French quadrille, depicts the movements of a tailor's scissors with its crossing motions.

Later in the program, the younger participants echoed the opening with a variation called *Sherele*, in which a line of dancers snakes through itself to simulate the threading of a needle.

"It's really a tricky formation," said Kernerman.

The News in Brief will return next week

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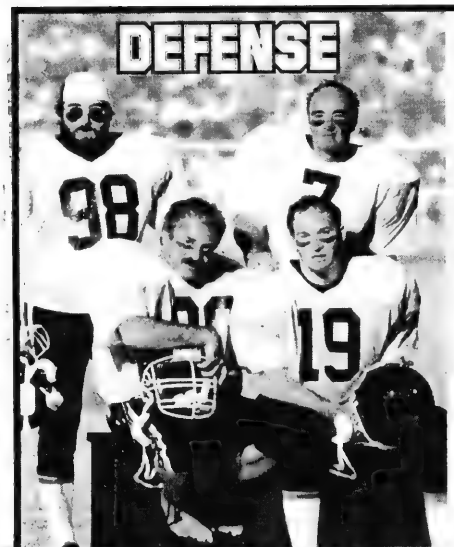

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Newspaper article angers Hamilton Jews

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An article in the *Hamilton Spectator* that criticizes Jews and Israel for allegedly ignoring the suffering of genocide victims has angered the city's Jewish community and prompted demands for a meeting with the paper's editors.

The article is "factually wrong," "verges on a diatribe" and is "a slap in the face" to the Jews of Hamilton, said Patricia Tolkin Eppel, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Hamilton. "The whole thing was rife with inaccuracies, but it's the tone that worries me more."

Tolkin Eppel said the article "underplayed true Jewish emotions about the Holocaust and is dismissive."

Kirk LaPointe, editor in chief of the *Spectator*, said, "There's no question I feel no small piece of contrition over the way the article was phrased."

LaPointe acknowledged that "there are aspects of the article that didn't work," but he said the paper did not intend to offend the Jewish community.

"It's not in our demeanour or value system to offend either directly or through code language," he said. The author of the piece is "mortified" at the response it has generated, but LaPointe maintained the term "holocaust" was a legitimate subject for debate.

The article, by Neville Newman, a teacher who serves as a member of the *Spectator's* community editorial board, is headed "We need to acknowledge the other holocausts." It refers to the numerous pebbles scattered at Oskar Schindler's memorial tree at Yad Vashem and expresses his "distaste" for the "false emotion born from a Spielberg-inspired hysteria."

> *'Rife with inaccuracies'*

He goes on to suggest that "memorials to 'the' Holocaust reiterate in our consciousness the systematic killing of six million Jews while simultaneously reducing, almost to the point of non-existence, the memory of those of other faiths and ethnicities who died along side them, other than, perhaps, by means of a handful of stones tossed, as an afterthought, around a tree somewhere."

Tolkin Eppel said the federation has fielded dozens of calls from readers angry about the article.

A correction published alongside a piece by LaPointe did not go far enough to undo the damage it caused, she said. It corrected one of the article's factual errors – the claim that Israel did nothing to help Rwandan genocide victims – but it omitted reference to the tone of the article and Newman's contention that "the grotesquely politicized suffering that is the Holocaust has made stones of too many Jewish hearts."

The article's dismissive tone rankles Len Rudner, director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress.

"How could people not be upset by this? It was horrible," he said. "Newman suggests that Jews are not interested in the suffering of others, that Israel was not interested in Rwanda."

Rudner and Tolkin Eppel said they want to meet with the *Spectator's* editorial board to discuss the piece and what Tolkin Eppel called "the overall trend that culminated in this article." The paper has run articles from other publications that showed a lack of sensitivity and even-handedness, she contended.

LaPointe rejected that suggestion, saying the paper had run hundreds of articles on the Mideast, and to single out one or two is "tremendously unfair."

He said that "staffing issues at the newspaper worked against a thorough-going edit" of the Newman piece. As a result, it suffered from "inelegant passages, its language was excessive and it had at least one factual error."

But, he added, "I don't think that any piece that could offend people could constitute the general tone of the *Hamilton Spectator*."

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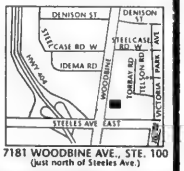

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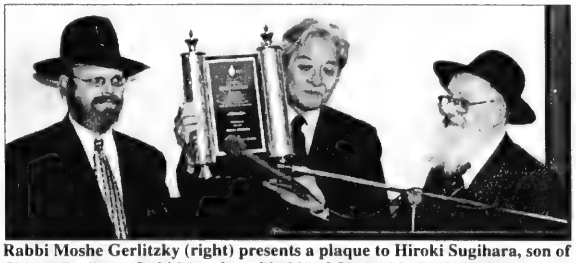
Greater Toronto Area

Chabad honours Sugihara

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter


Rabbi Moshe Gerlitzky (right) presents a plaque to Hiroki Sugihara, son of Chiune Sugihara. Rabbi Avraham Plotkin of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham Congregation looks on. [Photo courtesy Chabad Lubavitch of Markham]

TORONTO — At the beginning, there was one man on the bimah, an elderly Japanese. He was joined by another elderly man, a rabbi with a black coat and hat and long white beard. Then four more people came up.

At the end, the bimah was filled with people.

It was a poignant demonstration of the good done by Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul in wartime Lithuania. Against the direct orders of the Japanese government, during one month in 1940 he issued transit visas that saved more than 6,000 Jews.

His reward was a humiliating dismissal from his position in the foreign service.

Sugihara, through his son Hiroki, was recently honoured by Chabad Lubavitch of Markham Congregation. Rebbitzen Goldie Plotkin had heard the story of Chiune Sugihara and thought that paying tribute to him would be a fitting Yom Hashoah program.

When she told her grandfather, Rabbi Moshe Gerlitzky, a Holocaust survivor who now lives in Montreal, she was stunned to discover that he had been saved by the Japanese diplomat, and yearned to thank him.

"He asked if he could make the presentation," Plotkin told *The CJN*.

The rabbi, shaking with emotion, presented Hiroki Sugihara with a scroll in the shape of an open Torah.

The shul's spiritual leader, Rabbi Avraham Plotkin, said people such as Sugihara and Oskar Schindler "didn't just save Jews. They saved our faith in goodness."

Hiroki Sugihara, in a speech punctuated with a dry wit, said he tells his father's story in the hope that people, especially children, will learn that "one person can make a difference, if [he or she has] the courage to stand on principle. One person can be a force in stemming evil."

Chiune Sugihara, his son said, was a career diplomat in Japan's foreign service. He saved his country millions of dollars when he discovered that "Russia was trying to sell them the Northern Manchuria railroad for five times its worth."

After serving in Helsinki for two years, he was assigned to Kaunas (Kovno), Lithuania. Ten months later, in July 1940, all the consulates were ordered to close.

Towards the end of July, hundreds of Jews began to hammer on the doors of the Japanese consulate, asking for help. "They realized that their only safety was to escape from Lithuania through Russia and Siberia, to Japan."

Sugihara realized that "he was the only one who could make the decision on whether to follow Japanese orders, or to follow humanitarian principles."

With the encouragement of his wife, Hiroki said, from July 27 until the end of August, Chiune Sugihara signed 200 to 300 transit visas a day, 2,139 in all.

Ironically, after the war, the Sugihara family itself became refugees, interned by the Russians for a year and a half.

When they finally returned to Japan, Chiune Sugihara was told he had to resign from the foreign service, as he had disobeyed direct orders.

For some time, the family lived in relative poverty, with Chiune working as an interpreter, translator and a teacher. "For a time, he peddled light bulbs door to door. He gave up after a week. We didn't buy light bulbs for five years."

Even through his humiliation at the loss of his career, Hiroki said, "he never expressed regret" at what he had done.

It is thought that there are now between 40-60,000 Jews in the world because of Chiune Sugihara's selfless act.

From the Editor's Desk will return next week.

SEE JN

REMEMBERING A UNIQUE MOMENT IN HISTORY: Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) is celebrated on the 28th day of Iyar. This photo recalls the very moment 33 years ago, during the Six Day War, when the Western Wall was returned to Jewish sovereignty after a hiatus of almost 2,000 years.

CJC lashes out at Ecker's remarks on funding

TORONTO — The Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress has used some of the strongest language in memory in response to comments made recently by Education Minister Janet Ecker.

In response to a set-up question from fellow Tory MPP Jerry Ouelette on the government's commitment to public education, Ecker referred to last February's United Nations decision which found that Ontario discriminates against Jews and other minority religions by funding Catholic schools and not other faith-based education systems.

"Our commitment to public education is very clear," Ecker stated May 17 during question period. "A publicly funded education system, one that has higher standards, better quality, more accountability, is very important, very much a building block for not only our economic prosperity in this province, but also our success as a society and our quality of life.

"When we were challenged by the United Nations and by the federal Liberals to back off that commitment, we stood firm and said no," Ecker said.

That prompted a tart response from Keith Landy, chair of CJC's Ontario region:

"As a strong supporter of public education in this province I *almost* found myself rising to my feet to applaud your May 17 statement in the Legislature: 'When we were challenged by the United Nations and by the federal Liberals to back off that commitment (to public education), we stood firm and said no.' I said *almost* because behind your Churchillian steadfastness lies some remarkable misunderstanding and misrepresentations.

"Allow me to restate your remark: 'When we were challenged by the United Nations and by the federal Liberals to stop being the only jurisdiction to publicly fund the schools of one religious denomination and not those of other religious denominations, we stood firm and said no.'

Landy invites minister to meet

"Doesn't sound so good now does it? But that is precisely what your government did.

"The perpetuation of this offensive policy (state-sponsored religious discrimination) is, again and again, justified by you as necessary to defend public education in this province. As if public education was threatened in all those other jurisdictions which provide public support to religiously based independent schools.

"Let me repeat what I have said to you over and over again. No one has asked you to take $ 300 million out of the public education system in order to eliminate this blatant discrimination. The amount of money in question is only about one half of one percent of the total provincial budget. In light of the fact that provincial finances are now moving into a surplus, this must surely allow your government the opportunity to make new allocations without cutting into existing budgets.

"Madame Minister, as minister of education, surely you have the responsibility and mandate to represent the public at large. [Some members] of your public attend non-Catholic religious schools and don't enjoy being treated as second class citizens. No amount of 'tough talk' in the legislature against the perceived dangers of the United Nations and the federal Liberals will ever let you escape from the fundamental injustice which you seem so determined to perpetuate.

"Allow me once again to invite you to meet with representatives of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region to discuss the ways and means by which your government can end this discrimination immediately," Landy's letter stated.

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Civilization and Human Progress?" and
"The Basic Difference between
Judaism & Christianity"
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"The Ten Commandments Revealed
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Paul Marcus has been appointed Senior Vice-President of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation of Toronto. He is responsible for all Development programs including Major and Planned Gifts, Community Development and Donor Relations.

Most recently, he was Vice-President, responsible for Major and Planned Gifts and The Best Medicine Campaign. To date, The Best Medicine Campaign has raised over $125 million, making it the largest fund raising campaign in Canadian hospital history. The Association for Healthcare Philanthropy recently presented two Showcase Awards to Mount Sinai for The Best Medicine Campaign, as well as its Planned Giving program.

Mr. Marcus has held senior positions in the public sector, including Director of Development at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and Director of the Institute for International Affairs of B'nai Brith Canada.

He has a Bachelor of Laws from Queen's University, and a B.A. from the University of Toronto.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Toronto Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE), and is Vice-Chair for a major fund raising conference in Toronto in November, 2000.

The Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation of Toronto supports excellence in patient care, research and teaching at Mount Sinai Hospital and its Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute. The Foundation is committed to providing the highest levels of private support and community leadership to the Hospital.

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Greater Toronto Area

NYGH's Branson division moving to more ambulatory care

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Branson Division of North York General Hospital (NYGH) will continue to reorganize its services this summer and strengthen its ambulatory care services, a meeting of the executive of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region was told last week.

The number of beds will be up slightly, day surgery will continue to be offered, urgent care for walk-in patients will be available and ambulatory care will be stressed at the new, revamped Branson, said Murray MacKenzie, president and CEO of North York General.

MacKenzie, along with NYGH vice-president Dianne Anderson, briefed the executive on changes at Branson, which was taken over by NYGH in 1998 as part of the restructuring of health services mandated by the provincial government.

In the next three to four months, Branson will offer more outpatient services and it will shift its ambulatory care services from the Leslie/Sheppard site to the Branson site at Finch and Bathurst, MacKenzie said.

By August, Branson will no longer receive patients who arrive in ambulances, though 95 percent of its emergency services will continue to be offered. By September all the ophthalmology services as well as many other surgical procedures will move to Branson, he said.

The centrepiece of the changes forecast for Branson is its planned ambulatory care centre that will provide comprehensive health services for area residents. The idea behind the centre is to treat patients, many of them seniors, during the day and allow them to return to their own homes at night.

The ambulatory services that will be available to patients include: health education; cardiology and respiratory services; rehabilitation; diagnostic imaging; surgical/endoscopy suite; and laboratory services.

MacKenzie said 98 interim long-term beds in Finch Villa, which is part of Branson, will continue to operate at least until 2002.

Identifying health problems early on is a key component of the ambulatory centre, MacKenzie said. The centre's primary care service will see teams of health professionals, including doctors, nurses and social workers, identify areas of concern and refer patients to the appropriate care.

A seniors' wellness program is designed to provide outreach to elderly patients, provide home care and community support services. The hospital will work in conjunction with Jewish social service agencies, and organizations from other communities, to treat patients, Anderson said.

Currently, NYGH is mandated to provide medical services as far west as Keele Avenue, but it hasn't had the resources to provide services beyond Yonge. It now appears that more public funds from both the provincial and federal governments may allow the hospital to expand its services to the west, she said.

MacKenzie said he expects construction to begin in two to three years on a facility that will house 151 long-term care beds.

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Basherte workshop set

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Singles of all ages will have a chance to meet their soul mates at this week-end's Basherte workshop, sponsored by Kolel, the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning.

The workshop, in Toronto for the first time, was created by Efraim and Rosalie Eisen, in order to bring Jewish singles together and to enhance Jewish identity, relationships and knowledge of Jewish spirituality. It is intended for singles from all levels of Jewish observance, from the unaffiliated to modern Orthodox.

The Basherte workshop is an opportunity for singles who are "spiritual seekers and looking to grow personally, to meet others who are also spiritually sensitive, serious Jews," says Rabbi Neal Loevinger, head of Kolel's department of outreach.

Ideal mates, he says, will share the same values. By attending the workshop, singles will gain a clearer idea of what is important to them, "based on their own spiritually Jewish commitment. There are many different ways to be Jewish, and in part of the workshop, participants will discover where they are in their Jewish journey, and what kind of person they want to travel along with them," says Rabbi Loevinger.

It is also a chance to think about their own vision of a soul mate, he said, whether it is someone to share such ideals as a commitment to social action, or a traditional Jewish home.

The workshop at Kolel will take place in three parts over the course of the weekend, with an option for just the first section. There may be times when smaller groups are formed with the intent of allowing those of similar ages and backgrounds a chance to interact and meet each other.

For information, call Kolel at 416-485-7007.

Greater Toronto Area

Rabbi Marcus honoured for 20 years of service

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – When Rabbi Raphael Marcus reluctantly agreed to be honoured for serving 20 years as spiritual leader of B'nai Torah Congregation, he gave strict orders about the gifts he expected (none) and the praise that would be given him (also none).

To his obvious embarrassment, but to the delight of the audience, both directions were ignored.

Nearly 500 people attended the tribute dinner, which was held at the Regency Ballroom in Woodbridge.

Also honoured was Harry Guest, who received the synagogue's community service award for his efforts to make kosher food more accessible to the Toronto kosher consumer.

Rabbi Shmuel Marcus, the rabbi's son, acknowledged that "it is futile to ask my father to talk [about himself]." He praised him for being able to understand each individual, and being able to relate in the most appropriate manner.

A teenager who had gone to him for some help described him as "so cool," Shmuel said.

He is concerned with people's feelings, and is able to empathize with them, said Shmuel, likening it to "putting on and taking off other people's clothes."

As well, he works with "those unfortunate people who are rejected by others – the homeless, those in prison."

Shmuel said that the kindness shown by his father, and by his mother Rochel Leah, are legion, from allowing someone who had been evicted to sleep on their couch, to abandoning a vacation when a member of the congregation was seriously or fatally, ill, to always being available to their children.

Synagogue president Jay Shiel praised Rabbi and Rebbetzen Marcus for their commitment to teaching, and as role models in *kibud av v'aim* (honoring parents) and child rearing.

Shiel noted that when Rabbi Marcus became aware that there were homeless Jewish children in the area, he proposed letting them sleep in the shul. "When I said that we would have to have a security guard or a social worker there, he said that he himself would stay with them," Shiel remembered.

B'nai Torah's good name in the community is "entwined with that of Rabbi Marcus," Shiel said.

Dinner chair, Jack Kahn, said that the organizing committee had followed the rabbi's injunction to "not give gifts of gold or silver." Instead, they gave the couple tickets "to visit their children in Israel."

Rabbi Marcus, who playfully threatened to tell the truth about "the real Rabbi Marcus" during his next three sermons,said that his rebbetzen fully deserved being honoured. "It is on her back I can be shlepped along."

Guest was praised by his daughter, Symee Citron, as being largely responsible for the development of the Clark and Hilda IGA store. It is the only supermarket in North America to have such an extensive kosher grocery selection, which includes a complete bakery, prepared food, deli, fish, cheese, and fresh meat departments.

Citron said that he has "earned the respect of his family, friends and colleagues."

Guest, who will be 80 in two weeks, she said, was also active in UJA FEDERATION, Jewish National Fund, and with the Variety Club.

Rabbi Marcus, describing Guest's work as an economic consultant to many foreign countries, said that he "is a model in spreading goodwill as an ambassador for our great country."

Guest was presented with a plaque by Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner and Mordechai Levin of the Kashruth Council (COR), and with the community service award by Gary Diamond and Howard Kurlandski.

CCFC Wheel-a-Thon

TORONTO — Elliott Gordon, a 12-year-old who has Crohn's disease is this year's honorary chair of Crohn's and Colitis Foundation's (CCFC) Heel 'n' Wheel-a-Thon.

Rain or shine, the Heel 'n' Wheel-a-thon will take place Sunday, June 11, at Toogood Pond Park, Unionville, with a kick-off at approximately 11 a.m.

Participants of all ages are invited to walk, bike, run, in-line skate, walk the dog, or even skip to help find the cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, two prevalent forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

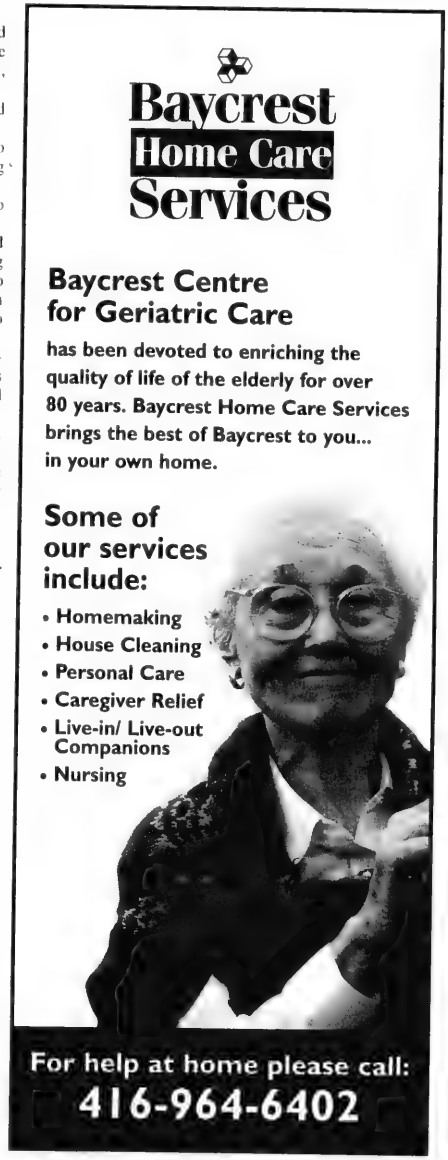
Elliott has an amazing outlook on his condition and has worked hard to get people to understand the nature of his illness. He was also last year's honorary chair of the annual Heel 'n' Wheel-a-Thon.

IBD is a term used to describe two similar, yet distinct conditions: Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. These diseases affect the digestive system and cause the intestines to become inflamed.

No one knows what causes IBD. It affects people regardless of race, gender or age. People are most frequently diagnosed between the ages of 15 and 25 years or 45 and 55 years.

This family oriented day promises to be one of fun and awareness. Last year, in York Region, the goal of $13,000 was surpassed and more than $26,000 was raised towards finding the cure for IBD.

For more information, call 416-783-2455.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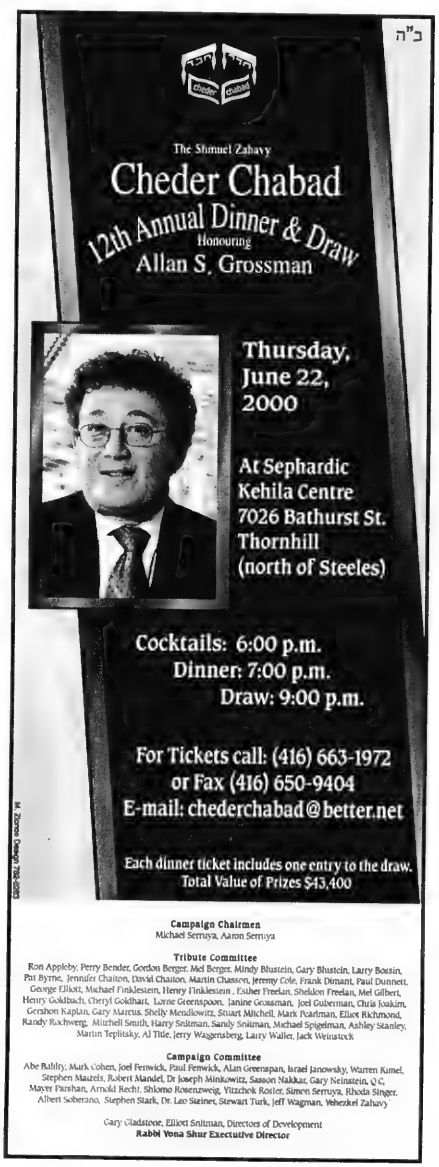
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Rocket Richard

His name alone was an alliterative force. While he played the game, his name evoked the image of sheer power, of speed and strength, of courage and raw will. And even after he played his last, it evoked those defining memories of a rare human being, whose every turn on a sheet of ice could rouse a crowd like the moon pulling on the waves of the ocean.

For the Rocket, the game was never simply a game, but rather a highly personalized statement about life: each game, like each day, too precious to squander through indifference, complacency or defeatism. The game was never simply about winning for its own sake, but rather about winning for the sake of his cause – his team, his teammates and the millions upon millions of fans and believers who trusted their hopes to him. The fire in his eyes burned for his cause: them. And they, his fans – Montrealers, Quebecers, Canadians – with reciprocal love, adored him to the very last day of his life, last Saturday.

The unknown soldiers

Last Sunday, so fitting and so poignant was the place that Canadians designated as the new memorial to the more than 27,000 Canadian soldiers who fell in wars this century and are buried, if at all, somewhere in unmarked graves. Their burial marker is now, appropriately, at home, in Ottawa. It acknowledges that only their graves are unknown, but not their lives, cut down before their time, or our everlasting gratitude.

Yom Yerushalayim

And at sundown tonight, Thursday evening, the Jewish people commemorate the reunification of Jerusalem. There are forces in the world that would divide that city once again. We must resist that with all our power and we must set aside at least a few moments on the 28th day of Iyar to recall that special time in our history some 33 years ago, to share the recollection with our children and to express our thanks that we have lived to see such wonderful things unfold for us, for the Jewish people and for the world.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Teffilin, Omed Teffilin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

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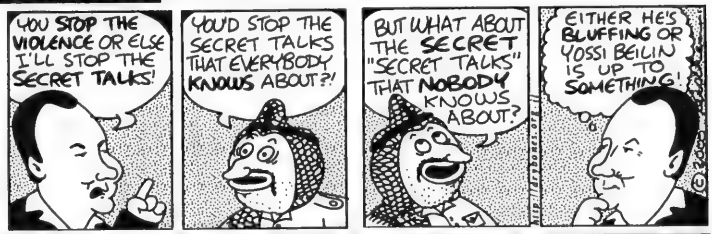
Editorials and Letters

Dry Bones


YOU STOP THE VIOLENCE OR ELSE I'LL STOP THE SECRET TALKS!
YOU'D STOP THE SECRET TALKS THAT EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT?!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SECRET "SECRET TALKS" THAT NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT?
EITHER HE'S BLUFFING OR YOSSI BEILIN IS UP TO SOMETHING!

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Irving Abella, Donald Carr, Q.C., Sydney Eisen, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Jack Kahn, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Guidy Mamann, Lou Ronson, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Joseph Steiner

When tradition is misrepresented

While Jean M. Gerber's sentiments about the inclusion of all Jews in our holy people may be laudable (*CJN*, May 4), she seems not to have very carefully read the Agudath Israel advertisement in the *New York Times* that she criticizes.

Our ad in no way disowned anyone from the Jewish people. It was simply a clear statement about the Reform movement's rabbinic group's public and loud proclamation to the world that they consider same-sex relationships Jewishly unobjectionable.

Agudath Israel has no interest in gratuitously criticizing other Jews, even when they do outrageous things. But we do have a clear and strong mandate to speak up when the Jewish religious tradition – the tradition that lies at the roots of all Jews, whether they choose to accept it or not – is misrepresented, and especially if its misrepresenters are Jewish clergy.

And so, we felt we had no choice but to declare, in the same sphere where the CCAR decision had been highlighted, the fact that the Torah forbids homosexual acts in no uncertain terms. Our ad did not throw anyone out of the Jewish people; what it did was offer accurate information and a phone number to an independent hotline that helps Jews find Jewish educational opportunities in their communities.

Among the Jews Gerber includes in her list of Jews are members of the "Israeli mafia." One imagines that, all the same, she still feels free to condemn murder.

Rabbi Avi Shafran
Director of Public Affairs
Agudath Israel of America

* * *

A call for aid to the SLA

I was deeply saddened by the early pictures coming in from the Israeli-Lebanese border. The pictures at the border, also known as "the Good Fence," showed thousands of South Lebanese Army (SLA) refugees pleading for refuge in northern Israel, from the imminent Hezbollah revenge attacks.

All Israelis, Jews, Zionists, post-Zionists and humanists, have an obligation to help these "sitting ducks." As Hezbollah guerrillas continue their consolidation of former Israeli outposts, the SLA will come under threat of brutality and possibly execution.

Lebanese factions have time and again shown no respect from human life and dignity in the region. Recall the infamous Sabra and Shatilla massacre of 1982, in which Christian Phalangists brutally massacred Palestinian refugees left in the wake of the PLO's retreat.

As a young Jew who has never picked up a weapon in defence of the northern settlement of Israel, and as a Jew who has immense pride in the protection of our lands, I am overwhelmed with guilt at the sealed fate of those who took my place in preserving the peace of the State of Israel.

Although in his recent trip to the region, Jean Chrétien did indicate his willingness to accept Lebanese refugees into Canada, it is an unlikely scenario. Today I call on all of the Jewish communal organizations and congresses, aid agencies and international political forums around the world to help these people begin their new lives.

Whether one agrees with their political stands, which I might add were taken 25 years ago in the midst of a Lebanese civil war in which there were a number of sides fighting each other, we are not dealing only with soldiers from the disbanded SLA, but also with their innocent wives and children.

This is an event that calls for the attention not only of Israeli and Diaspora Jews, but of all those who care for the preservation of human life and dignity.

David Skok
London, Ont.

Editor's note: As of this writing, some 6,000 former SLA soldiers and some of their families had found refuge in Israel.

* * *

Mistruths on refugees

I am amazed at the continued mistruths in the general press about "Arab refugees."

For example, in a recent report in a national daily newspaper, the number of Arab refugees "driven out of former Palestine" was quoted as 3.5 million. This is a brazen lie! There were never 3.5 million Arabs in the former Palestine!

The number of Arabs in Palestine in the year 1939, according to the gazette published by the British administration under the Mandate, was 741,380. The number of Jews at that time, according to the same official gazette, was 482,000. In 1948 (just prior to the declaration of the Jewish state), the gazette lists 802,442 Arabs and 608,000 Jews.

After UNRA undertook to feed refugees and provide temporary housing and schooling in the refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Gaza and Syria, the original number of approximately 480,000 refugees grew to 3.5 million! How? Very simple! Many Arabs who were not refugees declared that they were, and were accepted in these camps!

I wonder why the present Israeli leaders, who know these facts too, do not unmask the brazen lie behind the refugee claim.

E.R. Drucker
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Jerusalem of Gold still golden 33 years later

By SARAH HERSHENSON
WZPS

Naomi Shemer, Israeli composer and lyricist, has written hundreds of songs in her lifetime. Her words and poetry are famous, known and sung around the world. However, the words she wrote for *Jerusalem of Gold* three weeks before the Six Day War in 1967 were almost prophetic.

In the spring of 1967, Shemer was commissioned to write the song *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* (*Jerusalem of Gold*) for the Israel Song Festival. After the festival and for three weeks before the war, this song, sung by Shuly Natan, became instantly popular and was played constantly on the radio. Then the Six Day War broke out, and Shemer went with the army performance groups to be with the troops.

Naomi Shemer as she looked in the 1960s.

On June 7, the performing group found themselves outside of El Arish waiting for the battle to finish.

"Suddenly," Shemer remembers, "we heard the announcer on the radio informing his listeners that the Old City of Jerusalem had been retaken by the IDF and we could hear people in the background singing my song, *Jerusalem of Gold*. Two hours later, we were being whisked away to perform for the soldiers and deliver the news, which they had not yet heard, that Jerusalem was a united city.

"I also had my own message to add: during those two hours I had written a fourth stanza to the song, celebrating the fact that Jerusalem was reunited and that other parts of the land, which Jews had longed for for so many years, were now in our hands. I first read the words to the soldiers clearly, like a radio announcer, so that they would be sure to understand, and then sang the song in its completed version."

Since that day, *Jerusalem of Gold* has functioned almost as a "second" national anthem.

When greeting me at the door of her Tel Aviv apartment, however, Naomi Shemer does not seem like an Israeli legend. Israel's "first lady of Israeli song," Israel Prize winner and recipient of honorary doctorates from many universities, takes my hand, smiles and ushers me into a sunny room filled with the things she loves most: books, a piano, music, beautiful quilts made by friends and a child-sized table heaped high with toys for her grandchildren.

Then, in a voice warm with natural musical cadence, she quickly gets down to business. She tells me that she is a pensioner and writes only one or two new songs a year when circumstances call for it, such as the Hebrew version of *Captain, My Captain* after Yitzhak Rabin's death.

"I don't have the energy I once did," she says matter-of-factly. "The tempo of my life now is very easy and comfortable, with plenty of time for university courses, for grandchildren, to gladly assume the responsibilities of my new appointment as chairman of ACUM [the Israel organization for composers and writers], and as a member of the Academy of Hebrew Language, which is a great honour for me.

"However," she continues with good humour, "even when I am passive, my mind still works! Over the years, I have become a master of perfecting the state of 'intensive idleness.' This has been and will always be my way of life."

Then without missing a beat, Shemer tells of her new show. "It is a collection of my songs spanning many years," she explains enthusiastically, "and of course, I have written two new songs for it."

The verses of her two new songs, *Actualia* and *The Coat*, reveal Shemer's clear perception of and attitudes towards changing times. *Actualia* is a direct parody on the changing quality of life in Israel. *The Coat* surrealistically describes a beautiful coat of many colours which can fly freely over the "colourful patchwork quilt" view on the ground, and is oblivious to the coloured lines that allude to the colours of Israeli army maps.

Shemer herself does not like boundaries, since she grew up at a time in Israel where there were no boundaries or cement barricades.

"Before 1948, people travelled freely to Jordan, Lebanon and the Hermon," she recalls. "However, after the War of Independence, the barricades, which divided Jerusalem and the entire country into a Jordanian side and an Israeli side, bothered my generation very much.

"Between 1948 and 1967," Shemer remembers, "we felt that we were in a straightjacket of a narrow country, and we missed very much the feeling of open borders. Then came the days in 1967 before the Six Day War when there was a feeling of tension and excitement in the air. We had no idea about what would actually happen, and afterwards, the happiness was overwhelming."

Throughout the years, Shemer has written hundreds of songs and beautiful melodies that have become part of Israeli musical tradition and folklore. However, she recalls her illustrious career through untinted glasses.

"In 1948, during the War of Independence, I was 17 and on the front line in my kibbutz, Kvutzat Kinneret. Then after the war, I went to the Academy of Music in Jerusalem and received my degree in music education. However in 1952, the army realized I had not served regular duty. They drafted me and sent me to the cultural division of Nahal. I served with fine people like Chaim Topol, who would later give me the opportunity to write songs that would start me on my way to becoming a professional song writer. But while I was in the army, life was a challenge.

"You have to understand," she continues with eyes full of mischief. "I was a bad soldier and was regularly sent on punishment duty to distant places that had no running water or electricity. But I certainly saw different parts of the country that way, and later would write about them."

And so it follows that many of Naomi Shemer's songs cover the topography of Eretz Yisrael. Others speak of love, friendship, love of Israel and a myriad of topics that run the gamut in style, subject, mood and tempo.

"It is very important to me," she says, "that each song has a character of his own."

Many of her songs speak about the beauty of the Kinneret. When asked why, she smiles as she remembers her youth.

"I was born on Kvutzat Kinneret. My parents Rivka and Meir Sapir were from Vilna and came to Israel in the wave of the third aliyah. They helped build the kibbutz with their own hands. I remember my father as a warm, loving, funny person. He was the last commander in 1948 during Operation Bricha, which was the evacuation of the Jews of Europe from the camps to Palestine. My mother was in charge of my music education, and to her I owe all my professional skills."

After her IDF service, Shemer returned to Kvutzat Kinneret as a music teacher in the kindergarten.

"There were few Hebrew songs for toddlers about kibbutz life at the time," she says, "so I wrote my first eight songs for children about life on the kibbutz. Today it makes me happy to know that these songs, such as *The Postman Comes in a Red Van*, are still known and sung by children throughout the country. These songs are about the life in Kinneret, a wonderful place to grow up. The dearest points in my life happened to me in the kibbutz and therefore, were the first sources of my inspiration."

At the age of 26, Shemer left the kibbutz and went to Tel Aviv with her first husband, Gideon, and their baby daughter Leli. Here she wrote for Chaim Topol.

"After our experiences together in Nahal, he remembered that I could write music as well as poetry. From that point on, I became a professional songwriter. I am lucky to be in Israel which is a happy place for a songwriter. There is a constant demand and we have almost a monopoly on the Hebrew song industry."

Creating the good "marriage" between Hebrew words and music is very important to Shemer. "But needless to say, I want my songs to be sung by non-Hebrew speakers also. Therefore, I have translated the titles to English in my song books, and have also put in a transliterated English version of the Hebrew words under the music."

Shemer's lyrics and poetry are a rich melange of the Hebrew language. When asked why she uses quotes from the Bible and traditional texts, she answers, "When I was a young student, I had two wonderful teachers. We learned all the Israeli poets by heart, as well as many chapters in the Bible, Rashi and other traditional texts. We had a very intimate knowledge of the Bible because of the way it was taught. These words are part of my language and part of my life, and therefore part of my songs."

Although Shemer says that foreign languages are a challenge, it does not stop her from learning and using what she loves. She has translated to Hebrew and set to her own music the words of many French songs and the poetry of the Beatles.

"I love mixing ancient Hebrew and slang. Musical style is always moving forward and so must I. What the next generation of song writers is doing, like my son Ariel Horowitz (who wrote the hit *Yalla, Bye*), I find very exciting and am all for it. My daughter-in-law, Tamar Giladi, a wonderful singer, just released her first CD, *Those Very Days*, which also makes me happy."

It is evident that Shemer's home life has been rich in the beauty of music and words. Her husband, Mordechai Horowitz, is a lawyer and writer. Her daughter Leli is a language editor. Shemer herself is adding another language, Italian, to her linguistic inventory.

When asked about new developments in her music and style, Naomi Shemer thinks for a moment and then uses a quote she loves from *Lullaby for Sean* by John Lennon: "Life is something that happens when we are busy making other plans."

What are her plans for the future? "I am puzzled by the direction or lack of direction in which our lives are moving," she says. "I am full of hopes and fears."

However, one thing that remains a certainty and a constant is her love of the Land, its places of beauty, its cities and Jerusalem of Gold.

The cover of the original recording of *Jerusalem of Gold*. [WZPS photo]

Opinions

Opponents of circumcision

A recent article in *Commentary* called attention to the fact that a fair number of Jews no longer wish to have their male children circumcised. For those of us who consider *milah* a fundamental precept of Judaism, this is a worrisome development.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

For some decades, North American medical authorities took the position that circumcision was in fact a procedure that should be recommended for all newborn males, for it was seen to have distinctive physical benefits.

Of late, however, the position of the medical establishment has changed, and while circumcision is still a common practice in many hospitals, the medical benefits of the operation are no longer generally accepted.

In fact, there seems to be increasing opposition to the general advisability of having a circumcision done — a movement observable among both gentiles and Jews who consider circumcision to be a purely medical procedure.

They claim that any medical benefits of circumcision are negligible when compared to the child's trauma, which one writer describes as involving "the infant's heart rates, breathing, intensity and duration of crying, consolability, sociability, motor activity, flexion of fingers and toes, and sleep pattern."

All of these consequences are said to arise from the intense pain that the baby suffers at the time of the operation. (Pain is, however, no longer a necessary aspect of *milah*. No less a *halachic* and medical authority than Rabbi Moshe Tendler has approved a number of pain depressants.)

In any case, for most Jews, the operation is not to be assessed in terms of medical benefits. It is one of the basic mitzvot of our religion, and for a long time has been observed even by those for whom the concept of mitzvah played a minor role. Being male and Jewish has meant and still means that one has been circumcised shortly after birth.

Still, pessimists foresee the day when a child will sue his parents for having exposed him to a medically unnecessary procedure which resulted in "mutilation." I do not know what the court would decide, but I believe that pessimism is not really warranted. Jews will continue to have their boys circumcised and the exceptions will be relatively few.

I hope my personal optimism will not be contradicted by future developments. For I believe that greater religious commitment is at hand for Jews: We will be more intensely Jewish rather than neglectful of our tradition, and even those who live at the margin of our religious culture will feel that circumcision is one practice that must continue as a common bond.

Thursday's child

What was the world like on my birthday, Thursday, May 9, 1940? I went to the newspapers to find out.

• **The *Vancouver Sun***: The RAF was struggling to escape from Nazi-occupied Norway. Chamberlain was on his last day as prime minister of England. The United States was chided for refusing to join the war effort. Mussolini was posturing over his invasion of Ethiopia, his green card into the Axis.

Cloth coats sold for $12.95. Jack Benny's latest movie, *Buck Benny Rides Again*, was playing. Raymond Massey was appearing in *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*. The Vancouver Maple Leafs won.

Thirty British children arrived to shelter in B.C. homes. (None of them were Jewish orphans, who were barred from entry.)

Butter was 30 cents a pound. Kid gloves for Mom were $2.50 at Woodward's Department Store.

• **The *Globe and Mail***: War maps were two for 25 cents. Three TB cases had been diagnosed at Parkdale Collegiate in Toronto.

Under the headline, "Keeping Canada British," the editors noted that more Germans immigrated in 1939 to Canada than Scots, Irish or Welsh. "How many of these newcomers from the Fatherland, to which they still owe allegiance, are members of the 'fifth column'?" the editors asked. The largest group were Ruthenians (1,509), the second "Hebrews" (1,321).

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Of the more than 16,000 immigrants the previous year, they noted, more than 12,000 were non-British. "We are not going to build up a British nation in Canada with Germans, Bohemians, Croatians, Hebrews, Japanese, Magyars, Russians and Ruthenians predominating."

• **The *New York Times***: The German build-up on the border of Holland, the Dutch envoy to the United States assured America, was not a threat. The editors opined that it could be a "trick" to get French and English troops into the neutral countries of Holland and Belgium.

The pope called on Archangel Michael to preserve world peace. He did not mention Mussolini or the Jews of Catholic countries occupied by Germany (Poland, Czecholslovakia, Austria, France).

On page 10: Thirty-seven refugees, 26 of them "blunt, bronzed young German farmers," had arrived in the Dominican Republic. The Germans, as it turned out, were in fact Jewish refugees. "Although the U.S., with *generously interpreted immigration quotas* [my emphasis] has done much, the Dominican Republic is the first nation in the world to open land to large [sic] groups of European refugees as permanent settlers and promise them virtually the same rights that are enjoyed by the native born."

Don't get too excited about this generous gift, because as officials noted, "white men have never performed manual labour where these men are going… The land is not the most fertile… [but] the rest depends on [the settlers'] ability, adaptability and industry."

This "Sousa settlement" – sponsored by the American Society for Jewish Farm Settlements in Russia, set up a scheme to bring Jews from Europe under the auspices of the American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation.

Whoever they were.

What is missing, with the exception of the last article, from these reports? The situation of the Jews in Europe. Poland was already in the grip of the Germans, and Jews were daily being pushed into the ghettos, shot and deported. The few refugees who made it to the Dominican Republic were no doubt eternally grateful, but the chilling disregard for the Jews is stunning.

In sum, Canada supported the war with men and *matériel* (military equipment), while steadfastly ignoring Jewish peril, except to bemoan the non-British who had made it to Canada by 1939. Vancouver was blissfully unaware that Jews were in peril at all; and the *New York Times*, the paper of record, actually allowed itself to praise this feeble rescue effort by imagining that the United States' quota system had done anything but keep Jews out. Instead it praised a dictator's generosity in letting in 37 Jews to be settled on harsh and useless land.

On May 10, Churchill became prime minister of Great Britain. Germany invaded Belgium and Holland. On Sunday, everyone bought flowers and candy for Mothers Day.

Canada Post should learn from Israelis

When I was a lad growing up in Sydney, N.S., I collected stamps. I think I got started when my uncle Gordon gave me a first day of issue stamp and cover for some anniversary of Rotary International. I loved stamp collecting. I learned a lot about our country, its history, geography, and personalities, from those stamps. I also discovered a tremendous amount about foreign countries.

Bruce Elman in Edmonton

So, it is hard for me to believe it but apparently Canada Post has come up with the ultimate "me" generation development – vanity stamps. The stamp is actually a two part affair – one part is a 46 cent stamp with a picture frame on it. The other part is a sticker of whatever photo you have sent them. You peel off the vanity portion and affix it to the frame and voila – you have your likeness on a stamp.

According to the representative of Canada Post, "It's a stamp you can use for any occasion – a wedding, a new baby, a school graduation." It is a very cute idea until you give it some thought. Then, it turns out to be incredibly stupid!

Now what will they permit on these vanity stamps? According to the spokesperson, "Nude or obscene or racially motivated content…would not get on the stamp." Leaving aside the question of *who* is going to decide on what constitutes nudity or what's obscene or racially motivated, everything else seems to be fair game.

Think about the possible uses you can make of this stamp. The most obvious is the commercial use: Maybe Toyota would like to put a picture of its new Echo on a stamp or perhaps lawyers will send out all their mail with their pictures on various stamps.

You could collect all the partners in one firm and have a complete set. I can see it now – the Witten series or the Fraser Milner series. The firms could even issue their own books for collecting these stamps, complete with pictures, bios, and a list of their most prestigious clients. I can see the avid philatelist in Sri Lanka just waiting to get his next letter from Canada, hoping it has a stamp of that one partner he or she is missing from the set.

Or it could have a religious application. How about a series of stamps with brachot on them or there could be the "We Want Mashiach – Now!" stamp. We could even put our religious leaders on stamps. The most obvious application is political, of course. Stockwell Day could have his karate picture printed on a bunch of these stamps. Then, everyone who gets a letter from him will be able to distinguish him – at least physically – from Tom Long.

Of course, presumably it does not even have to be a real photo or a photo of an actual event. Given the possibilities of computer generated images, a more malevolent soul could have Stockwell and Tom locked in a passionate embrace with Preston looking on either jealously or disapprovingly. This would probably upset either the pro-Gay rights lobby or the anti-Gay lobby or both.

Political ideas abound. The Liberal party could put Chrétien on the stamp. Opposition parties could use the same photo of the prime minister but place a diagonal line over his image or write NOT across the photo. Of course, we do not know if Canada Post would allow a stamp that denigrates our prime minister. How about a burning Canadian flag? No, you say? If there is no law against burning the flag, why can you not have a picture of a burning flag? Perhaps you can have a picture of someone else's flag burning.

I guess I shouldn't be so negative about this idea. It will create a lot of business for rights lawyers. Before you know it, my freedom of expression class will be oversubscribed. Perhaps I should ask the dean if I can be paid by the student and maybe I can get a kickback on every case brought in relation to the new stamps. After all, why should Canada Post make all the money?

When we were in Israel on sabbatical, our children were absolutely fascinated by Israeli stamps. Israeli stamps are some of the most beautiful, creative, and memorable stamps in the world. My family could hardly wait until the next series of stamps or the next special issue stamp was released. All over the world, there are scores of philatelists who collect these magnificent stamps. They are works of art and yet they are extremely educational. Each time on our return to Canada, I have tried to interest my children in Canadian stamps. I was never able to do so. Why? Because Canadian stamps are boring! boring! boring!

Instead of coming up with idiotic schemes such as the vanity stamp, which will only serve to make us the laughing stock of the stamp world, they ought to invest their time and energy in creating beautiful and educational stamps that the whole world will want to buy. Canada would do well to learn from the Israelis on this point.

The Kirshner File

Resurrection of Jewish life in Germany

In 1948, at its first postwar assembly, the World Jewish Congress warned Jews never again to settle on "blood-soaked German soil."

But at that precise moment, when swelling anti-German sentiment was probably at its peak, there was a remarkable efflorescence of Jewish life in the country Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, had smugly declared "*Judenrein*" (free of Jews) back in 1943.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

When the World Jewish Congress issued its dire warning, there were already more than 100 Jewish communities in Germany, most of them with fewer than 50 members.

One must wonder why Jews, demonized and murdered under the imprimatur of a Nazi government, would have been drawn to Germany yet again.

Michael Brenner, a professor of Jewish history and culture at the University of Munich, is intrigued by that question. In *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany* (Princeton University Press), he examines this phenomenon. His book is described as the first comprehensive account of the lives of Jews who remained in Germany immediately after World War II.

Who were these Jews who bucked convention and chose to establish themselves in Germany? They basically fall into three categories.

In the first category were several thousand Jews, born and bred in Germany, who had been hidden by spouses or friends during the war. They were highly assimilated and usually had no contact with the organized Jewish community.

Then there were the so-called returnees – German Jews who had been hounded out of Germany after Hitler's accession to power in 1933. They constituted a minuscule proportion of the total Jewish population after 1945.

Usually scholars, actors or journalists, they were tied to Germany culturally, linguistically and professionally.

Among them were Herbert Weichmann, a future mayor of Hamburg and minister of justice of North Rhine-Westphalia; Josef Neuberger, the future chairman of the Association of German Labour Unions; renowned sociologists Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno; actors such as Fritz Kortner and Ida Ehre; and writers of the calibre of Arnold Zweig and Stefan Heym.

The vast majority of the returnees, writes Brenner, hardly had any interest in the restoration of Jewish life, and took little or no part in the reconstruction of the Jewish communities.

The third and perhaps most important segment consisted of displaced persons from eastern Europe. From a demographic point of view, they eventually dominated Germany's resurrected Jewish community. For that reason, the thrust of *After the Holocaust* is on displaced persons (known as DPs).

In the first two postwar years, Germany was home to approximately 250,000 Jews, most of them DPs from countries such as Poland and Hungary. Emigration whittled down that number to 182,000 by 1947.

Seventy five percent of the DPs lived in temporary camps: Feldafing, Bad Reichenhall, Fohrenwald, Landsberg and the like. The rest could be found in German cities, particularly Munich, the centre of Jewish life in those uncertain years.

Most DPs were scattered throughout the American occupation zone, with the balance in the British and French enclaves.

Strangely enough, at least at the outset, the occupying powers thought nothing of placing Jewish refugees with Nazi collaborators from the Baltic states, Hungary and the Ukraine. This led to violent protests from Jewish survivors, and a decision to establish purely Jewish camps.

The camps, their ethnic composition notwithstanding, were in poor sanitary condition. President Harry Truman, in 1945, assigned Earl Harrison to examine the situation of Jewish DPs. Harrison issued a scathing report, and the problems were promptly resolved.

In these camps, Brenner notes, an autonomous Jewish culture evolved. "By constructing a Jewish society clearly distinguished from the German environment, the Jewish DPs lightened the psychological burden of being held in Germany after the liberation," he observes. "Jewish schools, theatre groups, newspapers and magazines (and) libraries...allowed many Jewish DPs to forget, at least for a while, that they were living in Germany."

There was a significant Jewish press during that period. From 1945 to 1951, more than 100 newspapers and magazines, often short-lived, were published, not only in Yiddish, but in Polish, Hungarian, Hebrew and Romanian.

Brenner points out that the first Yiddish newspapers were printed on the commandeered presses of Julius Streicher's hatesheet, *Der Volkische Beobachter*. How ironic.

Being concerned with their children's education, the survivors opened the first elementary Jewish school in Bergen-Belsen on July 1, 1945. By September, a Jewish high school with 60 students was in operation. Even yeshivot were established.

Bad Reichenhall, Germany [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Given the undisputable fact that almost all the DPs wished to leave Germany, these institutions appeared and quickly faded. By 1952, some 12,000 Jewish DPs were still in Germany. Fohrenwald, the last Jewish DP camp on German soil, was closed on Feb. 28, 1957.

The Jewish refugees who stayed behind in Germany, permanently sitting on their suitcases, as the phrase went, did so for various reasons. They were sick and weak; they had to care for ailing relatives; they had built thriving businesses; they had married Germans.

Since many of the camps had been in southern Germany, the DPs gravitated to cities in Bavaria. There, for example, east European Jews made up 93 percent of the Jewish population. In northern Germany, however, they were in a distinct minority, being greatly outnumbered by Jews of German origin.

For all the common suffering they had endured at the hands of the Nazis, the traditional differences between German and eastern European Jews could not be erased. Many German Jews, for instance, could not identify with Yiddish, the lingua franca of the reestablished Jewish communities.

As Jews regained a foothold in Germany, which had a Jewish population of about 600,000 before Hitler's accession to power in 1933, they discovered that they could not find, much less keep, rabbis. Not until the early 1950s did Jewish communities once again enjoy systematic religious guidance. Even so, only seven full-fledged rabbis were serving congregations by 1960. Clearly, rabbis were reluctant to go to Germany

Be that as it may, the renewed Jewish presence in Germany was by then an irrevocable fact. Goebbels must have been spinning in his grave.

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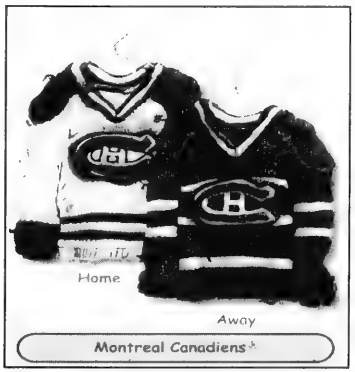

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Greater Toronto Area

Ted Turner honoured by Haifa U Friends

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It was supposed to be Ted Turner's big night but his buddy James Carville almost stole the show with a stand up comedy routine that included an unexpected dose of self-deprecating humour.

Carville, introduced as "Clinton's spin doctor" and as "Machiavelli reincarnated," put politics aside to regale the audience with stories of his misadventures with his wife, Republican Mary Matalin, in which his Democratic politics lands him in hot water. Carville was speaking at Profiles in Peace II, a $250-a-plate fund-raising dinner sponsored by the Canadian Friends of Haifa University. During the course of the evening, the university honoured Turner with a Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa.

The degree was "in recognition of Turner's revolutionary contribution to international communications, in token of his aid in advancing sports, in acknowledgement of his commitment on behalf of human welfare and the environment and for his friendship toward the University of Haifa."

Turner, 62, is best known as founder of CNN, the Atlanta-based 24-hour news network and as vice-chair of Time Warner Inc. In accepting his degree, Turner urged Israelis not to give up hope for a peaceful future. Peace would be "a great lift for the human spirit, a tremendous achievement…If we can have peace in the Middle East, we can have peace anywhere," he said.

Carville echoed Turner in urging Israelis not to give up hope for a better future. Carville, a political consultant who worked on Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign as well as Ehud Barak's campaign for prime minister, urged the audience to "light a candle rather than curse the dark."

A gift from Canadian entrepreneur Frank Stronach helped establish a centre for peace studies recently and in another high profile project, IBM began construction of a 120,000 square-foot high-tech research centre last year .

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אלעק סילווער

צום יום ירושלים תש״ס

פון אלעק סילווער

(געשריבן אויפן סמך פון פארשיידענע פרעסע אויסצוגן)

מארגן, כ״ח אייר, וועט מדינת ישראל און די ייִדישע וועלט, אפצייכענען יום ירושלים — די פאראייניקונג פון ירושלים, ווי די גאנצע הייפטשטאט פון לאנד. ווילן מיר דאָ ארויסברענגען א צאל פאקטן בנוגע דער שטאָט. אין גאנג פון איר געשיכטע, האָט ירושלים געהאט א סך הערשערס, אבער בלויז דריי מאָל איז דער געשיכטע פון ייִדישן פאלק, איז ירושלים געווען די הויפטשטאט פונעם פאלק, וואס לעבט אין אירע גרענעצן — עם ישראל.

פון דעם יאָר 1000 פדנצ״ע (פאָר דער ניער צייט רע-כענונג) ביז צום חורבן פון ערשטן בית־המקדש איז יאָר 587 פדנצ״ע איז ירושלים געווען די הויפטשטאָט פון מלכות בית דוד און זיינע נאָכפאָלגערס. פון יאָר 515 פדנצ״ע ביז צום חורבן פון צווייטן בית־המקדש איז יאָר 70 נצ״ע (ניע צייט רעכענונג), איז ירושלים וויידער גע-ווען די הויפטשטאָט פון ייִדישן פאלק. צום דריטן מאָל איז ירושלים געוואָרן אונדזער הויפטשטאָט איז 1948, מיטן עטאַבלירן פון מדינת ישראל.

אין אַלע אַנדערע צייטן איז ירושלים געווען באַהערשט פון פרעמדע, ביי וועמען די שטאָט איז געווען גלייך מיט אַנדערע שטעט: די באַבילאָניער איז פון ר״ה פדנצ״ע; די גריכן איז פון ר״ה; די רוימער איז 70-324 נצ״ע; א קורצע צייט די פערסיער; די אַראַבער איז 638-1099; די קריצפאָרערס איז 1099-1187. ענגלאַנד האָט איבערגענומען פון 1917 ביז 1948. פון דער עטאַבלידונג פון מדינת ישראל ביז 1967 איז א טייל פון ירושלים געווען אונטער דער הערשאפט פון ירדן.

ביים היינטיקן טאָג זיינען די ירדן פון ירושלים די איינ-וווינערס מיט דער לענגסטער ניט־צעבראָכענער היסטא-רישער פאַרבינדונג מיט דער שטאָט. דאָס איז פאַרשריבן אין דער תורה, משנה און תלמוד, איך תפילות און אין פיוטים. דריי מאָל איז טאָג, פאַר קנאָפע צווייי טויזנט יאָר, האָבן ייִדן תפילה געטאָן צו קענען זיך אומקערן קיין ירושלים. איין מאָל איז יאָר, תשעב באָב, פאַסטן ייִדן און וויינען אויף דעם חורבן פון ירושלים. איך די יום־טובים וווינטשן מיר זיך: „לשנה הבאה בירושלים".

דער ייִדישער בונד מיט ירושלים אונטער פרעמדער הערשאפט, איז געווען א כסדרדיקער קאמף אַצוהאַלטן דאָרט א ייִדישע אונזעזנהייט. קיין מאָל נישט דערלאָזן, אַז די קייט, וואָס פאַרבינדט ירושלים מיט עם ישראל זאָל צעבראָכן ווערן.

ווען די באַבילאָניער האָבן צעשטערט די שטאָט, האָבן די ייִדן זי ווידער אויפגעבויט. די רוימער האָבן זי צע-שטערט אין געטוישט איר נאָמען אויף „עליאָ קאפיטא-לינא", האָט דער בר־כוכבא רעוואָלט (132־135) גע-מאַכט דעם לעצטן פרווו צו באַפרייַען ירושלים, וואָס האָט געקאָסט א האַלבן מיליאָן ייִדישע לעבנס.

טייל האָבן פאַרבאָטן ייִדן דאָרט צו ווווינען. די קרייצ-פאָרערס האָבן אויסגעמאָרדעט די ייִדן פון דער שטאָט. די ירדן־מאכט האָט פאַרניכטעט דעם ייִדישן קוואַרטאָל אין דער אלטשטאָט פון ירושלים און נישט אריינגע-לאָזט דאָרט קיין ייִדן, אפילו נישט ווי טוריסטן.

און דאָך, טראָץ אַלע פאַרבאָטן און פאַרפאָלגונגען, האָבן ייִדן אָנגעהאַלטן א המשכדיקע אַנוועזנהייט אין ירושלים. עס איז שוין איבער הונדערט יאָר, ווי ייִדן זיי-נען א מערהייט אין דער דאָזיקער שטאָט. אבער אונטער דער בריטישער מאַכט איז קיין ייִד נישט דערלויבט געווען צו זיין דאָרט דער ראש־העיר. עס איז תמיד געווען אן ענגלענדער אדער אן אַראַבער.

איצט איז ירושלים ווידער די הויפטשטאָט פון א פריי ייִדישער מדינה. אין 1967 איז ירושלים ווידער געוואָרן א פאַראייניקטע שטאָט. 19 יאָר פון אַן אומנאַרמאַלער צעטיילונג, פון שטעכיקע דראָטן און שטיינערנע באריקאַדן האָבן זיך געעדיקט.

Society sets impossible standards for moms: author

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Many comedians have based their routines on the stereotype of the guilt-ridden Jewish mother. On behalf of all such Jewish mothers, vindication has come and its name is Dr. Harriet Lerner.

"Guilt is not all bad," says Lerner. "Guilt is an essential human emotion. It can inspire us to clarify our core values and is linked to our capacity to apologize to a child."

Lerner shared her own experiences with a large, attentive audience when she spoke recently at a fund-raising event sponsored by The Canadian Friends of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in aid of The Lafer Centre for Women's Studies.

Lerner, an internationally renowned expert on the psychology of women and family relationships, is a senior staff psychologist at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas and the author of eight books, including the best-selling trilogy *The Dance of Anger*, *The Dance of Intimacy* and *The Dance of Deception*.

Millions of copies of her books, translated into as many as 30 languages, have sold around the world.

Lerner's latest book, *The Mother Dance: How Children Change Your Life*, explores the adventure of motherhood from a personal point of view. In it, the author shares her own experiences, both positive and negative.

She readily admits to having had "bad mother days," claiming that "society sets impossible standards for mothers and then divides them into categories of good mother and bad mother."

Isolation preys on many mothers' emotions and feelings of inadequacy, Lerner said. "We need to hear the voices of other women telling us the truth about their limitations."

Lerner claims not to have had any desire for children up until the moment she became a mother. She readily admits to being a totally absorbed, loving and worrying parent from that moment forward.

"Kids are the best teachers of life's most profound spiritual lessons," she said. "Children are great teachers, and one of the things they will teach you is how to worry."

Lerner's lecture, held at Congregation Machzikei Hadas on May 15, followed a dinner for patrons of the event co-chaired by Marcia Cantor, president of the Ottawa chapter of CFHU and Ellen Fathi.

CAN WE TALK? Comedian Joan Rivers headlined last week's annual fund raising gala of the Baycrest Centre Women's Auxiliary. Rivers quipped that the only good thing about aging is "that you lose your memory and forget how lousy everything is." [Ron Csillag photo]

CORRECTIONS

In the article, "Jewish academics to gather in Edmonton," (*CJN*, May 18), the Internet address was incorrect. It should be http://home.OISE.UToronto.ca/~acjs. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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In the picture "Creative Writing" (*CJN*, May 25), one of the students was incorrectly identified. In the bottom row, at right, is Willy Raskin. We regret the error.

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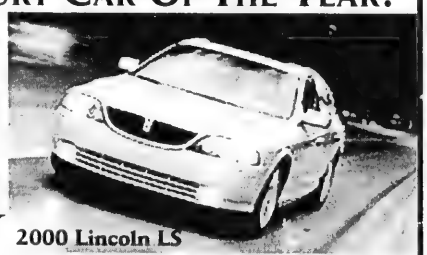
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Jewish Life

War criminals in Canada

***Unauthorized Entry, The Truth About Nazi War Criminals in Canada, 1946-1956*, by Howard Margolian (University of Toronto Press).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

The author of this diligently researched study (there are over 100 pages of notes) admits that about 2,000 war criminals, immigrants with strong Nazi affiliations, entered Canada during the years 1946 to 1956.

Why 2,000? Margolian indicates that this is the generally accepted figure. Some experts on the subject, however, suggest that the figure could be twice as high. In any case, the author, a consultant to Canada's war crimes prosecution unit and a historian who specializes in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe, contends that Canada's record at screening immigrants for war criminals, while not unblemished, is still commendable and to be admired.

He points out that in the first decade after World War II, nearly 1.5 million persons emigrated to Canada. Almost two-thirds of them came from war-ravaged Europe. If we take the figure of 2,000 war criminals, then just over one-eighth of one percent of the total number of new Canadians are involved.

"Approximately three-quarters of these undesirables arrived here disguised as refugees. Yet the ratio of war criminals to refugees is almost as insignificant. Of the more than 150,000 European refugees who were admitted to Canada between 1946 and 1951, only one percent were suspected Nazi war criminals."

How did war criminals escape detection? The major reason, explains the author, is that proof of their crimes lay buried in records that were rendered inaccessible by the Soviet takeover in eastern Europe. Moreover, "inadequate anti-subversion training and a chronic shortage of sources led inevitably to mistakes and oversights."

In a chapter titled *Exceptions that Prove the Rule*, Margolian examines what he considers to be three special cases: the admission of scientists and technicians from Germany, Estonian "boat people" from Sweden, and former members of a Ukrainian SS division. In each case he endeavours to show that there was no abandonment of immigration criteria in the eventual decisions to admit members of formerly prohibited classes of prospective immigrants.

The government's decision about the SS caused widespread dismay and controversy. It provoked a firestorm of protest from the Canadian Jewish Congress and other sources. Margolian writes that these concerns were not without justification. Yet "nothing in Ottawa's handling of the matter suggested that the 14th SS was to be admitted *en masse*, or that individual members of the division who failed to meet the immigration criteria would nonetheless be granted visas. All that had changed was that membership in the division would no longer be grounds for automatic rejection."

In 1986, the Royal Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals concluded that undesirable immigrants were able to enter Canada with relative ease. Oral testimony before the commission by immigration and security officials indicated that there was insufficient training and limited resources for doing an effective job of screening Nazis and others.

The author rejects this other side of the picture as flawed, inconclusive and biased. It is likely that a half-century after the fact, most Canadians will find the entire matter remote and no longer relevant.

Irving Abella, president of the Canadian Historical Association and past president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, believes that the real scandal of the entire issue is not so much that criminals were allowed into the country, but "that for 50 years we refused to get them out. Of the thousands of Nazis who came to Canada since 1945, Canadian governments have extradited one and deported two."

For him, and for many others, that is the unhappy truth about war criminals in our country.

Shavuot – A dairy delight

The *Canadian Jewish News* cooks are always happy to share their tried and true recipes. The following will certainly add some tasty alternatives to your Shavuot meals.

BEET SALAD
(Frances Kraft)

4-5 whole beets, scrubbed
2 apples, peeled and cubed
Handful of chopped nuts
2 tsp. lemon juice
¼ cup mayonnaise

Cut off tops of beets leaving a little bit of stems. Boil. Rub off skins under cold running water. Refrigerate, cube, add remaining ingredients and combine.

NOODLE KUGEL
(Leila Speisman)

1 pkg. medium noodles
2 cups cottage cheese
½ cup sugar or sweetener (or to taste)
1 tsp. salt
Dash pepper
1 cup crushed corn flake crumbs
½ cup margarine, melted

Cook noodles until al dente (about 7 minutes). Combine cheese, sour cream, sugar, salt and pepper and mix well. Add cooked noodles. Spray 9 x 13 pan with cooking spray (unflavoured). Pour mixture into pan and smooth the top.

Melt margarine in small saucepan. Add corn flake crumbs, and stir mixture until crumbs are brown. Be careful not to let them burn.

Sprinkle crumb mixture over kugel. Bake at 350 for about 45 minutes.

EGGPLANT FETTUCCINE
(Gloria Clamen)

4 large eggplants peeled and cut into ¼-inch slices lengthwise
1 lb. fettuccine noodles, cooked
1 lb. ricotta cheese
Salt, pepper, nutmeg, oregano, garlic powder
Grated parmesan cheese
2 medium cans tomato sauce

Preheat oven to 350. Coat a 9 x 13 casserole with cooking spray. Brush eggplant slices with oil and broil 5 minutes on each side until lightly browned. Cool.

Mix ricotta cheese with cooked noodles, salt, pepper, garlic powder, a very generous sprinkling of parmesan cheese and a couple dashes of nutmeg.

Place a tablespoon of cheese-noodle mixture at one end of eggplant slice and roll up. Repeat until all eggplant slices have been rolled. Set aside.

Mix tomato sauce with seasonings to taste. Pour half on bottom of casserole. Place rolled eggplant slices on top of tomato sauce in casserole, and top with remaining sauce. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes.

LUXURIANT CHOCOLATE CHEESE CAKE
(Bev Bergman)

Crust
8½-oz. package graham wafer crumbs (or chocolate graham wafer crumbs if you're a true chocoholic)
¼ cup melted butter
2 tsp. sugar
¼ tsp. cinnamon

Filling
3 eggs
1 cup sugar
24 oz. softened cream cheese (3 large pkgs.)
12 oz. package semi-sweet chocolate bits, melted
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup sour cream
⅛ tsp. salt

Blend crust ingredients and spread over bottom of spring form pan as high on the sides as possible.

In a large bowl at high speed, mix eggs and sugar until light. Beat in softened cream cheese until smooth. Add cooled, melted chocolate, vanilla, salt and sour cream. Beat until smooth. Pour into crust. Bake 1 hour at 350 (or until small cracks appear on top), let cool and refrigerate as long as possible (preferably overnight).

Remove from spring form pan and place on a plate with halved strawberries all around.

For more Shavuot recipes, go to www.cjnews.com/food.

Jewish Life

Shavuot sites on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Shavuot is certainly one of the most important holidays in the Jewish calendar. But the springtime festival which celebrates the giving of the Torah and the harvesting of the first fruits clearly doesn't receive the attention bestowed on Passover or even Chanukah. However, the holiday does get the attention it justly deserves – on the Internet.

On the first morning of the holiday, the Ten Commandments are read from the Torah. According to Virtual Jerusalem, "When the Ten Commandments were given at Mount Sinai, the course of human history was changed forever. No document has influenced the course of civilization like the Bible, and it can be argued that of all the contents in the Bible, these ten laws have been the single most influential section." **[http://www.vjholidays.com/shavuot/ten.htm]**. You can take a listen to a preview of them at Navigating the Bible **[http://bible.ort.org/bible/htm/exodus/torah/19252001.htm]**.

Some people can be forgiven for being a bit groggy while listening to the Commandments. That's because they have just stayed awake the entire night for Tikkun Leil Shavuot. According to the Ohr Somayach All-Nighter page, one of the reasons we stay up all night is to commemorate a mistake committed centuries ago **[http://www. virtual.co.il/education/education/ohr/special/shavuos/index.htm]**.

"On that first Shavuot morning, there were some who overslept and had to be awakened to receive the Torah. In order to rectify this, we stay up."

Shavuot is also known as the Festival of the First Fruits. While the land of Israel is blessed with many fruits, seven had special status as seen in the Seven Species Gallery **[http://www.vjholidays. com/shavuot/fruit.htm]**. These were the first fruits brought to the Temple once a year at Shavuot, and offered to God.

As such, they both symbolize the land of Israel and the close links of the Jewish people with that land. "God your Lord is bringing you to a good land...of wheat, barley, grapes, figs and pomegranates, a land of oil – olives and honey." (Deut 8:8-9) **[http://bible.ort.org/bible/htm/deuteron/torah/08060807.htm]**.

The site set up by Beth El Temple Center of Belmont, Mass. suggests that since the holiday has lost its agricultural significance nowadays, Shavuot has been reinvested with new symbols **[http://www.shamash.org/reform/uahc/congs/ma/ma002/shavuot.html]**. In the mid-19th century, "the Reform movement added its own enhancement to Shavuot, the confirmation ceremony." This ceremony is meant to parallel the acceptance of the Torah at Mount Sinai with the confirmation that these young Jews are taking the Torah to their hearts.

Everyone is in agreement that the festival is unique because of the tradition of eating dairy products... and that usually means blintzes and cheesecake. You can find over 100 variations at the Jewish-Food Cheesecake Archives with everything from mocha to Miracle to Margarita **[http://www.jewish-food.org/recipes/cheindex.htm]**.

Or if you want to celebrate the holiday while watching your waistline, you can send a virtual cheesecake through the e-mail **[http:// www.vjholidays.com/shavuot/cheescake.htm]**. Anyone you like will receive a photo of a lovely cake accompanied by your Shavuot greeting. No calories – good wishes only!

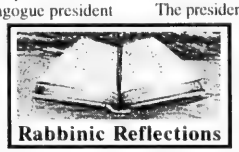
* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home.com.

Judaism a package deal

By RABBI AVRAHAM PLOTKIN

With Shavuot approaching, I am reminded of the story of the new rabbi who was preparing his first sermon. Being young and inexperienced, he was asked by his synagogue president for a sneak preview. The rabbi explained to his president that the theme of his speech would be Jewish education and that he would discuss the importance of sending children to Jewish day schools.



"Sorry," said the president, "you can't talk about that or you will offend our members who send their children to public schools."

"Well," said the surprised rabbi, "then I guess I will talk about the importance of eating kosher food."

"Stop right there," interrupted the president. "The treasurer of our shul owns a non-kosher food franchise and there's no way you'll avoid hurting his feelings when you talk about kashrut."

"OK," said the rabbi. "If that's the case, I will talk about the significance of Shabbat and festivals."

"Sorry again," said the president.

"If you talk about Shabbat, you will alienate the bulk of our membership. It's too sensitive."

The rabbi, who at this point was confused and losing his patience, turned to the president and asked, "If I can't talk about Jewish education, kashrut or Shabbat, what do you expect me to talk about?"

The president calmly replied, "Easy, all you have to do is talk about some good old Judaism. That should do the trick."

Indeed, it is very easy to fall into the president's trap. We all enjoy a heavy dose of shmaltzy "Judaism," but alas, without the responsibilities and actual mitzvot that comprise Judaism. We love the philosophy, food and culture but not the commitment. We forget that Judaism is an action-oriented religion. It's a package deal. Judaism without Shabbat, kashrut or Jewish education is an oxymoron, an empty shell.

On Shavuot, we commemorate the receiving of the Torah. The midrash relates that the Torah was offered to all the nations of the world and was rejected by each of them for different reasons.

When it was offered to the Jewish people, however, they responded "We will do and [then] we will understand." This response not only showed their absolute dedication to the Torah but also reflected the spirit in which the Torah was given. The Torah was to be first and foremost, a book of action and then a book of ideas. The Torah was not intended to be a book used exclusively for mental gymnastics and scholarship. It was meant to motivate us to action and good deeds.

"Deed before creed" is said to be the motto of Judaism. The Talmud tells us that "action is of the essence" and in the tractate of ketubot it asks: "What is greater, study [of Torah] or action?" and it resolves: "Study is greater because it leads one to action." Contrary to the simple meaning, the Lubavitcher Rebbe of saintly memory explains that what the Talmud is really telling us is that the greatness of study lies in that it ultimately leads to action, with action being the ultimate achievement.

As Jews, we must realize that the only way to fulfil our role and achieve happiness is to observe the actual commandments of the Torah. Watered down "philosophical" or "cultural" Judaism is no substitute for the actual performance of the mitzvot of HaShem. Only through the observance of the mitzvot will we change this world into a better place and merit the coming of Mashiach speedily in our days.

Rabbi Plotkin is the spiritual leader and executive director of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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IRENE GUT OPDYKE
Tues., June 6
7:30 p.m.
Ontario Science Centre
(416) 785-1333

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 5, is deadline for June 15 issue and Monday, June 12, is deadline for June 22. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, June 1

ISRAEL'S HISTORY

Israel's History – The First 50 Years, a history of Israel from 1948, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue 7:30 p.m. Introduction and commentary by **David H. Goldberg** of the Canada-Israel Committee. Canadian Zionist Federation 633-3988 or synagogue 633-5500.

Sunday, June 4

YIDDISH CELEBRATION

Bialik Hebrew Day School hosts a celebration of 1,000 years of Yiddish with a musical program by **Lenka Lichtenberg** and her band and the Bialik Choir, followed by fun activities, games, dancing, food. 3-5 p.m. at the school, 12 Viewmount Ave. 256-2947.

SHAVUOT CELEBRATION

Shavuot: Celebrating Good Things at Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum. Have fun with harvest fruits, flowers, sweets. Make tie-dye flowers, eat blintzes, taste fruit, have your face painted, join in the music, singing and dancing. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Jewish Discovery Place in the Bathurst Jewish Centre. 636-1880, ext. 456.

JEWISH HEALING SERVICE

Toronto Jewish Healing Project's Jewish Service for Healing for everyone wishing to pray for physical, emotional or spiritual healing, at Lipa Green Building, 4th floor. **Rabbi Bernard Shulman** and music therapist **Mary Rykov** lead the service 3-4 p.m. **Etta Ginsberg McEwan** co-ordinator 944-3359.

PARENTING

Is your child stressed out? Jewish Family & Child Service and Bloor Jewish Community Centre present Parenting in the Age of Multi-Tasking with psychiatrist **Dr. Lee Freedman**, author of *Helping Our Children Deal With Stress*, 10:30 a.m. to noon at Bloor JCC. Coffee and bagels 10 a.m. 961-9344.

TRANSNISTRIA REUNION

Transnistria Survivors' Association first reunion of 2000 celebrating Israel's 52nd birthday includes guest speaker **Irit Waidergorn**, consul of Israel, and entertainment by **Vladimir Radian** in a program of Romanian, Hebrew and Yiddish songs, and pianist **Raya Salmanovitch,** 2 p.m. at B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. 638-1291.

LITERARY-MUSICAL NIGHT

The Kultur Geselschaft literary-musical evening features **Prof. Norman Shneidman** speaking on Jewish Problems in Russian Literature. 8 p.m., Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $3.

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer**. Come listen, come tell. Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave. 7:30 p.m. $4. 699-8914.

TEA TIME

Wierzbniker Ladies Auxiliary annual tea at the home of **Nancy** and **Howard Kleinberg**, 107 Palm Dr. Proceeds to charity. Men most welcome.

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, discusses *Stolen Life: A Cree Woman's Journey*, by **Rudy Wiebe** 2 p.m., North York Community Centre, 505 Lawrence Ave. W. **Ruth Goldsmith** 782-6414.

CHARITY GARAGE SALE

Na'amat Club Chaya charity garage sale, 8:30 a.m. to noon at 6 Tanjo Court, Thornhill (near Yonge and Clarke).

Continued on page 17

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What's New

Continued from page 16

Monday, June 5

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Israel Medical Association, Canada chapter, general meeting, 8 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. Election of new executive, a talk by **Israel Consul Irit Waidergorn** on In Preparation for a Final Peace Accord, and **Dr. Avi Wasserman** speaking on the advantage for medical students to spend their "elective" in Israel. 781-9562.

JERUSALEM

The annual Dr. Dorothy Sone and Abby J. Sone Memorial Lecture speaker **Rabbi Ben Hollander** discusses Jerusalem Between War and Hope: June 5, 1967-June 5, 2000, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation.

Tuesday, June 6

BENEFIT AUCTION

An auction benefiting Chabad Lubavitch of Richmond Hill includes such items as a ticket to Israel, tickets to Florida, sports tickets, art, furniture, jewelry, a summer at camp, Judaica and much more, 7:30 p.m. at Richmond Hill Country Club, 8905 Bathurst St. $36 includes sweet table, entertainment. Reserve 905-731-7000, ext. 26.

INFORMATION MEETING

Morris Winchevsky School Information Meeting on the secular Jewish humanistic children's Sunday school, 7:30 p.m., Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave.

ANNUAL AUCTION

Aquarius chapter, Jewish Women International, annual auction at the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave, 6:30 p.m. silent auction, 7:30 p.m. live auction. All proceeds to help support community service programs. $3. 781-5594 or 787-9624.

Wednesday, June 7

JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

Chava Rosenfarb, one of the greats of modern Yiddish literature, reads at the annual Jewish Book Awards, 7:30 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. The occasion marks the launching by Syracuse Press of English translations of two of her novels. A reception follows the reading and awards.

MONTESSORI EDUCATION

Montessori Jewish Day School lecture by **Lucy Tannen,** Eliot Montessori School in S. Natick, Mass., on Montessori and Jewish Education: A Marriage Made in Heaven, 8 p.m., 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 929-4830.

FILM, PIZZA, DISCUSSION

At Temple Har Zion, a review and discussion of *Nasty Girl*, the tale of one girl's quest to reveal the hidden history of her German village. Discussion leader **Rabbi Martin Berman** of Congregation Shaar Shalom. Pizza, soft drinks 6:30 p.m. ($5), film 7 p.m. Register by June 5, temple 905-889-2252 or **Paulette Volgyesi** 222-7033.

TIKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

Beth Tzedec joins Beth Sholom in celebrating Shavuot with all-night study and prayer. At Beth Tzedec Minchah and Ma'ariv 8:45 p. m., reception, 2 lecture/discussion sessions. At Beth Sholom, midnight supper (pre-paid reservations by June 5, **Florence** 781-3511), keynote speaker **Prof. Carl S. Ehrlich**, dawn Shacharit services 5:30 a.m.

ORAYNU EDUCATION

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism information about Sunday classes, b'nai mitzvah, curriculum focused on values, culture and history from a secular humanistic perspective. 7:30 p.m., Barbara Frum Library. 385-3910.

TORAH LEARNING

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation annual all-night Torah learning lectures, with participants **Rabbis Moshe Stern**, **Nachum Berlatt**, **Avroham Bartfield** and **Dr. Zev Diena**, midnight to 5 a.m. followed by morning services and Kiddush. Men and women cordially invited.

ALL-NIGHT STUDY

Celebrate Shavuot with all-night study on a range of subjects – Jewish ethics, Book of Ruth, Jewish art history, traditional Jewish healing and more, 9 p.m., First Narayever Synagogue, 187 Brunswick Ave. 927-0546.

CASINO RAMA

Pride of Israel Synagogue fundraiser, a trip to Casino Rama. $5. Receive $10 in tokens. Bus leaves synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres., at 9 a.m. and leaves Rama 5 p.m. Reserve. 226-0111.

And What Else Is New

SABBATICAL ADVENTURES

Wander through Jewish communities in Scandinavia, Lithuania, Europe, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand with **Cantor Paul Kowarsky** as he reflects on his 6-month sabbatical around the world, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., June 6, 13, 20, and 27 at Beth Tzedec.

SHAVUOT DINNER

Shavuot Friday night dinner on June 9, at the Kiever Shul, 25 Bellevue Ave. Services 7 p.m., dinner following. Reserve. **Dave Pinkus** 593-9956.

TEACHINGS OF KABBALAH

Congregation Ohr Penimi presents Secret Teachings of Kabbalah classes with **Rabbi Moshe Kirsh**, covering obscure but important kabbalistic concepts not often presented to the public, beginning Wednesday, June 14, 8-9:30 p.m.for 7 weeks at 51 Elgin St., Thornhill. Information/registration 905-889-0793. For both men and women.

MEMBERS WANTED

Thornhill-Maven Lodge, B'nai Brith, couples lodge ages 35-60, singles welcome, is seeking new members. Looking for fun, interest, new friends? The lodge offers community volunteer services, family socials, adult socials, speakers, men's and couples' bowling, men's baseball. A family picnic is planned for Father's Day June 18. **Susan** 667-2762 or **Sharon** 635-9109.

INSTALLATION DINNER

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood installation and dinner Tuesday, June 13, 6:30 p.m. **Ruth Shapiro** is being installed as president. Featured is a fashion show, Fashions for You. By prepaid reservations only. **Jean** 787-9039.

A SUMMER CELEBRATION

Adath Sholom Sisterhood is having A Summer Celebration, a fun-filled evening with fashion show and refreshments, Monday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m., 864 Sheppard Ave. W. For reservations, 635-0131. A non-perishable kosher food product for the Toronto Kosher Food bank is suggested as admission.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. every Thursday at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. June 1, general meeting; June 8, no meeting because of the holiday; June 15, bingo; June 22, lecture (Israel politics); June 29, trip to Muskoka. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday dances June 4, 25; Casino Rama June 7, 21; Thousand Islands trip June 11-15; *Vaudeville* at King's Wharf Theatre June 14; Catskills trip to Paramount Hotel July 23-30; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23. 395-7881.

LZA Seniors Father's Day Luncheon Wednesday, June 21. *Hello Dolly* June 14 at Stage West Dinner Theatre. *Fiddler on the Roof* Sept. 13 at Stratford. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m., Cultural Club Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: June 14, *Vaudeville* at King's Wharf Theatre; July 14, *Second Time Around* at Gryphon Theatre; Aug. 22, *Damn Yankees* at Drayton Festival Theatre. **Lena** 785-5773.

Pythian Judaean Lodge, a 100-member group whose logo is FCB – friendship, charity, benevolence – meets Wednesday, June 7, 8 p.m. at Adath Sholom Synagogue. An annual event is planned for July. **Ed** 665-9266.

Young at Heart Seniors summer vacation at Catskills kosher Raleigh Hotel July 28-Aug. 6, medical can be included, partners available. **Helen** 635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W., 225-2112.

Annual Health Fair, Lifestyle 2000: A Prescription for Healthy Living, Thursday, June 8, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Special guest speaker **Dr. Joseph Levy**, Wellness director, York University; also displays, cooking presentation, demonstrations, healthy lunch, door prizes.

Low Vision Support Group meets Tuesday, June 6, 1:15-2:15 p.m. when social worker **Myrtle Doerksen** discusses The Psycho-Social Implications of Vision Loss.

Canada: British to American with author/lecturer **Hugh Innis**, 6 sessions Tuesdays June 13-July 18, 10-11:30 a.m. **Bookie Kwart** ext. 116.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. June 6, movie; June 13 current events lecture; June 20, lunch out; June 27 sing-along with **Miki Levine**. For information, **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Forrest Gump*, Sunday, June 4, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Jewish Family & Child Service and the Bloor JCC present Is Your Child Stressed Out ? Parenting in the Age of Multi-Tasking with **Dr. Lee Freedman.** Check details under Sunday, June 4.

Trip to Casino Rama Monday, June 12, leaving Bloor JCC 8:30 a.m. $10 includes bus, boat excursion on Lake Couchiching, buffet lunch, opportunity to gamble. Tickets at Front Desk.

Seniors Club. Thursday, June 1, 2 p.m. **Blima Rhodes,** Stories About Shavuot.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18

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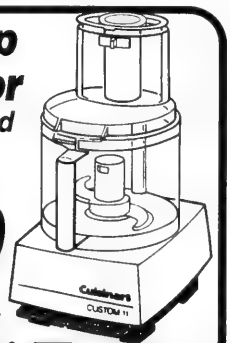

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is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*

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For rates or to place an ad, please call

MICHAEL at (416) 391-1836

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

***GAMES JEWISH SINGLES PLAY! Sun. Jun. 11, 7:30pm,** Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook. Ages 21-39, 40-69. ***We have "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?" game, etc. Bingo** 7:30-8pm. Prizes, refresh, $5 **106 couples have already met!** Free introductions, Mollie, 733-3634.

Bridge anyone? If interested in getting together socially for bridge, call 416-225-0775.

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Shaar Shalom Singles in conjunction with Intersynagogue Singles invites you to enjoy a wine tasting presentation with live music & refreshments. **Sip, learn and be merry! Sun. June 11, 7pm.** Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. 905-889-4975. $12. Dress code: casually elegant.

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Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

Parliamentarians returned to their constituencies across the country, ostensibly to celebrate Victoria Day, but really to plant their gardens like the rest of us. This might suggest that all is relatively quiet on the political front…not! There were more defections for Joe Clark, as the chairman of his Newfoundland election campaign, Leo Power, joined former Ontario premier Frank Miller and former federal heavyweight, Doug Lewis, as the newest members of the Canadian Alliance.

For his part, Preston Manning is also worried. Perception being more important than reality in politics, Manning appears now to have been overshadowed in the CA leadership race by Tom Long and Stockwell Day. By all counts, Manning is in for a real fight.

The problem is, if he does win the race, and all the newly acquired Tories-cum-CA members signed up by Tom Long abandon this bold adventure, Joe Clark may yet be vindicated. After all, Clark has based his entire strategy on the assumption that when Tom Long goes down in defeat, all the dyed-in-the-wool Tories who supported Long will come back to the fold.

On the government side, rumours have been reported about a PMO attempt to woo former New Brunswick premier Frank McKenna to federal politics as an alternative to Paul Martin as the next Liberal leader.

This news has resurrected debate about when the prime minister will call the next election. Many Ottawa insiders are leaning to a fall vote so the Liberals can capitalize on a Canadian Alliance weary from their leadership race. More importantly, the government may want to go to the polls before any economic downturn sours voters on the Liberals. With increasing retail prices, the low dollar and interest rates rising every two weeks, it will not take much for the 50-percent-plus popular vote lead of the Liberals to disappear.

One possible hint Jean Chrétien will go to the voters early may be inferred from a story that didn't receive as much attention as might have been expected. It seems the government would like to quietly sneak some legislation through the House before MPs break for the summer. The legislation would ensure "adequate" severance packages for MPs and ministers who don't stand for re-election or lose in the next election. People are wondering why the government would be in a rush to pass the severance bill unless an election was imminent. And you thought politics is dormant when the House is in recess!

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The Canadian Jewish news

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A fun venue helps to make a party fun

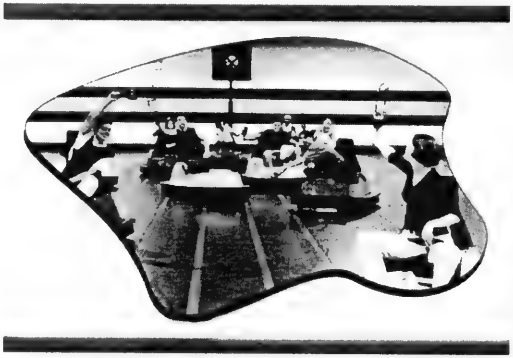
By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Looking for a place to party? Shelley Meretsky of Personally Yours (905-882-7531) hosts kids' parties, and Lorrie Chih of Rinx (416-410-7469, ext. 22) hosts everything from babies' birthdays to corporate team building. But they both agree that the right venue can help make your event a success.

If Meretsky were advising you, she'd begin by asking: What kind of party? There's an immense difference between a bar mitzvah and an 80th birthday. Think about the time of day and the date: the busier the season, the farther ahead you should book, she says.

A kids' party poses the special challenge of harmonizing what you want and what your child wants, she says. One major question is how many kids to invite. Too few may make it hard to get the party off to a start; too many may engender chaos. Personality plays a role, too. An introverted child may feel most comfortable with close friends; aspiring party animals may want to invite everyone they say "Hi" to.

Rinx is a well-known attraction on Orfus Rd.



The more guests, the harder it is to keep a lid on high jinks, without playing drill sergeant. What should be planned, what spontaneous? How old are your guests? Natural exuberance fuelled by party foods may make teenagers or pre-teens unruly without their even trying.

On the other hand, with little kids, especially in wet or cold weather, how many are you willing to help with boots and outerwear? And how about getting them to the party, then home afterward?

Only after you answer all these questions, Meretsky emphasizes, should you start hunting for a locale. List every possible place. Then call the venues one by one, and ask another set of questions: Where is the venue? When does it operate? What numbers can it accommodate? What kind of staff does it have? How many? Can they handle disabilities and allergies? Do they provide food? Snacks or a meal? Can you bring your own? Do they offer extras you might want, such as birthday cakes?

If they don't, will they recommend and work with someone who does? What about crafts and activities? Do they match your kid's and his friends' age group? And what about boy-girl differences? Politically correct or not, they do matter.

There are plenty of unusual locales. Rinx, besides sports you'd expect like in-line skating, offers Lazer Tag (a maze survival sport), and Whirly Ball (a blend of basketball and lacrosse, played in bumper cars). These activities are fun for kids, but also for corporate types looking for interesting ways to build team spirit.

Chih has noticed that if a venue is exciting enough, easy access to highways or transit is not essential. Guests will make their own arrangements; so look over the entire city and its environs.

Continued on page B6

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Advertising Feature

Freedom of Sound: Years ahead of its time

By Oded Friedman

In 1996, Freedom of Sound emerged into the entertainment industry, taking it by storm. The company's philosophy since its conception has always been to focus on providing an incredible array of interactive disc jockey services. In fact, this is the highlight of the fun-filled, high-energy affairs in which it specializes – being "interactive", meaning catering to the needs of it's clients by relying on everyone's participation every step of the way.

In the present day, it seems that the changing needs of the clientele have not been adequately recognized by the entertainment industry. It is here, however, that Freedom of Sound stands tall, by shedding new light on the concept of innovation and throwing convention out the window.

In exemplary fashion, then, Freedom of Sound introduced its user-friendly party planner catalogue which enables readers to tailor a party in ten easy steps. These steps allow one to choose from over a thousand possibilities, ranging from various entertainment crews, sound systems, intelligent lighting and laser systems, prizes, special effects, video screen packages, live performers, inflatable and carnival games, video arcades, casino, and fun foods. The convenience to the potential client practically jumps out of the catalogue.

In addition, Freedom of Sound is continually updating its party options by searching throughout the entertainment industry for any newly released products or services so that it always remains one step ahead of the game. As well, Freedom of Sound can now be found on the web making event bookings that much easier to the client. In fact, once an internet user enters **www.freedomofsound.com** they will find a cyber-catalogue, a virtual version of the user-friendly party planner catalogue paper version, which again emphasizes Freedom of Sound's notion that ease can go hand in hand with excellence. Rather than being bombarded with unnecessary information, the cyber-catalogue offers a means of selection making and event booking that is as simple as the click of a mouse button.

On this note, the launching of a new entertainment division, the ***CRAZY BAR***, recently got under way. ***CRAZY BAR*** is a unique concept that only Freedom of Sound offers – a portable interactive bar catering service. These lightweight, easy to transport, trendy portable bars are indispensable, serving as focal points in receptions and cocktail parties. This concept again defines the interactive side of Freedom of Sound. Instead of only sending out a bar and bartenders to serve at parties, the company supplies dancers dressed in beautiful costumes that perform a choreographed dance matched to a selected theme song, and then give out drinks on the dance floor.

For example, upon hearing the Aqua song, "Dr. Jones", several dancers dressed as nurses and doctors rush onto the dance floor with syringes in their hands filled with Fun drink to dispense among the crowd. The company's personal favorite theme is one which accompanies the Tequila Man who enters the dance floor, dressed in the appropriate Mexican attire, to the song "Tequila" and hands everybody the flavorful specialty shots. Throughout the night, ***CRAZY BAR*** continues serving drinks in between performances, acting as a specialized Martini Bar, Tropical Bar, Frozen Fruit Cocktail Bar, or Mocktail (nonalcoholic beverages) Bar for children. The portable services cater bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings, carnivals, corporate functions, fund raising events, private parties and more.

With ingenuity running deep into the company's soil, there's no wonder the fruits the company bears are staggering to say the least. Freedom of Sound breathes life into each party it throws with its wide array of growing selections – light and laser shows, dancers, interactive bar services, live performers and so much more – all packaged with one concept in mind: Being user-friendly. Past and present clients are unanimous in attesting to the company's unwavering dedication to excellence: Freedom of Sound is indeed in tune with the crowd's pulse!

Why stay at home when party places are so much fun?

Continued from page B4

Chih recommends getting everything under one roof: venue, decor, catering and activities. You'll have enough to do; best to accomplish in one meeting what would otherwise take several.

Spaciousness, good maintenance and cleanliness are musts. If you're doing your own decorating, go for neutral decor and accommodating staff.

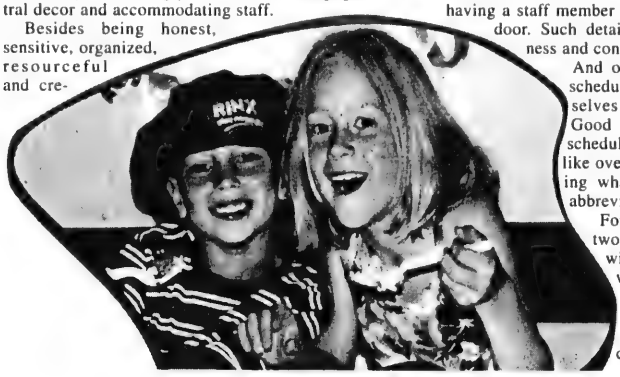
Besides being honest, sensitive, organized, resourceful and creative, good staff need negotiating skills, Chih says. For instance, they may have to mediate between you ("I'm the parent, it's my dollar and I love pink") and your birthday boy ("It's my party, and my hockey pals think pink is sissy").

The little touches count too – things like having a staff member greet every guest at the door. Such details demonstrate thoroughness and consideration at the same time.

And organization is more than just scheduling. Some rigid types call themselves "organized." They're wrong. Good organization means having a schedule but adjusting for contingencies like over-long speeches. It means knowing what's essential and what can be abbreviated or dispensed with at need.

For Rinx, Chih advises booking two to three weeks ahead for events with under 50 guests, about five weeks for 50 to 350. The smaller the venue, the earlier you should book.

Add whatever lead time you can, if you want exclusive use of an area. It's often an advantage. You may want to hold a children's party without worrying about strangers being around, for example.



Places like Rinx, pictured here, and Personally Yours offer party alternatives.

However much you plan (and some people actually enjoy planning), always keep your ultimate purpose in mind. Meretsky and Chih agree that at the end of the day, what counts is: Will the guests have fun? If the answer turns out to be Yes, then no matter what else happens, you can call your party a success.

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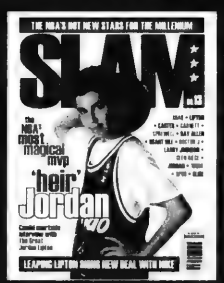

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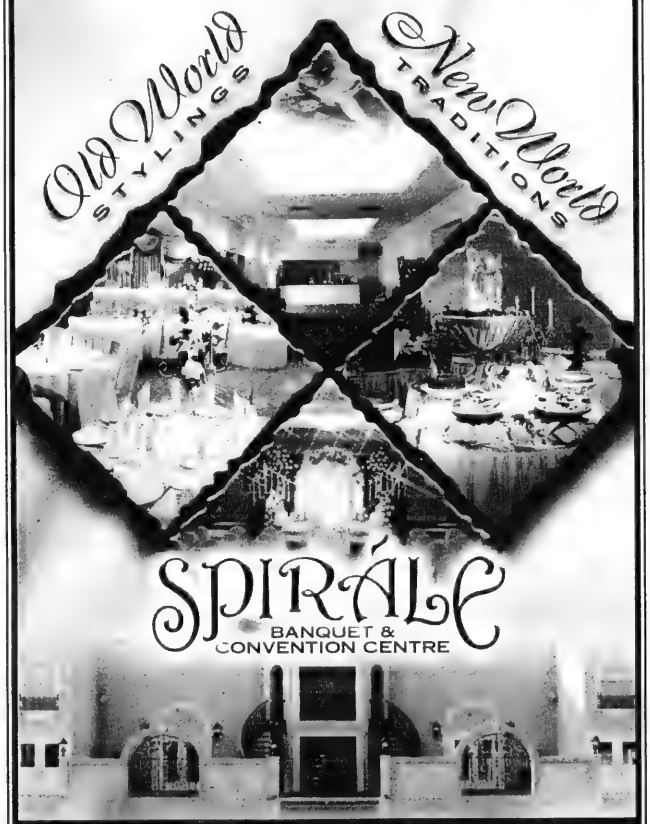

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When in doubt, think about jewelry

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

If you're banging your head on the wall over what party gift to buy, think about luxury, sentimentality and style, and your obvious choice will be jewelry, said Brian Saltzman of Karats Fine Jewellery (416-494-6655).

"When you give jewelry to a person, they will always remember that gift," said an employee at Mark Lash Designs Fine Jewelry (416-256-5229). "Jewelry is long lasting. It offers sentimental value."

Important to ask around

While the appeal of jewelry is widespread, tastes tend to be diverse. Saltzman urges prospective buyers to think carefully about the personality and age of the person for whom the gift is intended before making a purchase.

For instance, star and butterfly shaped pendants may be particularly appealing to teenaged girls, but not to older women. It may be wise to run a description of the person the jewelry is for to the salespeople, so they can find something appropriate.

Unlike typical wheeling and dealing, Saltzman says salespeople at his store make buyers feel comfortable. "We have a laid back atmosphere," he says. "We let the customer decide what they want to buy (without)... being pushy."

As with any precious metal, authenticity and high-quality craftsmanship is imperative. Check to see if the jewelry has a trademark and carat stamp and take note of polish and finishing. Some jewelry items should also come equipped with a safety clasp and if you do not see one, request it, advises the Lash employee.

Sometimes, old jewelry, especially if it is a family emblem, can be one of the most meaningful gifts a person receives, the Lash employee said. Reputable stores can remodel old items so they have a fresh look and fit the person comfortably.

Furthermore, jewelry stores tend to have a high number of return customers, so it is important to ask around to see which stores your friends or relatives are happy with.

Both jewellers said that styles have not gone through drastic changes, but there are certain new trends to consider. White gold is quite popular as is silver. Coloured stones and floral motifs are also fashionable. Eternity diamond bands as an anniversary gift continue to be popular.

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Choose a hall that's one of a kind

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

If you count everything from rumpus rooms to halls and hotels, there's no dearth of party venues.

At the same time, many people are no longer satisfied with locales that offer neutral space, and there's growing demand for special, one-of-a-kind environments, according to representatives of three such locations – Philippa Kennedy of Stock Market Place at the Toronto Stock Exchange (416-947-4396); Douglas Markoff of the Civic Garden Centre at Edwards Gardens (416-397-1346); and Isla Adelson Chertkoff of the Ontario Science Centre (416-696-3150).

In venues such as these, Kennedy points out, you needn't worry much about decor: the ambience is already there. (The Civic Garden Centre does let you decorate if you wish, prohibiting only confetti and fireworks.)

All three locations have easy transit and highway access. With more choice of spaces, says Adelson Chertkoff, what sets one venue apart from another is service.

She advises consulting caterers on this point. It's something they have a good sense for, she says.

Stock Market Place, as you would expect, sees lots of corporate events for cocktail receptions (maximum number 300), sit-down dinners (maximum 100) and buffets; they also host university and high school groups. The glassed-in dinner room offers a fine view of the downtown lights. Though you can book on short notice, earlier is better.

Stock Market Place's interactive games are fun and challenging. Accumulator lets you pick 10 stocks, then grades you on their performance for 10 years. Capital Markets turns you into a CEO, matching wits with your counterparts in some of Canada's biggest companies.

The Global Media Wall exhibit brings you minute-by-minute information on world markets. Barter to Bytes covers economics from ancient times to the present; and there's a museum of old stock market artifacts like teletypes and ticker-tape machines. Retired floor traders lead tours and there are live interviews with top business people.

You can integrate stock market technology into your party with ticker-tape messages, for example, or hockey finals on screen. There's a stage for live events, and four caterers to choose from.

The Civic Garden Centre, set amid green parkland, is open every day but Christmas and Easter. Its two main rooms have landscaped garden patios. The building interiors are spacious and airy; the glassed-in main atrium offers you a solarium-like view of the gardens.

The biggest room, the Floral Hall, seats 350 in a theatre-type setting and 100 for dinner, and has a stage; the Garden Auditorium seats 120 as a theatre, 100 for dinner. These rooms have their own sound and lighting systems, and kitchens for heating food; you choose your own caterer.

Continued on page B20

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There's nothing as romantic as a cruise

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Few things are as romantic as a honeymoon cruise, says Chris Chiang, director of cruises for Air Transat Holidays (905-405-8585).

"With all the on-board amenities, such as dancing under the stars, daily entertainment, intimate dinners, breakfast in bed, hot tub and sauna, and the exotic ports, the couple can't help but have a good time," she says.

Ruby Silvertown, president of Travel Network Corp. (789-3271) says cruises are a wonderful way to spend a honeymoon because the couple is "waited on hand and foot. Everything is taken care of from start to finish, and even though they travel to a number of different places, they never have to pack and unpack.

"As well, they don't lose a day every time they visit another city, and they do not have to change hotels. The boat travels while they sleep; so when they wake up they are at a new port. It's a stress-free vacation."

Cruises can be arranged on most travel budgets, she says. "A three-star destination cruise means that the ship visits a lot of ports and travellers spend less time on the ship. There is not as much on-board activity as on a higher end cruise; the ship is used as a means of getting from place to place."

Cruise destinations could be the southern Caribbean, which includes San Juan, Trinidad, Barbados, Antigua, Tortola and St. Thomas, or South America and the Amazon which includes Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro and Recife.

If the couple is flexible with their travelling schedule, she says, it is easier to find a less expensive cruise. "We can often arrange a four-star cruise for a three-star price, if they travel when the space is available. The further they book in advance, the better the chance of finding a good price."

If the fare goes down after you book a cruise, says Silvertown, you get the lower fare. "It's a win-win situation. You get a better choice of cabins if you book early, and you get a good price."

Chiang says most cruise lines have a number of packages available, depending on the couple's tastes and budget. "Depending on their destination, they can choose to have a half-day tour in Alaska, Europe, Hawaii and South America, a half-day tour or catamaran tour in Bermuda and the Caribbean, or snorkelling for two at Great Stirrup Cay or in Mexico.

"They can also choose such things as champagne, flowers and chocolates delivered to the stateroom, honeymooners' tables in the dining room or a honeymoon photograph," says Chiang.

"All in all, it is a sensuous experience," says Silvertown. "The water, clean air and all the amenities make for a romantic, memorable vacation."

A cruise makes a great honeymoon.

[Pictures courtesy of Air Transat]

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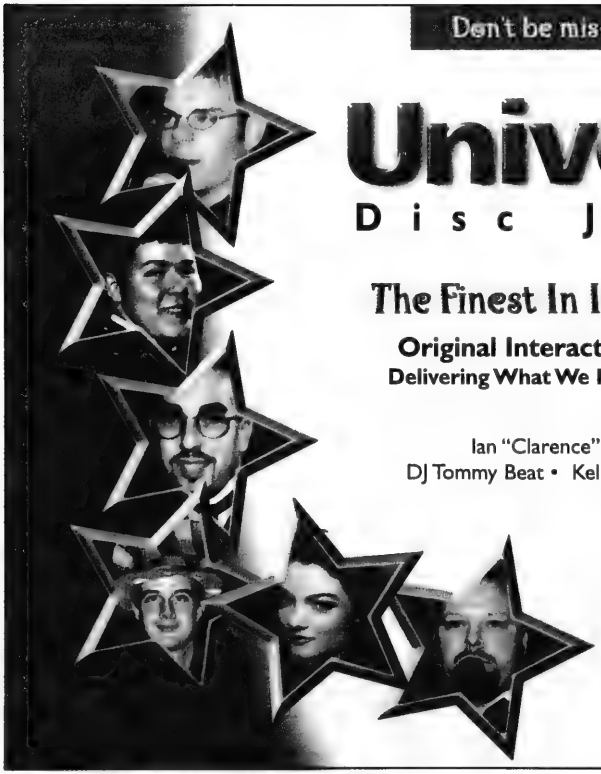

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UNIVERSAL SOUND

Entertainers bring any party to life

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

There is never a dull moment at a party if the entertainment involves the audience, say two local entertainers.

Marilyn Monroe impersonator Zahava Marks of Hollywood Heaven (416-876-8936) and Shane Farberman, the real face behind Doo Doo the Clown of Farco Entertainment (416-226-1108) view interaction between the entertainer and the guests as the key to livening up a party.

"The audience is never bored if you interact with them," says Marks, whose "Marilynesque" rendition of *Happy Birthday Mr. President* and comedy act has had audiences in stitches, she says.

Marks started meticulously studying the famed actress and model – from her movements to her facial expressions – a few years ago, and entertained audiences to make some extra cash. Now, the act is in high demand, she says.

During the summer, Marks juggles three or four acts a week, usually at corporate functions, but also does birthdays and singing telegrams. She recommends booking a week in advance.

Marks says her impersonation is a classy act and a great way to loosen up the corporate crowd. The performance "gets people away from their worries and lets them be with an icon," she says.

Much of Marks' clientele is Jewish; so she has moulded her act accordingly. "I can even do Marilyn in Hebrew," she says.

For younger crowds 10 and under, Farco Entertainment's Doo Doo the Clown puts on an elaborate hour-long show that includes juggling, fire-eating, arts and crafts and dancing.

"Our show is unbelievable and all of our T-shirts say that," says Farberman who has been clowning for 20 years.

Farco Entertainment has 32 employees and does more than clown acts. "We'll bring in bands or book out other characters for a party," says Farberman, who has travelled across North America and Europe as Doo Doo and did a clown spot in the film *Billy Madison*.

Farberman says really talented clowns are hard to come by. "There may be 20 clowns who want to work and only four are good," he says. "Customers will know if you just want the money. You have to love what you're doing."

Farco Entertainment has booked events six months in advance, but Farberman says two week's notice is sufficient. The company also entertains at corporate functions and bar and bat mitzvahs. The Web site is www.farcoenetainment.com.

Zahava Marks (left) brings parties (and Marilyn Monroe) back to life. Shane Farberman (Doo Doo the Clown, pictured above) keeps the kids entertained.

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Party Planner

Invitations also a souvenir of your party

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

When you're having a party, the invitations you send out are like the preview of a film, and it's often the preview that entices the guest to the theatre.

Gilda Lefton of Stationery Plus (905-881-5588) and Jodi Rodness of Papers 'N Prints (905-764-7455) have some insights into how to make your "preview" a drawing card. Both are knowledgeable invitation professionals who enjoy working with their clients.

Your invitation provider, Lefton says, must treat you as an individual, not just another lined-up customer. This means being organized, punctual and honest with scheduling: no double booking, no scheduling appointments so close together she has to rush. You deserve an open-ended meeting that gives you as much time as you need.

It also means being patient, Rodness says. Many clients are nervous when they first come in – the more important a celebration, the greater the pressure to do everything right, down to the finest detail. Part of any professional's job is to lighten this pressure and put the client at ease.

To this end, Rodness says, the place where you meet should be comfortable. She works out of her home and finds that many clients like this.

Lefton believes an experienced person is better able to advise you not only on visual design, but on wording. Rodness agrees, and also values what one can learn from related fields such as entertainment or visual arts.

Lefton does both catalogue invitations and custom design, and can show you many samples of her own work.

Everyone in the invitation field has the same catalogues, Rodness says. How they use the materials and designs to match your event and personal preferences is what counts.

Lefton says she shares the client's excitement when, together, they hit on the right design and wording. But though she values creativity, she does not put it first. Furthermore, she doesn't always feel she has to think that the client's choice is the best and says her job is not to push her ideas but to offer them. Then the client makes the final choice. Rodness, who abhors hard sells and high pressure, agrees.

Lefton says diplomatic skills are often called for. The people involved in planning a wedding, for instance, may disagree on paper stock, design and wording; and the task of reconciling such differences may fall to the invitation professional.

Continued on page B13

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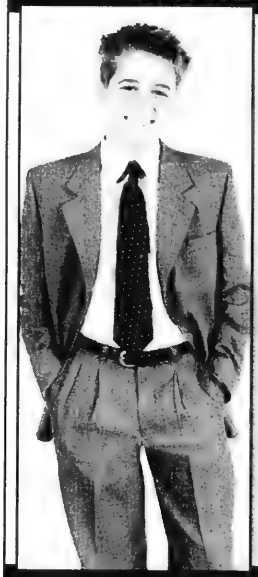

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Party Planner

Make your invitations a drawing card

Continued from page B12

In this connection, the clients are well advised to bring with them to the invitation provider anyone who has a right to a voice in how the event is organized. This may seem to make things more difficult, but in the long run, it's better if you leave the meeting secure in the knowledge that every voice that should be heard has been listened to.

While family structures and social roles are changing, some traditions persist. Most of Rodness' clients are still women, though more men come now as well.

Tastes and preferences in invitation designs range from simple to complex. Picture above supplied by Stationery Plus.

Tastes and preferences range from starkly simple to complex and elaborate. For example, Lefton says, some people prefer to link the colour and design of their invitations to the decor; others do not. And while some people know exactly what they want, Rodness observes, many do not.

Lefton and Rodness both make a point of having a large inventory, not only of cards and stationery, but of accessories like kippot, party favours, place cards, thank you notes, imprinted mementoes, and bridal party gifts.

Materials and designs are constantly added to, trends change, and staying up to date is an ongoing study. Lefton mentions new paper stocks that can be printed on or used as backings, with or without bows or rhinestone ornaments. Rodness says some people are now using translucent paper for invitations.

On the other hand, Lefton also sets great store by some older technologies and materials. Fine and interesting as some computer work is, nothing surpasses quality printing for texture and appearance, she says.

Finally, look for someone who will work with any budget, lavish or modest, and always produce a thing of beauty. Besides being a preview of your celebration now, an invitation card will later be a souvenir; and as John Keats said, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

Other stationery designers advertising in this issue are: Barbara Mortfield Invitations, 905-738-1232; Henco Consulting, Heather Hennick Invitations & Decor, 905-881-5736; Please Reply, 905-508-5669; The Printed Word, 416-484-4600.

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By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When everyone is up on the dance floor enjoying the music, it's a happening party, says Ed McMurtry, of Mister Disc Jockey/Edwin Allen Productions (905-473-3800).

"If the music isn't good, the food doesn't taste as good; the room doesn't look as good; the party doesn't sparkle," he says.

Interactive themes are a great way of drawing in the crowd. "Our earth, wind and fire theme includes a young dancer eating fire, and other dancers being blown by a wind machine," says McMurtry, who was recently nominated for having the most spectacular show and best entertainment by the International Special Events Society.

Mandell Entertainment (905-886-4000) recently launched its own venue at the Capitol Event Theatre on Yonge Street, says owner Corey Mandell. The refurbished vaudeville theatre with a full kosher kitchen, can hold events for up to 1,500 people.

A new dance studio has been added at his offices so that a girl or boy can come in and rehearse with a dance troupe and become part of the interactive team at their bar or bat mitzvah. "These dancers add so much to the party. They interact with the guests, teach them the dance trends, and perform routines.

"We've also taken sound and lighting to a new level. Our new CD players have 24 times more memory, which means the music will not skip," he says.

Phil and David Hart, of Hart Entertainment (416-769-5000) specialize in bringing "old-fashioned fun" to a party. "We rent out such things as inflatable beach volleyball equipment, an inflatable rock climbing wall or a 16-foot-long miniature golf course.

"Not everyone at a bar or bat mitzvah wants to dance, so we offer them something fun to do instead," Hart says.

Grant Cowan, owner of Universal Sound (905-619-4558), says he can make a party fun, regardless of whether his clients want four disc jockeys, full lighting and a dance troupe, or simply want great music. "It all depends on what they want. Each person is different, and each party is different," Cowan says.

A favourite at parties, he says, is his pyrotechnics display. "The crowd loves it when the guest of honour enters through a display of fireworks. It adds something special to the evening."

Continued on page B15

NOW THAT'S (interactive) ENTERTAINMENT — continued

Continued from page B14

When choosing an entertainment company, Cowan suggests asking for trade references, such as hotels or banquet halls. "They've seen all the entertainers and they know who clients can depend on. Their recommendations carry weight."

Freedom of Sound's (905-760-0040) new portable Crazy Bar, has become a favourite at many parties, says owner Miki Klevan. "It is the next step in interactive entertainment services."

Crazy Bar is an interactive catering bar service which includes costumed dancers who perform dance routines to a selected theme song while they serve drinks on the dance floor. "The bar is lightweight, easy to transport and simple to set up," Klevan says.

Jared Florence, who owns Entertainment Xtreme (488-5789) with Bram Rubinoff, says the dance troupe, Let's Dance, featuring Lindsey Freedman and Jody Pettle, "add a lot to his parties.

"The fun is contagious. We have the adults dancing to kids' music, and kids dancing to adults' music. The dancers choreograph different moves and get the crowd going," Florence says.

"We take it a step further than performing. The DJs and the dancers are always out there with the crowd, making sure they have a good time. We also have a good time, and that shines through."

Times Square Entertainment (905-881-6400) can make a party great on almost any budget, says owner Rick Levine. "We offer sophisticated or simple lighting with two DJ's and a sound system, or if the clients want, we offer an elite party including several costumed dancers, computer controlled lighting and a nightclub sound system."

With a combination of the Rick Levine Band and Times Square Entertainment, adults and kids all have a great time. "It offers a lot of variety to the evening. Another alternative is to have a keyboard and saxophone during the cocktail hour, and a DJ at the party."

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Be selective, set limits on desserts to avoid heaps of leftovers

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

We've all seen lavish sweet tables and dessert carts with enough food to feed guests for days, even weeks.

Beverley Golden of Metropolitan Ice Cream (905-731-0533), says toning down party dessert time can help avoid heaps of leftovers.

"There are so many people who are buying too much," she says. "Be realistic, set limits."

Golden advocates a simple yet tasty approach to desserts and says Metropolitan Ice Cream's strictly kosher (COR) array of ice-cream cakes, sorbets, yogurt, fresh fruit, ice cream, glacés and does just that. "Simple things can have a bigger impact."

On the other hand, fancier desserts that are especially pleasing to the eye continue to appeal to many people.

Leah Kalish, the pastry chef at kosher (COR) caterer GMB (416-789-7811), says people at parties want dessert to "look good, not skimpy. Plenty of people want showier desserts."

GMB's assortment of pastries ranges from chocolate-mousse cups and carmel pecan tartlets to berry crumble cakes.

Kalish says guests will be impressed if desserts come in numerous flavours and colours and offer several different fruits, nuts, chocolates and cookies.

As for those notoriously long lineups at sweet tables, both Kalish and Golden have figured out a way to avoid the problem.

Kalish suggests serving "homier" desserts – guests can sit at their seats and munch on a piece of cake or a series of smaller pastries that are served to the table.

Golden's secret lies in preparation. She fills special cups with ice cream and places them in a dessert cart ahead of time, so people can grab the cups at will and not have to wait to be served.

Remember to consult with the dessert caterer and guests about quantity, food allergies and an appropriate time to serve dessert. Kalish says she recently prepared desserts fit for 175 people at a party of 300, because the client knew certain guests were not dessert eaters and several people would be leaving early. At weddings and bnei/bnot mitzvah, Kalish says 10:30 p.m. is usually dessert time.

Party theme desserts

Chances are, there is a special dessert that is in line with the theme of your party. Dessert caterers are more than happy to prepare desserts that match the theme.

For Saturday night affairs, GMB and Metropolitan Ice Cream request that arrangements be made to have the dessert cart delivered no later than 3:00 p.m. Friday, since they do not work on Shabbat.

Dessert needs to be planned in the context of the entire meal. If there is meat, for instance, it is necessary to ask the caterer to serve pareve ice cream. In addition, the size of a meal will also impact on how heavy or light dessert should be.

The catering business generally runs on a referral basis, so it is important to speak with friends and relatives to find the right company.

Booking a few months in advance is recommended.

Other specialty food places advertising in this issue are: Chocolate Charm, 416-787-4256; The Chocolate Moose, 416-784-9092.

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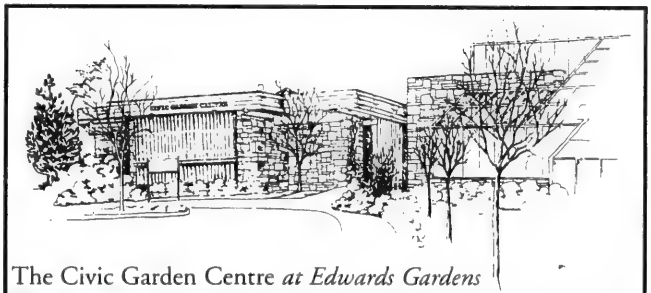

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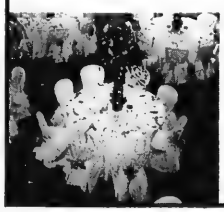

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Style of party supplies follows fashion trends

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

Choosing from a seemingly endless number of party rental firms is a challenge. To make it easier, Mary Crothers of Chairman Mills (416-391-0400) suggests going with a firm that has a formidable reputation.

"There are plenty of reputable companies in the city," says Crothers, who notes her firm has had the same clients for over 50 years.

Crothers and another veteran in the field, John Higgins of Higgins Party Rentals (416-252-4050) point out the style of party rental equipment tends to follow current fashion trends. Silver is particularly hot right now, along with light pastel colours. The industry has also seen a shift towards rectangular shaped dishes and candleholders.

While style is important, Higgins and Crothers both say price and the comfort of guests is pivotal. For example, guests should normally have two feet of space between each other when sitting at a table.

For a wedding, it may be appropriate to pay a little extra for padded chairs, but for smaller occasions, like Passover seders, basic chairs which cost $1.25 each, are just fine.

To save money, without abandoning quality presentation, Crothers recommends putting together centrepieces on your own.

A simple and attractive example Crothers lauds is filling a rose bowl with water and food colouring and jazzing the bowl up with anything from floating candles and toy frogs, to flowers or sliced lemons. "It's lovely for summer and it doesn't cost a lot," she says.

If you're planning a large party, visiting the rental firm's showroom is a must. Crothers says most companies will set up a mock table, so the client can get a clear sense of what the final product will look like.

Something to watch out for is the size of the room the party is held in. Although party halls can be quite large, clients may not have access to the entire hall and rental firms need to know the size in order to calculate how many tables and chairs will fit.

Continued on page B28

Higgin's Party Rentals left, Chaiman Mills Rentals right.

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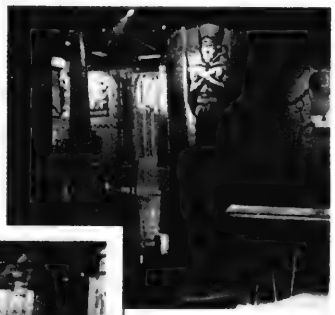

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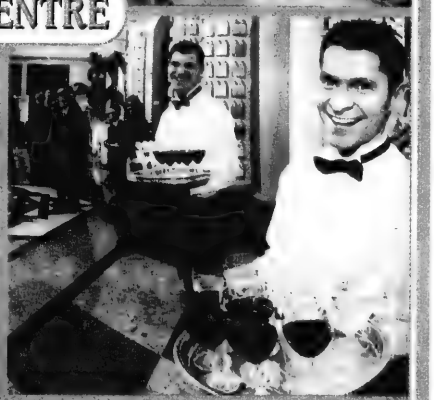

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Continued from page B9

There are smaller spaces as well.

For most dates, book a year ahead. You can't book earlier, because the Civic Garden Centre keeps space open for horticultural exhibits. Since these are infrequent during the winter, it's easier to reserve space then. The centre is disability friendly, and provides security. Party professionals have early access. Prices are competitive.

The Ontario Science Centre accommodates from 10 to 5,000 guests for anything from business meetings and educational tours to bar and bat mitzvahs. Kids love the place; and for adults who've forgotten their high-school science, the 800 permanent exhibits are a fun refresher. Many exhibits are interactive.

The settings are diverse, suitable for everything from cocktails to dancing, and include the ravines in the immediate vicinity. The "greenhouse style" Valley Market Place restaurant, for example, offers a panorama of the surrounding outdoors, and hosts dinner and dancing for up to 375.

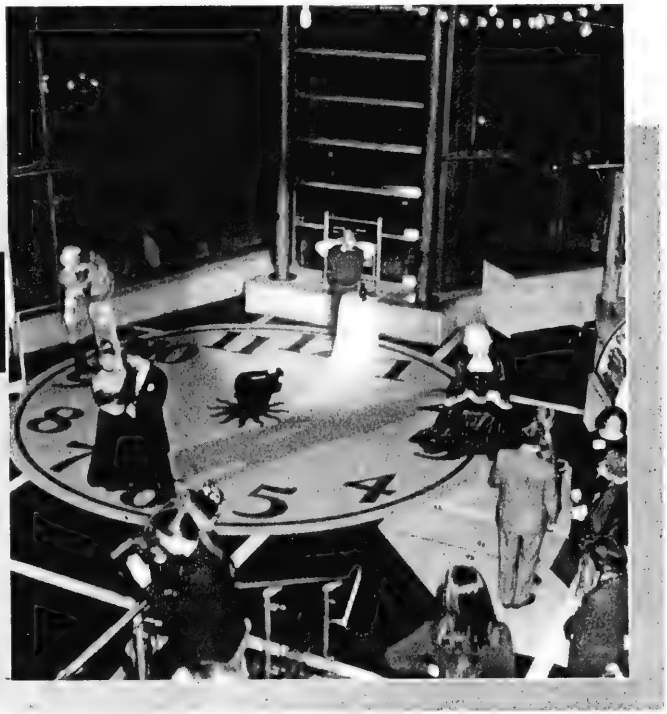
You can choose from several caterers, including kosher ones. The earlier you book, the better – reservations are already booked into 2001.

The major current exhibit is Timescape, running until late in 2001, which explores the phenomenon of time from the Earth's beginnings into the next millennium. It includes the Earth Walk through the geological history of our planet, and the Morphing Demonstration, where the image of a face is scanned into a computer and aged decades into the future.

The Shoppers Drug Mart Omnimax Theatre has a wraparound sound system, and Ontario's only 24-metre domed screen. It's ideal for making the newest discoveries in fields like astronomy come alive

Whether your simchah is big or small, don't decide until you look at facilities such as these. They're just three of the many exciting environments you can check out.

Places like The Ontario Science Centre (pictured here), the Toronto Stock Exchange and Civic Garden Centre now provide party alternatives.



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Tailored jackets that fall to the hips look elegant

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Colours run the gamut this season, from bright orange, sunlight yellow and fuchsia to a variety of pastels, says Priti Karunakaran, owner of Karisma Collections, a women's fashion boutique (416-663-1500, ext. 228).

The mixing and matching of colours depends largely on the nature of the party.

For proms, ankle-length, satin gowns topped with a layer of tulle is trendy. "The bodice, a tank top, is accented with beads, and the girls carry a beaded purse as an accessory. This is classic, formal attire," Karunakaran says.

An elegant, long, flowing, satin gown with spaghetti straps or halter neck, is popular for formal parties. "A black dress may be accented by a fuchsia shawl and purse, or a bright coloured dress might be matched up with a black shawl and purse. Colours are showing up in every outfit," Karunakaran says.

Tony Tiraborelli, president of Michi Petites (416-250-5359) says that two-piece dresses with long, taffeta skirts and bead-embellished corsets or halters are important this season, and for evening affairs, women are accessorizing with a pashmina wrap.

Tiraborelli says summer barbecues are the time to wear ankle-length pants with slits or denim capris with brocade trim, topped with a peasant top or a brightly coloured T-shirt,.

Women of all ages are wearing capris for casual evening parties, says Karunakaran. "For a slightly dressier look, a woman can wear capris detailed with beading or embroidery, topped with a tank top and sheer blouse. Printed Hawaiian shirts in bright colours have also become a big seller."

Continued on page B25

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Gift-bags to welcome out-of towners

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

If out of town guests will be attending your simchah, treating them to a hospitality gift bag is a warm way to thank them for coming, says Freda Gottesman-Brender of the Golda Meir chapter of Jewish Woman International Canada (416-221-7442).

Gottesman-Brender suggests providing guests with a bag full of goodies, from bottled water and fresh fruit, to chocolates and candy for those with a sweet tooth.

"If you've come a long way and you're hungry, this gives you something to eat," she says. "It means the person who invited the guests appreciates the fact they came that distance."

The Golda Meir chapter members who prepare the bags, carefully package and wrap all of the food – purchased that day – and deliver it to the hotel. A card is inserted inside the bags informing the guests that proceeds are used to fund charitable projects, including a home for children with special needs in Israel.

"People feel [the party hosts] were thoughtful in giving money to tzedakah," she says.

The colour of the bag depends on what the client requests. "I ask [the client] what the theme of the party is and what their centrepieces look like and we try to co-ordinate [so] the bags match the theme," she says.

Gottesman-Brender recommends checking with guests to see if they keep kosher or have special health concerns, before putting the bags together.

She points out the bags, which start at $18, are a viable alternative to traditional gift baskets which, she says, tend to offer less food than the bags and are too large to be taken home by travelling guests.

The women at Jewish Women International put together the finishing touches on a hospitality gift bag.

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Party Planner

Bright colours are in this season

Continued from page B22

Classic pant suits are still the rage for the party that falls somewhere between formal affair and casual patio party, she says. "Tailored jackets that fall to the hips look elegant with a pair of ankle-length, cuffed pants. Turquoise looks gorgeous for the summer, and when it is accented by a beaded purse, a woman can wear it almost anywhere."

Beaded accents are huge, says Karunakaran. "A beaded shawl in the same or contrasting colour to the outfit is stunning. You can match a brightly coloured suit with an off-white tank top and off-white shawl, or you can pair a turquoise outfit with baby pink. Alternatively, a white outfit looks great accented with bright colours."

Another fashionable style is the snakeskin look. "Polyester or rayon dresses are dressed up by using snakeskin, and small beads of crystal are attached to garments to give them a snakeskin look,"Karunakaran says.

Even shoes are brightly coloured this summer, says Tiraborelli. "They are pretty, sexy and strappy, and come in every imaginable colour."Classic pant suits are still the rage for the party that falls somewhere between formal affair and casual patio party, she says. "Tailored jackets that fall to the hips look elegant with a pair of ankle-length, cuffed pants. Turquoise looks gorgeous for the summer, and when it is accented by a beaded purse, a woman can wear it almost anywhere."

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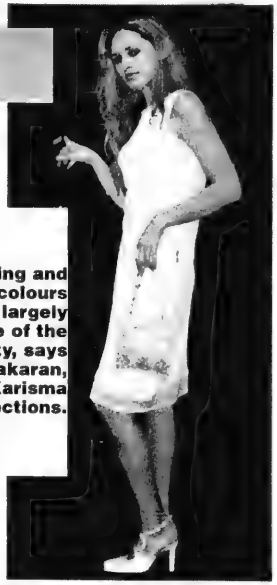

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Style of party supplies follows fashion trends

Continued from page B17

It may be wise to mention the theme of your party to rental firms. "If [the party] is super formal, we'll tie in the table (colour and style) with the decor," says Higgins.

Don't fret over whether you forgot something. Rental firms are usually stacked with a wide range of products, including dishes, tables, chairs, barbecues, linens, candleholders, carpet and even dance floors. Salespeople will make sure you're aware of everything and anything that will make the dining and reception area complete.

With warm summer days around the corner, people will be flocking to barbecue parties in large numbers. Higgins says the top-selling barbecue of late is a six footer, which should comfortably feed 200 people. For smaller affairs, three feet is perfect.

At peak times, like summer, it is important to book about two months in advance, or even longer depending on how formal the party is.

Other rental companies advertising in this issue are: Cair Decor Etc., 905-731-9217; D & D D'Amato Party Rent-All, D & D Party Rent-All, 416-665-9570.

Party supplies at this venue provided by Higgins.

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There's more to decor than meets the eye

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

If you're throwing a party, decor and accessories might not be a top priority. First impressions count, though, as Richard Winkler of Happy Days (416-789-4438) points out, and decor does a lot to create the mood. And the first thing your guests see is the hall.

Moods vary from party to party. Deciding that you want an atmosphere with both a formal element and a fun element, say, for a bar mitzvah, is an important first step, but it doesn't tell either you or your supplier what's going to make your event different from every other.

Before choosing a supplier, Winkler urges, give serious thought to what kind of first impression you want to make. Then, when you visit a showroom, bring any picture or sample, any decoration or piece of material, that lets the supplier see and touch what you like. The more concrete his impressions, the more easily he can put his ideas and experience at your disposal.

Don't make any final decisions until you see what's available, Winkler advises. The range of products is huge. Most people giving a party have a general concept of what they want, but not in exact details. Even for the exception who "knows exactly what he wants," a visit to the supplier may touch off creative ideas.

Winkler thinks one of your supplier's first questions should be: "Where's the party?" He also recommends finding someone who, like him, will make a no- obligation visit to your hall to see it for himself. No two venues are exactly alike.

Find a supplier with the widest possible range of products, says Mel Grevler of Party Supply Depot (905-764-5457). Strictly speaking, there's no such thing as one-stop for everything, but look for a place that's close and save yourself some shlepping.

Winkler holds a similar view. Choose a supplier who offers a full range of decor products, as well as accessories like sign-in boards and party machines for rental, he says.

Though Winkler himself specializes in bar mitzvahs, he doesn't set hard and fast rules about dealing with only one kind of customer. Many items that are good for a bar mitzvah will also work for, say, Purim. A supplier should be versatile.

Grevler advises knowing your budget before you go in. Look for fair, discounted prices, but not necessarily the cheapest. If a store is cheap on one item, he explains, they'll compensate by charging more on another. At the same time, in his view, a chain store can take advantage of economies of scale and pass on greater savings to you.

Important as the products are, Grevler and Winkler both put a high value on service. Staff, they say, should enjoy working with people.

Grevler considers expertise an integral part of service. The more diverse the range of product, the more expert a competent staff member must be. This means knowing what's available, what's trendy and what suits your party. There are trends in tableware, for example. To illustrate this, Grevler talks about napkins. For some time, he's imported European napkins; but he's seeing U.S. manufacturers working hard to catch up in quality.

Party supplies can be bulky and awkward to carry through a crowded mall. In Grevler's opinion, a store with convenient parking and loading space has a big asset, though it might not be the first thing you'd think of.

Grevler says experience has shown him that some people establish long-term relationships with reliable suppliers. A firm that served you well for a birthday is likely to do so for another party. If you decide to do this, choose a supplier who enjoys good connections with manufacturers.

Continued on page B46

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Memories are captured in videos

By NOAM SUGARMAN
Special to The CJN

Only a video will be able to effectively remind us of how much fun we had at a party, says Andy Koltai, owner of Video Occasions (905-737-6800).

"After the music stops, and all the decorations are down, the video will still be there and always will."

Mark Beitel of Northern Memory Products (905-881-0608) says the quality of a video will suffer if recorded by an amateur.

"When you get someone professional, the lighting comes out properly, and that is what is most important," he said.

If professionally done, the final product is not shaky, and no aspect of the party is neglected, says Beitel.

"You get what you paid for," says Koltai. "If the person that is hosting the party just hands the camera to an amateur, then it is not important enough to them to have a special memory of their own function."

Beitel says there are a few very important elements of a videographer to be investigated before choosing one.

"Check the equipment that they're using, verify that it is broadcast quality. We use a mini-DV format, which is digital."

In terms of editing, Beitel's basic package includes SVHS editing. Digital editing is not necessary, he says. "People don't want all the bells and whistles of editing."

Koltai, on the other hand, believes that digital editing is essential to a quality video, and offers it in his basic packages.

"Having non-linear editing makes the final product crystal clear because the audio and video is digitally edited."

Koltai also believes that it is important to be able to burn the video on to DVD. "In the near future, every household will have a DVD player. The VHS will be out of the picture."

Koltai employs an all-wireless mike system for speeches and interviews because it eliminates background noise. He also does not like using tripods because it can disturb the party.

"I've never used a tripod on the dance-floor, except for speeches and candlelighting."

Videographer Andy Koltai from Video Occasions.

Beitel suggests that when deciding on a videographer, ask to see some of the work they've done. This way you have a firsthand view of the particular videographer's work.

Koltai recommends that one inquire "how long the videographer has been in this business." He also says that it is important to make sure that it is a full-time videographer.

According to Beitel, the videographer should know everything about the party beforehand. "If it's a wedding, we talk to the rabbi to find out about the order of things, and we will talk to the co-ordinator as well, so that we can know everything in advance."

Beitel also believes it is important to personally like the videographer. "Make sure they are personable. I think that is very important."

Koltai suggests booking a videographer at least six to eight months in advance. "If one waits too long, they likely won't find professionals available."

Beitel suggests booking a videographer around the same time that you book your party hall.

Other videographers advertising in this issue are: All Event Video Productions, 416-254-9999; D.M.S. Video Productions, 905-881-7677; Lisa Productions, 905-764-1033; Redstone Pictures, 416-256-4666; Twins Photo & Video, 905-660-7385; Video Affairs, 905-889-0909; Video Excellence, 905-731-4355; Video Productions By Josh, 905-709-9277.

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Choose a supplier who's up to date

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

There are two main advantages to one-stop party shopping. The first, of course, is convenience – the more items you pick up on one trip, the easier it is to manage logistics and organization.

Advantage number 2 is selection. Different as their wares are, Elaine Levison and Randi Basian of Geri's Eatin' Centre (416-445-5504), and Sam Cohen of Balloon Bash (905-707-8177), offer you the widest variety possible, and the most up-to-date selection.

And from loot bags to balloons, the product range today is vast. So, Cohen encourages you not to buy until you see what's available. Work out matters of budget and taste before you start shopping, but make specific purchase decisions on site.

Since the days of streamers taped to walls and ceilings, party decorating has come a long way.

Cohen even belongs to a network, the Qualitex Balloon Network, which suppliers have set up to ensure quality. To join, one must pass tests ranging from verbal exams to creating a balloon sculptures on site.

Balloons can add a lot to a party. Coloured in pastels and bright primaries or painted with laughing faces, balloons can float airily near the ceiling and symbolize good cheer and light-heartedness, Cohen says. It's hard to see a balloon without smiling.

While there's a lot of variety in individual balloons, people nowadays are also assembling them in sculptures. They are often quite large and complex, representing everything from bouquets to sports cars to dinosaurs.

As with balloons, so with food. The selection is enormous. Geri's Eatin' Centre carries specialty food and gift baskets and party snack trays, as well as bulk foods like chips, nuts, candy and salsas. They also stock courtesy items like welcome gifts for guests from out of town, and thank-you gifts to send party professionals after the event.

While product is important, it isn't everything. Levison puts a high value on service, which has three components – product expertise, ability to deal with people, and the creativity to tailor product and service to the individual customer.

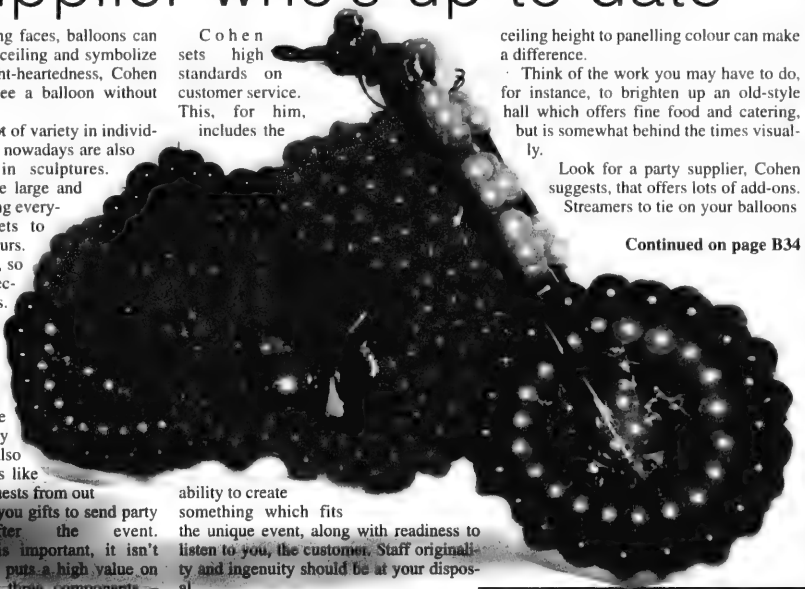
Cohen sets high standards on customer service. This, for him, includes the ability to create something which fits the unique event, along with readiness to listen to you, the customer. Staff originality and ingenuity should be at your disposal.

And, Cohen insists, book a supplier who visits your hall, so he knows the setting for his artistry. Everything from ceiling height to panelling colour can make a difference.

Think of the work you may have to do, for instance, to brighten up an old-style hall which offers fine food and catering, but is somewhat behind the times visually.

Look for a party supplier, Cohen suggests, that offers lots of add-ons. Streamers to tie on your balloons

Continued on page B34



It's probably not roadworthy, but this motorcycle by balloon Bash sure turns heads.

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Party Planner

Don't let party treats become throw-aways

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

No matter how much money and thought you put into selecting party favours, many are left behind to be thrown out after the party.

Howard Levitt of LVT Photo Group (416-780-0111) and Simmie Antflick of Llama Nation (416-961-7440) suggest providing guests with party favours that have some tangible use.

"Give-aways become throw-aways," says Levitt, a weddings and bar/bat mitzvah photographer for 34 years. "People want novelty and value."

Levitt recently started giving out free calling cards adorned with a glossy picture of the man or woman of the hour, and says they are a hit with guests of all ages.

"People are just flipped out over this," he says. "It's not something that's going to be thrown away. There's true value in this."

The calling cards usually offer between 30 minutes and one hour of free calls and are handed out in the form of place cards, thank you cards, or even as sports cards.

Levitt has set up a digital sound studio that offers clients who purchase the hour-long cards the opportunity to leave a message thanking guests for attending. This is heard each time the card user dials up the card code.

"They usually say something like, 'Thank you for coming to my bar mitzvah. I hope you enjoy the card,'" Levitt says.

The photo on the front of the card is custom designed with digital and computer technology and Levitt welcomes input from parents in choosing the design format.

Antflick agrees that customized artwork makes for an innovative party favour.

Her company designs and hands out to guests VIP party passes that consist of a collage and polaroid snapshot of the guest laminated onto a thin plastic sheet. A thank you or welcome greeting can be inserted on the passes or a slot can be left for the guest to sign, depending on what the client desires.

"Kids absolutely love this," she says. "They think of it like a backstage pass and they're just lining up to collect them."

Antflick, who runs the business with the help of her son Elijah and his friend Danny Richmond, came across the pass idea when she noticed guests of the Toronto Film Festival were given VIP badges.

"I did [the passes] at my kids' parties and it turned into a business," she says.

Antflick emphasizes that the passes are colourful and portable, and with the artwork for the collage done ahead of time, guests only have to wait three minutes for the finished product. Clients are encouraged to brainstorm ideas for the collage or draw up their own design.

"Some kids have an artistic flair… so it's fun for [these] kids to get involved," she says.

The passes can either be clipped onto a shirt, worn as a necklace or simply hand held.

"It offers people an alternative to the usual party gifts and they get a lasting memento."

Calling cards, like these provided by LVT Photo Group, are a hit.

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Party Planner

Call references when choosing a florist

Sometimes florists overbook events

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

When getting a quote from a florist, make sure they tell you the whole cost, says Elaine Birnbaum, owner of Greenleaves & Petals (905-709-4080).

Sometimes, florists will tell a customer the cost of the centre-pieces without mentioning additional costs such as for the setup and take down of the arrangements, or of the prop rentals for items such as pedestals, candles, stands, fabrics, screens to divide a room or for artificial trees. So ask them for the *full* cost instead of just the cost of the flowers, she says.

Much of the cost associated with florists is for the labour. So if you are looking to cut costs, choose something that does not require as much work or setup, she says.

If you are operating on a tight budget and want a summery, fresh look, how about choosing something simple like a yellow pot filled with white daisies or floating flower heads in water with a few candles?

Sometimes, people who want that "just walked into the garden look" enjoy having a vase with cut flowers, Birnbaum said.

She warns party planners not to wait until the last minute to book their florist. Booking a florist early ensures that the florist will have the flowers you want and that you can book the florist you want.

Buyer beware: Sometimes, florists overbook events just to get the extra business, she said.

"Being in the industry, it is something you hear about. I've had numerous people coming at the last minute," she said.

People who come to her at the last minute from another florist have sometimes done so because the florist forgot about their event, or forgot about some other important information the customer thought the florist should have known.

So, it is important to be confident that the florist you book can handle the number of events they have, she said.

One way of checking this out is to call references to find out how a florist has fared at past events.

Book a florist who will communicate well with other party professionals, she advises. If, for example, your florist and decorator do not consult with each other, you risk them choosing a colour or style that do not match.

Do not be afraid of colour, Birnbaum says.

"Very often, people will have a certain idea that they cannot put colours together and when we show them, they realize how nice it is," she said.

As for party planners worried about family members or other guests who are allergic to flowers, Birnbaum suggests flowers without a strong scent, such as gerberas, snapdragons, orchids, or certain varieties of lilies.

"People tend not to opt for artificial flowers because they tend to want that fresh feeling," she said. Artificial flowers are also more costly, she added.

Other florists advertising in this issue are: Designs by Karen Baker, 905-886-8100; Toronto Florist Shop, 905-764-6332.

Table arrangements by Greenleaves & Petals

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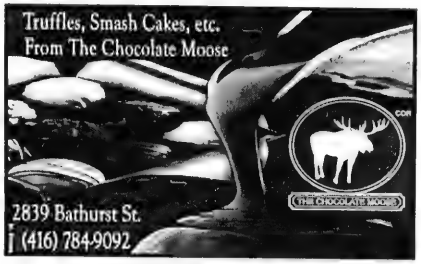


Party Planner

Schlep less: Shop one-stop

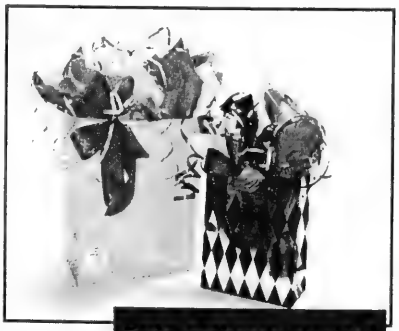
Selection and convenience

Continued from page B31

are an obvious example. It's also helpful if, in the same store, you find gift baskets, centrepieces, loot bags, stationery, cards, banners, confetti, and many kinds of giftware from mugs to plush toys.

Levison would look for a bright, cheerful store. This tells you the management wants to show the product in the best light, and make you feel welcome.

Levison, who has been in her business since 1979, advises you to choose an experienced supplier. You want someone who's up to date on the latest new ideas in the business. But, all other things being equal, someone who is an old hand at dealing with people will be more responsive to your ideas.



Party packages provided by Geri's Eatin' Centre.

And food should have esthetic appeal as well as flavour. "The sizzle sells the steak," as Levison puts it, "but it should also taste good."

"I'm not selling steaks, though," she hastens to add.

The busiest seasons for balloons, Cohen says, are Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, and the secular New Year; for gift baskets, Pesach and Rosh Hashanah.

Come at least three months ahead at these times, he says. When the trade is slower, one month ahead should be OK.

In the busy season, Levison advises, book as soon as you can; but choose a supplier who will work on short notice if the need arises. Prepare for the unexpected – anyone you hire or buy from should have the flexibility and resources to deal with it.

Other one-step party shops advertising in this issue are: Dominion Smallwares, 416-665-9526; Kosher and Natural Foods/The Candyman, 416-789-7173; Party Supply Depot, 905-764-5457; Tyme to Party, 905-737-2789; Party Packagers, 416-631-8455.

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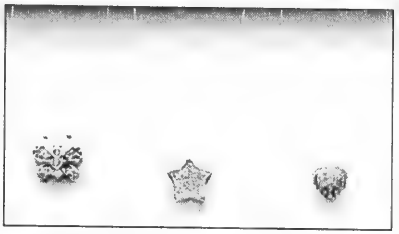

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Consultants: a prescription for party stress relief

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Big celebrations are happy occasions, but that doesn't make them less stressful. On the contrary: if you're organizing a party, the stress will probably increase in proportion to the size and importance of the event.

Fortunately, there are ways to minimize this stress. A party consultant can help you have "a worry-free affair and [look after] all your party needs," says Raquel Sananes-Grad (416-398-0217).

Both Sananes-Grad and Florence Wilder (416-222-2977) are experienced party and wedding consultants. Both offer insights into how to shift much of the burden of planning and organizing off your shoulders and onto theirs.

Sananes-Grad and Wilder agree on the qualities you should seek in any professional – integrity, commitment, knowledge of the field, experience and good organization. But while they concur on essentials, each brings her own unique outlook to her work.

Sananes-Grad, for example, emphasizes being a meticulous perfectionist, with a grasp of detail. After all, it's minutiae like timing and decor co-ordination that make your wedding or party an all-round success, she says.

Wilder, who has been a consultant for 13 years, advises you to find someone who networks well with other party professionals, from caterers to photographers. One of her most valuable services, she explains, is referrals. Recommending the right people is integral to her work, and she herself finds most of her clients through referrals.

Both Wilder and Sananes-Grad consider a calm, even temperament and the ability to handle pressure great assets. Sananes-Grad elaborates on this point, saying that a good consultant will detach herself from the situation and thus be more objective.

While your consultant has a professional interest in helping make your event a success, Sananes-Grad explains, she's not as emotionally involved as you are. To be good at her work, she has to be both a sounding board for your ideas and an intermediary among all those who have some say in the event. And she can do this better if she has a certain detachment.

Sananes-Grad practises what she preaches. When she got married, she hired a colleague.

Wilder says a good consultant is low-key, unobtrusive and in the background. You, after all, are the star at your event. At the same time, your consultant should be there when you need her.

Remember, though, that besides choosing a consultant, you have to work with her. She needs your input. So don't be shy, even about ideas which seem unconventional or difficult. A professional may find ways to make them real.

Sananes-Grad emphasizes the importance of a compatible personality. "You and your consultant have to click," she says.

A good consultant, Wilder says, is also a good listener – and a team player, who co-ordinates her work well with the other professionals at the party.

At weddings, Wilder tries to work not only with the bride, but with the entire bridal party. After all, they have an essential share in the celebration.

A good consultant, Wilder says, "makes you feel like a guest at your own wedding." And she does this by taking the worry off your shoulders, so that you can relax from time to time.

In Wilder's experience, every celebration, big or small, formal or casual, is unique. Accordingly, she advises seeking out a consultant who recognizes this, and works with you to help put your event in a class by itself.

Sananes-Grad stresses that your consultant should work closely with you from the beginning through all the planning stages. She herself stays at events

Continued on Page B45

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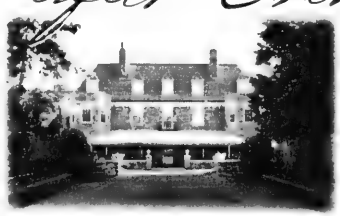
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We asked some local party bands...

It probably isn't easy being a band leader. Every week, it seems, some new song becomes the flavour of the moment and whether he (or she) likes it or not, the band leader must listen to it over and over again so he can learn it and teach it to the rest of his band.

We asked some local bands what their three most requested songs are. Ricky Martin's *Livin" La Vida Loca* and Santana's *Smooth* seem to be the most popular. But, of course, other bands had completely different popular requests. Bands that specialize in traditional music, for example, or klezmer bands are bound to have different requests.

With this in mind, here is the result of our first non-scientific band leaders poll.

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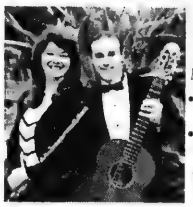
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Isle of Sark perfect for honeymooners

By RACHEL ALKALLAY
Special to The CJN

A fairy tale, medieval-style castle exists on a little known, but easily accessible island at the gateway to Europe.

Located on the Isle of Sark, one of the smallest of the Channel Islands in the English Channel, the castle belongs, appropriately, to the feudal baron who governs Sark with a benign hand.

The castle grounds are complete with a red-topped dovecote, where pairs of cooing, lovestruck white doves congregate in contentment. Mist-shrouded gardens lined with rhododendron encircle a lake inhabited by several varieties of ducks. A carefully planted vegetable and herb garden is located on the other side of the castle grounds, with brightly blooming flowers smiling between the patches of food plants.

This castle, unfortunately, is not available to honeymoon couples, but several other contemporary hotels on the island are, capitalizing on the area's misty, flower-laden appeal.

Sark's charm lies in the fact that its medieval look is combined with modern amenities. No cars are permitted on the 3½ x 5 mile island, a fact on which the Sarkese pride themselves. Romantic horse-and-buggy conveyances are available for hire, as are bicycles. Tractors race around the island, but they are not for hire.

Walking is the best way to explore the nooks and crannies of this dot of land, which is loyal to the British Crown although it lies 14 miles off the coast of France. You can follow the dirt paths along the baronial estate, as horses and cows graze peacefully in the distance. Arbours of trees create natural ceilings along the routes. Meet the local hound casually guarding the grounds. Or notice the farm-hands, with faces out of old masters' paintings.

Medieval look, modern amenities

Romantic gifts are available along Sark's main street. A perfumerie stocked with expensive European scents does a brisk business. A little further on, a Sark glass-blower has set up his wares in a charming shop peopled with mouth-blown mushrooms, paperweights, candleholders and cups.

The saleslady explains that the glass-blower is not a native Sarkese. When he was at art school in England, he met a native Sark girl, married her, and moved to Sark. This is just about the only way one can live permanently on the island of 560 – marry a native.

Sample home-made ice cream (made with real Sark milk, according to its ads) bought at the local bakery or at the small supermarket, or sample the home-made bread and muffins.

Walk along the harbour and marvel at the construction along its sturdy cliffs as waves pound the rocks. Watch out for the cranes and the ubiquitous tractors going back and forth along the slippery path.

Tides are influential in determining the number of boats with tourists arriving each day for visits. Arrivals may be cancelled for days at a time if the weather is cross.

The ability to put its visitors into an utterly relaxing mood within minutes of their arrival makes Sark worth more than the cursory half-day tour recommended in guidebooks.

Because of its Lilliputian size, Sark is one of the few places on earth that can be completely explored in a few days, perfect for honeymooners dividing their time between sightseeing and wrapping themselves in each other's company

The easiest way to get to Sark is by flying to London, then hopping a flight to the isles of Jersey or Guernsey, and from there taking one of several tour boats bound for multiple tours of Sark, Guernsey, the Isle of Herm and the coast of France.

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Bands can inject great energy into your party

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Sound quality, showmanship and rapport with the crowd are three key qualities of a great band, according to Larry Rodness, leader of the Larry Rodness Band (416-650-5858).

Rodness, whose eight-piece band includes his wife, singer Jody Glassman, says a band leader should be constantly gauging the crowd.

Rick Levine Band Left, Russ Myers above.

"He needs to be able to switch gears quickly. He always has to know what is required next, so there is no energy lost," he says.

Every party has a mixture of people, and the band leader can only judge what is needed when he sees people on the dance floor. The band has to switch quickly from top 40 to standard rock and roll to Jewish tunes – whatever is needed at the moment," Rodness says.

Russ Myers, of the Russ Myers Band (905-771-0257), agrees. People have a strong connection to music, and a band can inject a tremendous amount of energy into the party, he says.

"A band should involve the guests. A performer has to get out into the crowd and get people to sing along. We've even had a singer sing on a table – as long as the guests are happy. Each party has a dynamic of its own."

For the same reason, the band also needs to be sensitive to its volume, so that people can talk to each other easily, especially during the meal, says Meyers, a keyboard player and singer. "Its important for the band to have a monitoring system so players can hear themselves during the performance."

Rick Levine, of the Rick Levine Band (905-881-6400), says that with current technology, bands can be very affordable. "Digital sound can be used to enhance a two- or three-piece band. There is a lot of versatility now. We can bring a keyboard player with a tremendous amount of digital sound, a saxophone player and a vocalist, and make it sound like an eight-piece band."

Levine, who also offers a disc jockey service, says the two can work together to offer a unique combination of music. "With a disc jockey and a band at a party, the adults and the kids are happy. One plays while the other is on a break, and that way, everyone hears the music they like to hear."

It is essential for band members to have a rapport with each other, Myers says. "If people in the band are having fun with each other, that feeling is projected into the crowd. They can tell if we genuinely enjoy playing."

Band leaders performing at a Jewish function should understand that the party needs a Jewish *tam*, says Myers. "A horah often gets people going and offers a spiritual energy to the event. It is also an inclusive dance – everyone can dance to it, whether or not they have a partner. There is a built-in kindness to it."

Levine suggests hearing a band before booking it for your party. "That does not mean that you have to go out to another wedding and listen to it. We have a CD and a video of our music, and an interactive Web Site – rick@torontopartyguide.com – or you can hear a live performance at a party showcase. Look for a band with a solid, tight sound and a good beat."

If you do go out to a party to hear the band, make sure you audition the band and not the crowd, Rodness says. "A band may be playing a certain type of music because that is what the hosts requested. Different parties demand different types of music. Listen to the quality of the music and how the crowd reacts to the band. That is what's important."

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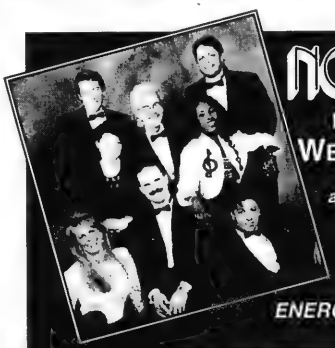
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Flowergirl's dress should suit her personality and her figure

By SHERYL HALPERN
Special to The CJN

Call her a flower girl. Call her a junior bridesmaid. Whatever you call her, she's thrilled to be part of a real wedding, with a real bride and a real groom.

While everyone else is caught up in wedding planning craziness (Do we have the band yet? When do we mail the invitations to the States?), she focuses on the main event. She's going to watch people getting married.

For that she'll need the perfect dress – something special in beautiful tulles or satins, sprinkled with lace or pearls, but not too fussy. Get ready to go shopping.

Begin by asking the bride what she wants your daughter to wear. Should you look for particular styles or shades? Should the dress have puffed sleeves or cap sleeves – or long sleeves? Should the hemline be "tea-length" (translation: calf-length) or ankle-length? If your daughter is not the only flower girl, do the girls have to wear matching outfits?

Do your research by skimming through a few bridal magazines for ideas. Then visit a few stores in the bridal district before bringing your flower girl along. (That way you'll cut down on dressing-room fatigue.)

What's out there is very princessy. Look for full-skirted dresses elegantly sashed at the waist, and A-lines that flare out with just a little crinoline.

The bodices, puffy sleeves and skirts are sprinkled with lace appliques, sequins and tiny pearls, or accented with tucking, bows or rosettes, and perhaps a few ruffles. There's lots of white and ivory, touched with rum pink (a very light pastel pink), in tulles and silks and matte satins.

Don't get too frou-frou, though. A flower girl should not resemble a wedding cake. Don't go for too many flounces and rosettes – and go easy on the crinolines. Remember what her dress looked like after the High Holy Days? Before you ask to have that elaborate ensemble with rows and rows of ruffles wrapped up for her, picture it after she's attacked the sweet table and climbed up on the bandstand.

Don't get too sophisticated, either. If your flower girl is under age seven or eight, find her an outfit that is easy to put on and to wear. If you have an older flower girl (oh, pardon – junior bridesmaid), she should have a dress that doesn't look like a cut-down version of a bridesmaid's gown.

Buy a dress to suit her figure – and her personality. If dresses with full skirts and wide sashes at the waist don't look right on your robust daughter, find a stylish A-line that skims her tummy and hips. If satin appliques and frills don't suit your tomboy, buy a dress that emphasizes cut and fabric.

Don't buy her dress too far ahead – or buy one that can accommodate a growth spurt. (She may not outgrow it, but a dress that fits her perfectly in January is going to need to be let out or let down by June.)

Don't pay more for the dress than you plan to pay for her wedding. This is a one-time-only outfit, made for memories, not a lot of wear. It probably won't fit her when she's bat mitzvah, and it definitely won't fit her when she's Sweet Sixteen.

You don't have to have imported silk or lace. You can look at bridal wholesalers and discounters for something exquisite, but not too extravagant.

Think about accessories. Will she be carrying a basket of petals or a bouquet? Will she be wearing a circlet of flowers on her hair or nothing at all? Make sure you have a slip so that the crinoline doesn't get too scratchy (or look for a sewn-in slip). Get matching shoes and a pair of stockings. (Make that two pairs of stockings, just in case.)

If you want your relatives and friends to talk to you after the wedding, you also have to explain how a flower girl should behave at a weddaing ceremony. (You really don't want her to feature too prominently in the wedding video – and there's no time-out corner under the chupah.)

Keep it simple: Flower girls don't talk or whisper – and they try not to fidget. They don't sit down on the stairs to the bimah or run down the aisle. They just get dressed up in their prettiest-ever dresses – and smile!

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Photography captures the true emotion of the day

By NOAM SUGARMAN
Special to The CJN

When choosing a photographer for a party, important characteristics to look for are charm, honesty and straightforwardness, says Adrian Holmes of Adrian Holmes Photography (905-479-6569).

Photographs make a big difference in how you will remember your party, Holmes says. "Photography captures the true emotion of the day."

To get the best results, it is essential to have a good rapport with your photographer, he says. "Your relationship with the photographer is not something that goes on for an hour or two. It can sometimes last up to a few years."

The process of choosing a photographer should therefore not be taken lightly. "It is definitely something that is worth the effort. Start by getting referrals from friends, consultants and other industry people."

It is also important to check out the quality of the photographer's work for yourself, Holmes says. "Simply looking at samples from the company can go a long way in helping you make your decision."

For your photographer to do his best work, you should provide him with information about the party as early as possible. "It definitely helps to have an itinerary, or if it's a kids' party and there's a theme, to be told in advance. Knowing these things helps the photographer decide on how he or she can approach the party," Holmes says.

Interaction between the photographer and guests should be relatively limited, he says. "Make sure the photographer is not intimidating and not too obtrusive. You should remember the photographer by the pictures, not by how he is carrying on at the party."

In terms of what's in style for photography now, "the trend seems to be 'what's old is new.' People are opting for a more free style of photography. Black and white photos have also become more popular lately," Holmes says.

He advises booking a photographer at least a year before the party. "A good rule of thumb is to book the photographer at the same time as the party hall."

Other photographers advertising in this issue are: Party Shots, 905-881-6372; Photos by Arnold, 905-881-6372; Horvath Photography, 416-487-3443; Macdonell Photography, 481-4600; Mark Stern Photography, 416-789-6275; Platinum Studios, 905-709-7754; Signature Photography, 416-784-4488.

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS

First impressions when you enter a party venue count, according to Richard Winkler of Happy Days.
Happy Days specializes in supplying party decorations for many types of parties, like the one seen here.
See story on page B29.

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Buying kids' clothes shouldn't wear you out

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

When you're thinking about parties and celebrations, kids' clothing enters the picture in two ways – as gifts and as apparel for the occasion itself.

The speed at which kids grow, the fickle shifts of fashion, the cost of new clothes and your child's response to peer pressure may make the subject seem daunting.

In fact, it's not that scary. Barb Davis of Previously Loved (416-516-3613) and Santina Mariani of Zero 20 Bambini (905-851-6041) carry a variety of clothing from quality used items to designer sportswear and special occasion wear. Here, they offer some hints that will help you clothe your kids.

Before you visit any store, Davis urges, know what you want. List your priorities – looks, durability, design and condition.

Then look for quality, service, and a wide selection, Mariani recommends. And, of course, consult your child.

Mariani says American brands like Ralph Lauren, Polo, Guess and Fila are still "in." So are French labels like Miniman, which now has a girls' selection too. Catimini, although mainly for girls, now has boys' clothing as well.

Styles are more diverse than ever. You'll find everything from a business suit to ball gowns to flower girl dresses for a wedding march.

Mariani sees style as a way for a child to express personality. Even on special occasions, for instance, a robust, rough-and-tumble girl wants different clothes than one who enjoys frilly dresses. And a child may need different styles for the same occasion – say, a suit for a bar mitzvah service and something casual for the party after.

For rough-and-tumble clothes, Mariani says, all you need worry about is price and durability. Since kids are hard on clothes in any case, durability is a major consideration for every garment.

Look for quality, service and selection

Davis and Mariani agree that the stigma attached to second-hand clothes is disappearing. Looks and quality matter more than newness. For one thing, people are more environmentally aware and less willing to waste perfectly good articles. Because kids grow fast, even the sturdiest clothes need replacing every few years; why not pass them on to someone who can use them? And the economic slowdown a few years ago reinforced a good idea that's always in style: get value for your money. Since then, quality used clothing outlets have become common.

When buying second-hand, Davis advises, avoid clothes with worn patches that will soon fray through, and make sure that buttons, zippers and snaps are in good working order. Defective items are a false economy.

Most second-hand stores, Davis says, have some good stuff, and people with an eye for a bargain take pride in an unusually good find. The problem with many such stores, though, is the stacks of not-so-good stuff you have to sort through to find the treasures. Accordingly, Davis advises choosing a store that carries only the best second-hand merchandise, or at least does the sorting for you. This saves time and tells you that the merchant is selling service along with the product.

Buy a few quality items, Mariani urges, rather than a huge quantity. You get what you pay for. Cotton pyjamas at $29, for example, last till a child outgrows them; acrylic pyjamas at $5 will have baggy knees in a few months. Many a rueful customer has fallen for such a "bargain" – once.

Mariani places a high value on integrity and reputation. If a merchant doesn't carry what you need, she should be willing to refer you to someone who does. Better no sale now and a good name in the long run, than a one-time sale to a disgruntled parent who votes with her feet, takes her dollars to another store and tells her friends to do likewise.

And in case your kid dislikes something or it doesn't fit, Davis recommends choosing a store with a return-and-refund policy. Sometimes you can avoid these problems by bringing your child with you, but that's not always possible.

Should you bring kids at all? Some children look forward to coming with you to help you choose. For others, going through all those stacks and racks is a big bore; they'd rather be outside playing. What it comes down to, Davis says, is that you have to do whatever works for you as a parent.

Other children's fashion stores advertising in this issue are: Beatties, 416-481-4459; Crawford Boys, 782-8137.

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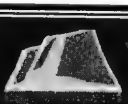
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Buffet is less expensive than a sit-down meal

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

If you are planning a party on a tight budget, two areas you might cut back on are alcohol and the sweet table, says Joe Elmaleh of King Solomon's Catering (416-630-0666)

For luncheons, sometimes just wine and beer are served – a cheaper option than providing an open bar. Also, serving a nice dessert following a meal might be sufficient rather than offering a sweet table, which is more expensive, says the managing partner of King Solomon's Catering.

Another cost-cutting measure is providing a buffet. It is less expensive than a sit-down meal and can be quite elegant, he says.

"You can have a very elaborate, up-scale buffet."

While people often worry that buffets involve waiting in tiresome line-ups, Elmaleh says having several food stations, like large salad stations, a pasta bar, an Israeli food station and a Chinese food station spread around the room can speed up lines.

"If you do it properly and spread out the buffets, the wait is not there," Elmaleh says.

About half of the luncheons King Solomon's Catering provides are buffets while only about 25 percent of dinners are buffets, he says.

When looking for the right caterer, Elmaleh suggests speaking to past customers of the company you are considering and attending one or two simchahs catered by them.

Allan Brearley, owner of Fine Touch Catering Inc., (905-889-2690 ext. 2117) suggests hiring what he terms a "full-service caterer," someone who will handle rentals of equipment (such as dishes, linens, tables), recommend other professionals, such as decorators or florists, and help you find the right venue.

Hiring a caterer with many contacts in the party industry will make party planning much easier, he says.

"If you can deal with just one person, it takes away a lot of the stress of having a party."

A delicious spread by Fine Touch Catering Inc.

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Mat Reime, general manager of Peter Graben Fine Foods Ltd. (416-510-1818), says finding a caterer with experience is important.

"Sometimes, chefs can talk a good game but… if they are putting out two or three hundred dinners and there are four or five courses, you need food service experience," he says.

Also, make sure you choose a caterer that listens.

"Anybody can cook. The question is do they cook what you want? When the function is over, can you say this is exactly what you wanted?" Reime says.

Other kosher caterers advertising in this issue are: Kehila Catering, 905-669-7654 Ext. 227; Miriam's Table Catering, 416-633-6554; TriElm Catering, 416-631-7322

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Vera Wang

Dress yourself up like a princess

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Streamlined gowns made of quality silk are what makes Vera Wang creations known worldwide, says Carole Rosenstein, co-owner of Hugo Nicholson (416-927-9094).

"Posh Spice, Jane Fonda, Mariah Carey and Al Gore's daughter Karenna, have all worn Vera Wang wedding gowns," says Rosenstein, who with her sister Elanore, runs the only Vera Wang salon in Canada.

Wang, the youngest person to have been made editor of the American edition of *Vogue* magazine, went on to work for Ralph Lauren before opening her own salon in 1990. "Her formal, floor-length gowns, which usually have a chapel-like train, are not adorned with bells and whistles. They are clean and body conscious, and are often in ivory with a cream cast – just a notch off the starkness of white," Rosenstein says.

A "classic" Wang gown, made of silk organza and silk shantung, features a fitted princess bodice and scoop neckline with small cap sleeves, richly piped in silk shantung. A cummerbund defines the waist in back, and a draped bow with an array of silk roses cascades into a full organza skirt.

A silk satin gown with a halter neckline and dropped waist trimmed with dainty pearls, has floral accents that "add allure to the gown," Rosenstein says.

By the time a client comes in to try on a Vera Wang creation, she says, they should have looked at other gowns, "so they can feel the difference."

A trunk show, to be held in August, will feature about 100 sample gowns. "This gives the buyer a chance to make an appointment and view the whole Wang collection," Rosenstein says.

She suggests that brides come in about six to eight months before the wedding, to give ample time for alterations.

Designs by Vera Wang.

Buying a Jewish wedding gift? Think tradition

By ABIGAIL PICKUS
JUF News

When Hava and Adam Holzhauer got married three years ago, they received a curious package from a relative. It was heavy. It was large. It was a stone bust of Moses.

"It looks like it was carved out of a mountain. It's huge and ridiculous," said Hava, who lives with Adam and their toddler son near Chicago.

Moses, however, who is carrying the Ten Commandments in his hands, has been situated in a place of honour: on top of an armoire in the main room.

"It's like Moses is looking down on us all," said Hava.

Ah, to receive an unusual Jewish wedding gift! After all, how many mezuzot can a couple get? "Well, we got 13 mezuzot," said Hava, adding that only half of them came with the *claff*, the parchment that is to go inside.

(Word to the wise: when giving a mezuzah case, go ahead and throw in the *claff*, the couple will thank you for it.)

So what is the buzz on the street when it comes to Jewish wedding gifts? It seems that, busts of Moses aside, Jewish wedding gifts haven't changed that much since the days of old. Sure, you can plan your whole Jewish wedding through the guidance of a CD-ROM. And true, the father-in-law typically doesn't throw in some chickens once the bridegroom has agreed to the match.

But when the time comes to buy a happy couple a gift, people are still venturing into Judaica stores – although they can order practically everything online – and buying everything from books and music to jewelry and Jewish ritual objects – mezuzot, seder plates, Kiddush cups and challah covers.

In fact, many Judaic retailers have seen a strong return to tradition, especially among young couples.

"Young people are definitely going back to tradition," said Terri Morris, who has managed the Hamakor Gallery Ltd. in Skokie, Ill., for the past 11 years.

"The tendency seems to be less avant garde, more traditional. More like the kinds of things your grandparents would have had."

In fact, Morris has seen a return to giving tzedakah boxes – pushkes – as a way for a new couple to make giving a part of their life together.

"We have some beautiful tzedakah boxes that are replicas of synagogues throughout the world," said Morris. Beyond that, anything by artist Gary Rosenthal, who works in metals like brass and copper, is very popular.

At Rosenblum's World of Judaica in Chicago, owner Avrom Fox has seen some different trends among young married couples.

Currently, every couple wants an artistic ketubah, the marriage contract. Whether a lithograph or a commissioned piece of art, couples value the ketubah as an official reminder of the legality of their Jewish marriage.

"It's becoming almost a given that couples buy these artistic ketubot, frame them, and hang them on the wall," said Fox.

Their popularity can be measured in numbers: This past year, Fox estimates they sold several hundred ketubot, while 10 years ago, they sold a few dozen.

"Twenty to 40 years ago, these kinds of ketubot were not available. People had to pay upwards of $2,000 for a custom-made one, which is why there are scores of these beautiful lithographs that almost look original," he said.

Rosenblum's offers a selection of nearly 200 lithographs representing dozens of artists from around the country. Some are limited edition lithographs, and all are customized for the couples. A lithograph can cost between $100 and $300.

On a more sociological note, Fox has seen a melding of denominational lines when it comes to traditional practices.

Continued on page B47

It's never too early to book a consultant

Continued from page B35

until the sweet table opens, in case she's needed.

Wilder says a consultant should be ready for anything. To this end, she comes to every event armed with a "contingency kit," filled with everything from bandages to different coloured socks.

Book your consultant as early as you can, Wilder urges – a year, even 18 months in advance. Sananes-Grad advises booking as soon as you know the date of your event. Do so before you hire any other party professional, she adds, so that you can take advantage of the referrals she can offer.

Not that consultants won't work on short notice, if they can, they say. The earlier you book, though, the fewer the disappointments and the more likely you are to find your preferred person available for the date you want; and one of the best ways to minimize stress is not being in too much of a hurry.

Other consultants advertising in this issue are: Heidi Gruenspan, 905-738-5030; Judy Stein Bridal Consultant, 905-764-2728; Marla Kay, 905-882-2042; We're Having A Party. 905-881-6400; Risa Gold, 905-882-5044; Sarah Cherry, 905-764-7121; Up & Coming Events, 905-886-8148.

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The evolution of tradition through history

By ROBIN MORDFIN
Special to JUF News

Many couples are so caught up in modern times they don't take the time to understand the history of the ceremonies surrounding their wedding.

With computer-engraved wedding invitations, e-mail RSVPs, and the four Cs of diamond buying, today's brides and grooms often forget that many of the rituals they prize are remnants of old and valued traditions.

Marriage is the central event in the Jewish life cycle, a big ceremony surrounded by many smaller ones. In past times, the ceremonies included engagements, the negotiation of dowries and a formal betrothal.

Today, while some of these are still extant, modern customs have been added – like showers and rehearsal dinners. Yet they all seem to be related.

Just as in the distant past, today's marriage cycle begins with a proposal. According to Jewish tradition, the bride must receive and accept a proposal in order for a wedding to take place, even for those marriages that are arranged.

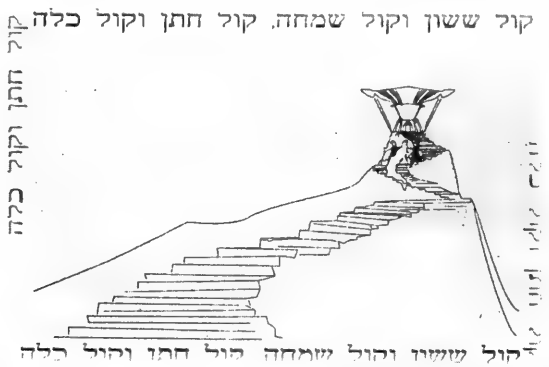

Illustration by Edward Dunbar

"It's considered very improper to marry without a proposal," said Rabbi Yosef Bechhofer of Bais Tefillah Congregation in Illinois. "There has to be a proposal and a consent."

And just like today, it has long been customary for the groom to give the bride a gift of value, or for both bride and groom to exchange gifts such as clothing, jewelry and fruit.

In ancient and medieval times, the engagement was formalized in a betrothal ceremony known as *shidduchin*, at which the terms of the marriage were formulated in a document called the *tena'im*.

The *tena'im* included when and where the wedding would take place, the terms of the dowry, and other conditions, such as how long the bride's father would support the couple. And, because it was a binding agreement, the *tena'im* included the damages either side would have to pay should the engagement be broken.

Breaking an engagement was much more serious in talmudic times than it is today. In fact, the procedure for release was so difficult that it was not uncommon for rabbis to suggest that the wedding take place so that the couple could be given a *get* – a Jewish divorce.

Today, the *tena'im* are normally signed on the day of the wedding, so that problems with damages and dowry are no longer an issue.

Continued on page B47

Decorations provide atmosphere

Continued from page B29

Grevler highlights one advantage of these connections. Besides regular products, your supplier will be able to get test-market items. This adds to the variety of products you can choose from and may put you at the forefront of a decor trend.

Good service should be offered even on short notice, but Winkler advises choosing your supplier a year in advance. Grevler suggests booking a month or more ahead. This cuts down worry, especially when it comes to ordering items that may be in short supply.

Choosing your decor supplier entails more than meets the eye, and a wise choice may ensure that what meets your guests' eyes when they enter the hall will be recalled with pleasure long after the simchah.

Other decorators advertising in this issue are: Aragon Group, 416-597-0777; Artistic Creations, 416-630-8750; Entertaining Xtras, 905-882-4835; Party Props, 905-726-8878; An Affair to Rember, 905-881-6686.

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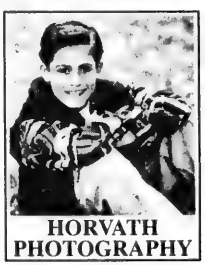
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Party Planner

Wedding rituals are based on tradition

Continued from page B46

Yet, in some more observant communities, the practice of having a party to celebrate a couple's engagement, called a *vort*, often with divrei Torah as part of the celebration, has become more common.

For those couples that survived the engagement rites, the next step on the road to matrimony then and now is the betrothal, the *erusin*, which used to take place a year before the wedding. From the *erusin* until the wedding, the couple was considered bound together in every respect except that they did not live together and the groom was not yet obligated to support the bride.

"Families needed a year to prepare their children for marriage," Rabbi Bechhofer explained. "They had to prepare a trousseau for the bride. They had to prepare a house for the couple."

Today, extended family and friends still help the couple furnish their new home, but household necessities are often provided through bridal showers and department store registries.

And because, as the 11th and 12th centuries passed, Jews around the world were living in increasingly turbulent times, the betrothal ceremony frequently became connected to the wedding.

The decision was made because the possibility that a betrothed couple might be separated had become a strong reality, which would leave them both unmarried yet unable to marry anyone else.

So, as it has been since medieval times, the betrothal is now separated from the wedding ceremony only by the reading of the marriage contract – the ketubah – under the chupah.

Traditional gifts making a comeback

Continued from page B45

He cites the popularity among Jews from all religious backgrounds of the bride buying a tallit for her bridegroom.

"Denominational lines have fallen down for certain basic traditions," said Fox. "There is a resurgence in general in Jewish knowledge and in an understanding of who we are as a people."

An interesting trend, according to Fox, is commissioning an artist to put the broken glass from the wedding ceremony inside a mezuzah. Although the glass stomped upon by the groom during the ceremony is considered a reminder of the destruction of the Temple, some people interpret the glass as a sign of joy.

"It's a symbol of good luck," said Fox, who added that there is no halachic basis to this custom.

Eileen Braun, manager of the Bariff Shop for Judaica at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago, has seen customers coming in for everything from the more traditional pieces to one-of-a-kind, commissioned work, like the ever-popular ketubot.

An unusual item that Braun says is quite popular is something called the "community wedding ring." The ring, which has a spice box on top in the shape of a house or castle, comes from Israel. It costs from $60 to $200, depending on the size and style.

Such a community ring is representative of the reality of shtetl life a couple of hundred years ago, when needy families who could not afford to buy a wedding ring had access to a communal ring.

The Bariff shop also offers a variety of Judaic wedding bands, from the very traditional to the more contemporary, with different Hebrew verses etched into it. (Traditionally, wedding bands are not supposed to be pierced in any way, so that the bride will know for sure that the band, a symbol that the wedding contract will be fulfilled, is pure gold.)

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Mishaps make weddings memorable

By SID SINGER
JUF News

Shmuel – we'll keep his last name private – had a memorable wedding. Sure, everyone thinks his or her wedding is unforgettable. But this was really memorable.

"I started walking down the aisle, I looked up, and there was no chupah there," he says.

What?

"They had just remodelled the hall. We were the first wedding to take place there since the remodelling. The caterer didn't think about it. The hall didn't think about it," says Shmuel.

With the flowers and a skylight up front, none of the guests sitting in the room noticed it, either. Fortunately, the groom had packed his tallit to use the next morning. His cousin ran to get it, and four people held up the corners of the makeshift chupah.

The story, which took place in 1991, has a mythological side, according to Shmuel.

"My grandfather says he saw it first, my father says he saw it first. But I saw it first," he says.

The anecdote illustrates the unspoken, dark side of weddings: when things go wrong. Families plan weddings for months, the bride and groom can pay attention to every last detail, but sometimes, there's just no stopping more powerful forces. When that happens, the best defence is just a good sense of humour.

Take Carrie Kaye's experience, for example: "A squirrel came into the hotel during the changeover of the room from the ceremony to the reception," says Kaye, a wedding coordinator, of a wedding she did last year. None of the guests were in the room at the time.

"All the catering staff, some of the musicians, and I were trying to not kill the squirrel but get it out of the room," says Kaye, who handles 30 to 40 weddings per year. Finally, a waiter used a broom to scare the squirrel and it ran out a back door. "That was fun," she says.

Of course, it wasn't her wedding. Nature's impact on a wedding usually takes the more familiar form of weather. Heavy snow began falling on the Sunday that Nathan and Michal Fox were getting married in January 1996.

A quarter of the 400 expected guests didn't make it. In all, over 30 centimetres of snow would fall, leaving many of those who did make it stranded at the hotel for the night. The groom's parents, Barbara and Jack Fox, sponsored a lox and bagel breakfast for everyone the next morning.

Among those stranded were professionals who had worked the wedding, who, like many wedding guests, had no change of clothes. At the breakfast sat 150 people, including stranded guests, the photographers, and the band – all in their tuxedos.

Also present at the breakfast were many of the electricians brought in by the hotel to maintain the power lines. As Barbara was nearing the breakfast room, out walked the uninvited workers wearing jeans, boots, and hard hats, carrying plates full of food. Said one of them to Barbara, "Hey, lady, go in there, the food's free!"

"I just laughed and went in," says Barbara. The wedding united more than just the bride and groom, adds Barbara. "We had people staying at the hotel Saturday night who didn't know each other. They're real close friends now."

At least the power didn't go out at the Fox wedding; other weddings hit by snow haven't been so lucky. David Allswang, an attorney with Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe, recalls a wedding that he attended. The family went to great lengths to make a memorable affair, but a heavy snowstorm hit the area that day.

Guests began leaving early as the word circulated that the airport would close. Then the power went out, leaving no lights in the room and – worse for the party – no band.

"Some guys tried to sing [Jewish songs] at a high decibel, but...," Allswang didn't need to finish his sentence.

The unexpected events at Allswang's own wedding, which took place in 1991, had a different spin. A beauty pageant was conducting a promotion in the hotel that weekend.

Mrs. United States (she was married) and Miss Universe were in the lobby, ribbons and all. Some of the guests found time to meet the beauty queens. Were they taking pictures with her?

"Yes," says Allswang. Did Allswang take a picture with her? "I have a picture with her, yes."

Adam Fishman has been to a lot of weddings, first as a singer with two local bands and now with his own band, Nefesh.

Often the band must deal with last-minute situations when a musician can't make it or when the instruments blow a fuse. Once, however, the music stopped but the lights didn't go out, signaling that a fuse hadn't blown. Fishman looked around and saw a boy standing behind the stage. The boy had pulled out the plug. "The kid was a folk hero" after that, says Fishman.

What did he do about it? "I plugged it back in," he says.

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Moving to the rhythms of joy at Jewish weddings

The 1990s saw rock supersede pop, but for weddings it's rock with a Jewish 'tam'

By ARIELLA PALMER
Special to JUF News

Wedding ceremonies are bound by ritual and custom, but when it comes to rejoicing, tradition yields to trend.

As musical tastes change, so do the dances that go with them. While Jewish weddings often feature conventional dancing, they are increasingly adding Jewish music and, by extension, Jewish dancing, to their agenda.

Fifty years ago, wedding guests circled the bride and groom to *ruach* music learned at summer camps and based on an idealized view of pioneering Israel. As Jews felt more linked to Israel, Israeli music became more popular and Israeli folk dancing was taught at summer camps and simchahs.

Israeli folk dances relinquished the floor when klezmer music made a comeback along with American Jews' renewed interest in their grandparents' eastern European experience.

Klezmer gave way to chassidish pop when disco commandeered the music scene. The 1990s saw rock supercede pop, but for weddings it's rock with a Jewish *tam*.

Simchah dancing, according to some, became the rage at the hippest of weddings, beginning in the '90s. Look carefully, however, and adults who learned Israeli folk dancing at summer camps in the '60s will see *Shaftu mayim*, grapevine and *debka* steps speeded up to match the pop/rock beat.

The net effect is arm-swinging, feet-moving, heart-beating and cheek-reddening Jewish line dancing. It's a lot of fun for those who know the sometimes complicated combinations. And it's fun to watch for those who don't know the steps or are too self-conscious to get on the dance floor.

Popular at Orthodox affairs where a *mechitzah* sometimes separates men and women on the dance floor, simchah dancing allows women who love to move to get around without the restraint of oblivious or inexperienced partners.

Dancers move as individuals in rows or lines without holding hands. While the dancers are constantly in motion, the combinations repeat themselves with dynamic regularity so that someone with a fast eye and faster feet can follow along.

While some yeshiva boys learn steps with their rebbes, the complex simchah dancing more often happens on the women's side.

Largely choreographed in New York, simchah dancing reaches Chicago on videos and through the teaching of women like Janet Shapiro and Ava Nussbaum in Skokie and Malkie Goldberg in West Rogers Park.

All three are popular guests at simchahs where hosts want the assurance that guests who are less sure of themselves will have a good dancer to follow.

"People love to have a good time at parties. If people get up to dance, they have more fun," Nussbaum says. "What is a party? You eat, drink and dance. If I can get five or six people who know the steps, I can get other people up dancing."

"One or two quick lessons and you can have a good time," says Goldberg, who teaches a few generic steps to brides or nervous parents who haven't danced in many years. "My philosophy is that you just need the confidence to go on the floor. Once you get there, anything goes."

Goldberg's twice-weekly classes attract women who want a good aerobic exercise workout as much as they want to dance at a party.

Nussbaum and Goldberg agree that interest at weddings in really complicated choreography has waned. Guests are more likely to do tried and true steps, but that hasn't stopped teachers from learning new steps to teach women in their classes.

Her most devoted women, says Goldberg, "will give up meetings to come dancing." Others will come for a few lessons prior to an important simchah.

It's not that men can't learn the steps, Shapiro says. "Men are picking up a couple of the dances and they do it in their manly way. If they took the time to take lessons, it would be more enjoyable for them than just going around in circles."

Has Israeli dancing disappeared? Hardly, says Phil Moss, director of the Nitzanim Israeli Folk Dance Troupe, but it doesn't look like it did in the 1950s.

"Israeli dancing is a recreational dance form based on Israeli culture. It is centred in Israel and Israel accepts music from all over the world. Usually there's some Hebrew in it, but not always. New choreography is coming out all the time as new music comes out. It's not a pure form. It is an entertainment form now, not a folk form."

Dance or music? Music or dance? Which is more important to a celebration?

"A band that connects with the soul of the party can get people to dance," says Stuart Rosenberg. "Those who have a gift for expressing their joy physically are going to find cool ways to do it and they will set trends."

Whatever the dance and music trends in North American society, where Jews come together to be joyous there will always be music and dance.

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Elbow grease, inspiration go into homemade chupahs

By ANDY ALTMAN-OHR
Jewish Bulletin of Northern California

Making one's own chupah may add to the stress of wedding preparation, but several Bay Area couples say it also offers a tremendous amount of inner satisfaction.

"It was part of what I needed to feel a real sense of connection with the ceremony," Shoshana Klein said. "What we created is priceless. It's a huge, hand-sewn, amazing piece of art. It's going to be the family heirloom. We created the family heirloom."

Klein and her husband, Keith Weinstein, were married in August at the Brazil Room in Berkeley's Tilden Park underneath the chupah they created — painstakingly and sometimes agonizingly — together.

From the initial planning stages to its completion, the chupah took the Oakland couple about 13 months to create. Toward the latter stages of the project, they worked on it just about every night for 2-1/2 months.

"When she first said, 'Let's make our own chupah,' I said, 'All right,'" Weinstein said.

"I guess I didn't really know what it was going to take: coming home almost every night of the week, sitting down and sewing. Before this, I had never even sewn anything substantial."

The couple started the project by importing ivory-white Doupioni silk from India — a friend shipped it over — for the background. For their design, they decided on an *Eitz Chayim*, or Tree of Life.

Onto a 7-foot by 13-foot piece, they sewed their elaborately planned design: a cabernet-coloured tree trunk along with red, gold and olive leaves — 54 to be exact. All of them had to be traced and cut out of smaller swatches of silk that they had meticulously selected.

"That's a lot of leaves," Weinstein said, noting that 99 percent of the sewing was done by hand.

The most difficult task proved to be the border, which was sewn from ribbon and a piece of heavyweight silk. At that point, thinking they might run out of time, the couple brought in an expert.

"The seamstress is what really helped us turn the corner," said Weinstein, noting that they finished with three weeks to spare.

"I thought I was going to be suicidal, it got so frustrating at times," Klein said. "The Doupioni was very difficult to sew; it's raw silk, so it snags real easy. But it came out absolutely gorgeous."

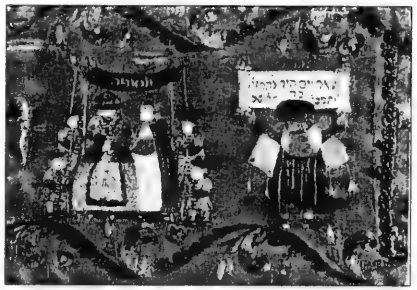
For Klein, one of the most spiritually rewarding aspects of the chupah was the connection it provided her with her grandmother.

Klein's grandmother died a few months prior to the wedding and only three days before she was set to meet Weinstein.

"I needed something to kind of invite her into the ceremony a symbolic way to connect with her," Klein said. "She was a seamstress who used to sew pants and clothes for me.

"So even though making the chupah was an incredibly intense and exhausting experience, I could real feel her presence. Her soul was there, and I felt it. It was very powerful."

Like Klein, another bride who got married at the Brazil Room in Berkeley's Tilden Park was able to feel a connection to her deceased grandmother through a homemade chupah.



A traditional chupah circa 1750.

Employing a somewhat popular make-your-own technique, Debbie Weinstein and David Paulson asked about 60 relatives and friends to decorate 9-inch by 9-inch pieces of cloth.

Forty squares were returned, which the Oakland couple fashioned into a quilt-like chupah that now hangs in their bedroom.

"My mom's square had a handkerchief from my [late] grandma," Weinstein said. "It helped me feel like her spirit was there."

Paulson and Weinstein, who wed in November 1998, were extremely impressed by the creativity of their family and friends.

Some people transferred photos to their piece of fabric. One person incorporated the footprints of her baby in her design. Another used a Japanese symbol to represent happiness and good luck in marriage.

"We wanted our chupah to represent the home we shared," Weinstein said. "We also wanted it to represent family and friends, and we wanted the ones who weren't able to come to the wedding to be spiritually there through their square."

Fourteen months after their wedding, Paulson and Weinstein are happy they took the suggestion of Jerry Derblich, the owner of Afikomen in Berkeley, to create their own chupah.

"It's so great having this permanent gift from all of our friends and family," Weinstein said.

Pam Brown of San Francisco feels the same way. "I'm so glad we made our own rather than just buying a piece of lace or something," she said.

"I got a lot more satisfaction out of doing what we did."

What she and her husband, Ron Lippert, did for their June 1998 ceremony near Muir Woods in Marin County was create a chupah that showed off several of their favourite things.

Using fabric paint, they reproduced onto a 7-foot by 7-foot piece of muslin the following items: a manatee, a whale, a big piece of chocolate and a crimson rose as a tribute to Lippert's late mother, whose name was Rose.

"We chose our colours first, mostly blues and some lavender, and then started picking our symbols," said Brown, who is Catholic.

"Since we're an interfaith couple, we didn't really discuss putting any religious symbols on there. We went for the more personal symbols."

Brown, who did most of the work, said the process was therapeutic.

"It was my way of de-stressing before the wedding — on my hands and knees in the garage with all this colour around me. It was a real fun thing to do."

And as for the piece of chocolate, that requires little explanation. "We are chocolate nuts," she said. "Everybody got a kick out of that."

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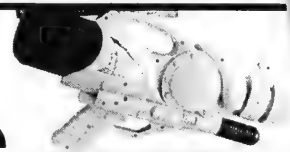

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				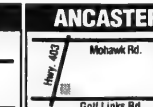
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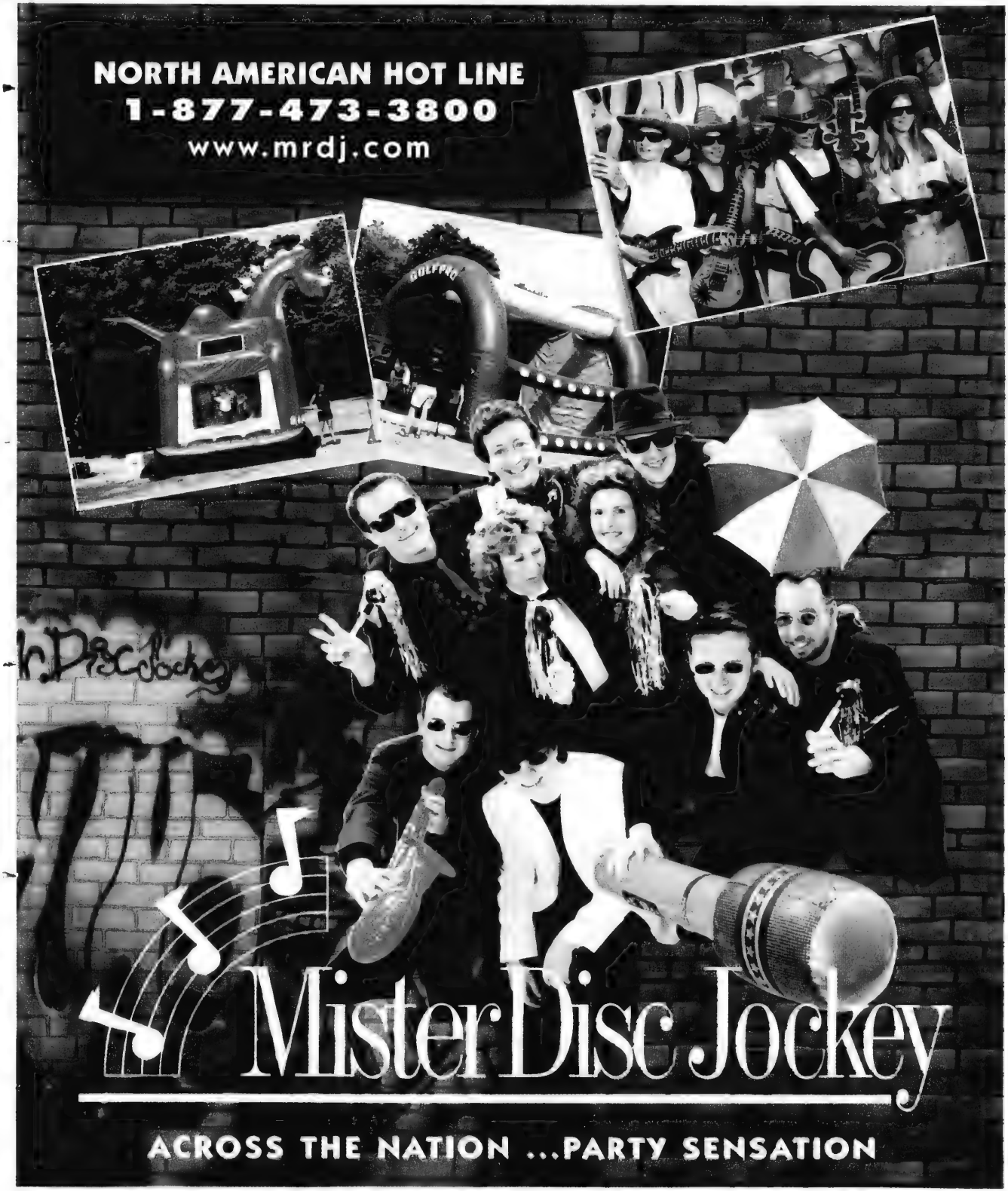
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On Campus

U of T's Jewish students to get a new home

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

JCS president David Gotfrid, left, and Tamara Kochberg, right, of Koach, congratulate York U student Rhoda Dinardo on receiving the JCS award for Ongoing Commitment to Jewish Student Life. [Frances Kraft photo]

TORONTO — Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) held its annual campus awards ceremony recently at the University of Toronto, but the greatest hoopla was reserved for the pre-awards groundbreaking at the site of the future Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.

It was a groundbreaking occasion both literally and figuratively, said Leslie Gales, referring to the inaugural event of Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT), an initiative of UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto, following the project's April launch.

Gales, a co-chair of JTT, was speaking under a tent in back of the property at the northwest corner of Huron Street and Harbord Avenue, before donning a hard hat and taking in hand a gold-painted shovel as one of the ground-breakers.

The new facility, a joint project of JCS and JTT, is expected to be completed in 12 to 18 months.

Zac Kaye, the driving force behind the creation of the centre since he was hired five years ago to head Jewish Campus Services, said the project demonstrates "a recognition by the university and the Jewish community that the work Jewish Campus Services does is vital. We provide important educational, social and cultural opportunities."

The project has given the Wolfond family an opportunity to "ensure the continued vitality of our Jewish future by providing Jewish students with a place to call their own," said Greg Wolfond, who with his brothers Chad and Henry donated a $1 million in honor of their parents Mel (co-chair of the 1999 UJA FEDERATION campaign) and Pedie.

The families of Saul and Henry Koschitzky also gave a substantial donation of $250,000.

For the past few years, home base for the Jewish Students' Union at the University of Toronto, which has about 4,500 Jewish students, has been a rented space in the basement of University College.

The JSU has a 55-year history, dating back to the creation of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation shortly after World War II, said David Gotfrid, president of JCS. The organization was funded by B'nai Brith Canada and housed on St. George Street, where Gotfrid's parents met, he noted.

A second location on St. George was destroyed in a fire, as were archival materials.

When B'nai Brith Canada withdrew funding in 1990, the federation, which had provided some funding, "immediately jumped in," said Gotfrid. (B'nai Brith provided a house for JSU on Spadina Ave. until 1996.)

Gotfrid called Toronto's federation a "trend-setter," noting that the JSU's counterpart at York University, dating back to the early 1970s, may have been the first organization of its kind to be funded by a local federation. "Today this is the norm."

* * *

Campus awards were given to Jennifer Gold and Stacey Ordon of York University's Jewish Students' Federation, and to Harvey Cayne, Mark Sinyor, Keren Fryman, Linor Gerchak and Elana Weintraub of JSU.

Citywide awards were presented to:

- Ora Zobin (the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto Action Committee for Jewish Continuity Award for Enhancing Jewish Identity and Continuity);
- Lesley Garelick (the Jacobovici Family Award for Arts and Culture);
- Ellie Richmond (the *Canadian Jewish News* Award for Communication);
- Jeremy Zacks (the Gropper Family Award for Outstanding Leadership);
- Josefa Michaelson (the Paisley Manor Insurance Brokers Inc. Award for Special Involvement in Jewish Campus Life);
- Lawrence Janit (the Gottesman Family Award for Strengthening Koach, the Conservative Movement on Campus);
- Samantha Purwitsky and Aviva Pelt (the Nechama and Ya'akov Kaner Award for Creative Programming);
- Graduate and Professionals program (the UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto Award for Chesed and Social Justice); and
- Rhoda Dinardo (the Jewish Campus Services Award for Ongoing Commitment to Jewish Student Life).

The Canadian Jewish News received a Founding Friend of the Campus Award. Excerpts from editor Mordechai Ben-Dat's speech can be found in last week's *From the editor's desk*.

Changes in JCS staff were also announced. Lance Davis, former director of education at JCS, will be working for UIA Federations Canada; Tamar Kagan is relinquishing her role as arts and culture co-ordinator, but will still be involved in staff training and student leadership development; and Tamara Kochberg of Koach is leaving to pursue educational opportunities in Israel.

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Diet is a four letter word, says registered dietitian

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Special To the CJN

TORONTO — We are constantly bombarded by two opposing forces: the pressure to eat more and the pressure not to eat, says registered dietitian Sharon Gottlieb.

Gottlieb, director of nutrition at the Fitness Institute, spoke about her book *Seeing the Light: Eat Well, Be Active, Feel Good About Yourself, Once and For All* (Nutrition Institute) at a recent Toronto Hadassah-WIZO presentation.

She began her talk by discussing a popular trend in food advertising – promoting mammoth, mega everything, like biggie fries and massive soft drinks. Gottlieb showed slides of advertisements with slogans like "big food for big value." In contrast to these ads, she showed media images of the "ideal women": rake-thin Jennifer Aniston (Rachel Green on the popular TV sitcom *Friends*), toothpick-sized Calista Flockhart (star of the show *Ally McBeal*) and other lightweight celebrities.

Then, she displayed a slide that was a classic example of a mixed message – it was a *Good Housekeeping* magazine cover from November 1999. The cover read "Ready, Set, Crash Diet."

A few lines down, it read, "New Classics For Thanksgiving" which invited the reader to look at the recipes inside.

Sharon Gottlieb

Gottlieb is an ex-dieter. She began dieting when she was about 10 years old and now calls "diet" a four-letter word. Instead of dieting, she advocates healthy eating. Think green, red and orange, she says. Eat salads with light dressings and fruit salads.

Gottlieb adheres to the "drink eight glasses of water" rule. In her book, she writes that drinking water is a must to replace the water we are constantly losing in our perspiration, breathing and elimination of waste from the body.

Water is filling and has zero calories and fat. If you are not used to drinking eight glasses of water daily, start with a few cups and gradually build up to eight, she advises.

Gottlieb warns people to beware of what she calls "multiples" – anything that is sold in a bag or a box like cookies or crackers or is served in a bowl like chips or nuts.

When eating multiples, it is difficult to just eat one, she says. Once the hand to mouth motion starts, it is near impossible to stop, she says. The solution? Go for a walk after dinner to avoid snacking or have a mini-meal instead of a snack.

She also warns against having too many carbohydrates. In her book, she explains that starchy foods like bread, pasta and potatoes used to be considered fattening. When national food guides began emphasizing grains, vegetables and fruits, people began including starchy foods in their diets.

"Before long, the bagel became king. Pasta ruled supreme," she writes.

Recently, people have begun questioning the place of starchy foods in a healthy diet. While many people think starchy foods are low in fat "they can pack a real calorie-laden punch, especially when consumed in typical North American serving-size portions," she writes. If you are eating too many starchy foods, substitute vegetables and fruits for some of the starch.

Choose whole grains over white flour, she says.

During the talk, Gottlieb addressed concern that when barbecuing, meat fat may drip onto wood, charcoal or gas flames and form potentially cancer-causing chemicals. Her suggestions to prevent this include: choosing meat which is well-trimmed of fat, removing skin, avoid placing meat directly over coals and pre-cook meat in the microwave or oven to reduce barbecuing time.

During the question-and-answer period, I tested her approach to healthy eating with a question from my life: What can you do if you're a chocoholic? Her answer: Try having light hot chocolate or a light chocolate popsicle or have one delicious chocolate and enjoy it.

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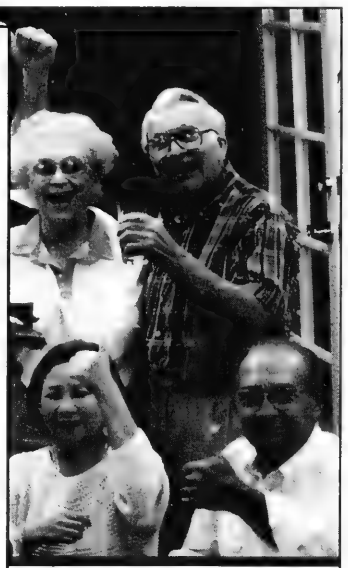

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Court lifts ban on women's Torah service at the Wall

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — The High Court of Justice, in a groundbreaking decision, has ruled that women may read aloud from the Torah at the Western Wall.

Justices Tova Strasberg-Cohen, Dorit Beinisch and Eliahu Mazza ruled on May 22 that women wearing tallitot and praying from the Torah could conduct a service at the Wall.

Before the ruling, a woman could face a six-month jail sentence for violating the ban.

Shas Minister Yitzhak Cohen vowed to submit legislation to override the court ruling.

Meretz MK Naomi Chazan said the ruling finally established that the Western Wall does not belong to the Orthodox, but to the Jewish people, including women.

Anat Hoffman, who had appealed on behalf of the organization Women of the Wall, called the ruling a turning point.

"I was ashamed that I lived in a city and belonged to a religion where a woman who prays there could be imprisoned for half a year," Hoffman told Israel Radio. "Today that stain has been removed."

Yitzhak Cohen

Rabbi Paul Golomb, executive director of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism in Toronto, said that although he is pleased about the decision, it is important to remember that the Wall is not a synagogue. "This is not a battle about praying in a synagogue, and whether there should be a division or not. This is a different type of battle.

"It is not a Reform issue. Women of the Wall include women from Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements. There has been no attempt to conduct a service within specific Reform Jewish liturgy," Rabbi Golomb said.

Earlier attempts by women to conduct services at the Wall have prompted violent protests by Haredim.

The Women of the Wall first petitioned the High Court in 1989 after enduring violent attacks meant to stop them from conducting their public prayer service. The women asked the court to order the government to recognize their right to pray at the Western Wall as they wished.

Shas vows countermanding legislation

The panel of three justices who heard the first petition was divided. Justice Shlomo Levin ruled that the women should be allowed to pray at the Wall. Justice Menahem Elon ruled that the women should be barred from praying at the Wall. Justice Meir Shamgar wrote that while women were entitled to pray at the Wall, the government should find a solution that took into account both the women's right to pray at the Wall and the sensibilities of other worshippers who felt some aspects of the women's service violated Jewish tradition. He also suggested that the women should not necessarily pray at Judaism's holiest site, but perhaps nearby.

An attempt was made to comply with Shamgar's ruling. On May 17, 1994, the government appointed a committee to find a solution in accordance with his recommendation. It gave the committee six months to come up with a solution.

The committee asked the chief rabbis for their opinion. The rabbis ruled that the women's service violated Jewish tradition and should not be permitted. The police told the committee that the presence of the women conducting services at the Western Wall would be perceived as a provocation and result in public disturbances.

On April 2, 1996, the committee determined that "the Western Wall prayer area is extremely problematic," and suggested alternative sites outside the main prayer area, including an exposed part of the Western Wall inside the Muslim Quarter and Robinson's Arch.

Meantime, on May 30, 1995, the Women of the Wall had petitioned the High Court again, after the government had extended the committee's deadline for a second time.

The verdict handed down last week was in response to this petition. In this ruling, Justice Eliahu Mazza wrote that in 1994, the High Court had recognized the right of the group to pray at the Wall and that subsequent government suggestions had failed because they involved moving the group away from the Wall.

"The clear position which emerges from a study of the statements of Shamgar and Levin – and it should be noted that I essentially agree with this position – is that the women have the right to pray according to their custom in the open space in front of the Western Wall," he wrote.

He admitted there was no way of finding a solution that allowed the women the right to pray at the Wall without hurting the sensibilities of those opposed to such a service.

"We're delighted by the ruling... It promotes religious pluralism," Rabbi Joel Osseran, director of education for the World Union for Progressive Judaism, told *The CJN*.

Rabbi Osseran noted that the Women of the Wall organization has issues different from those of the Progressive Judaism group for which he works, but reiterated that the ruling on their behalf is "a progressive step forward."

Rabbi Osseran said that while his organization is pleased with the decision, they are cautious about the petitions filed against the ruling. "We hope the petitions won't succeed," he said.

United Torah Judaism MK Moshe Gafni said the public would not respect the decision.

Minister Michael Melchior, responsible for Diaspora and social affairs, said the ruling was a mistake. "We can't solve the central problems in the society by forcing the hand of one side or another," he told the *Jerusalem Post*.

But the justices said there was no reason to deny women the right to pray at the Wall. The Court told the government to make arrangements within six months that would allow women to read safely from the Torah in the women's section. They also awarded the Women of the Wall group NIS 10,000 for their legal fees.

With files from Carolyn Blackman.

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Israel offers compensation to bridge victims

CJN News Services

Nearly three years after the bridge disaster of the 15th Maccabiah Games claimed four lives and injured 60 others, the government of Israel is attempting to hasten the resolution of outstanding compensation issues.

Last week, Finance Minister Avraham Shochat approved the transfer of $500,000 (US) in loan funds to the Australian victims. The government set up a fund of the same amount following the 1997 disaster but it was exhausted last fall. Shochat announced the second fund following a meeting with Australia Maccabi president Tom Danos.

Shochat promised to expedite payments in nine civil suits in which compensation amounts have been agreed. He said the state will pay its one-third share immediately, regardless of other defendants' payment arrangements. The government had initially made its payment contingent on payment of the other two-thirds.

In other developments, minister for Diaspora affairs Michael Melchior heeded the call of Australian Jews and did not attend the recent Maccabi World Union (MWU) annual congress, where he was scheduled to speak. Melchior told the MWU he would attend only if MWU president Ronald Bakalarz resigned or announced his intention to do so.

The Australian Jewish community has called on Bakalarz and MWU chair Uzi Netanel to take responsibility for the disaster and resign. For years they had steadfastly refused. That position was backed by Maccabi Canada president Roy Salomon, who is also a member of the MWU executive.

About one month ago, Netanel resigned in the wake of a decision by the Tel Aviv Magistrate Court that found five persons, including Yoram Eyal, head of MWU's organizing committee at the Games, guilty of negligence. Bakalarz, however, refused to resign.

Bakalarz's refusal to resign prompted an angry response from Isi Leibler, chair of the governing body of the World Jewish Congress and a former president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Bakalarz's refusal to resign "is outrageous and arrogant in the extreme," Leibler wrote in the *Jerusalem Post*.

In addition to withdrawing from the Maccabiah Games, Maccabi Australia suspended itself last week from the MWU.

In other developments, Canadian Jewish Congress called on the Israeli Ministry of Justice to "work swiftly to achieve a generous and compassionate settlement in this terrible situation... There is a compelling need for just and equitable compensation to the victims and their families," wrote Congress president Moshe Ronen.

Congress also urged the MWU to co-operate fully in a Knesset inquiry into the disaster and to "launch a review of safety and operational procedure for future games.

New charges revive fears of execution

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency and CJN News Services

The ongoing trial of 13 Iranian Jews charged with spying for Israel took an ominous turn last week when four of the defendants were reportedly also accused of spying for Iraq.

The circumstances of the new accusations against the four, all prominent religious figures in the Jewish community, are unclear. The allegations relate to the war between Iraq and Iran during the 1980s and were brought to light in the French news agency, Agence France-Presse by two French human rights lawyers.

The two lawyers have been the only foreigners permitted access – albeit restricted access – to the court.

An Iranian judiciary official dismissed the new claims as "baseless," and an Iraqi official speaking from Baghdad described the reported accusations as "stupid."

The confusion over what was said only underscores how suspect Iran's handling of the case against the 13 Iranian Jews has been.

In another worrisome development, the Associated Press reported last week that several Jewish merchants have had their businesses attacked since last month's opening of the trial.

Jewish leaders and members of Iran's 25,000-strong Jewish community say they have become more isolated since the "confessions" of two of the accused were shown on state television.

Community leaders say classmates are treating Jewish children with contempt at school, and fear or shame has kept some Jews from going to work.

"This trial has created problems for the whole Jewish community in Iran," said Haroun Yashayaii, head of Iran's Jewish society, outside the courthouse, as proceedings resumed last week in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz.

"I have documents showing that several shops owned by Jews were attacked and one was set on fire in Tehran."

He said police have confirmed the arson attack, but gave no other details.

"It's clear that different Iranian officials tell different things to different people," said Pooya Dayanim, a spokesperson for the Los Angeles-based Council of Iranian American Jewish Organizations.

Further developments in the case came as the last three of the "Iran 13" proclaimed their innocence in court last week.

They are a student, Navid Balazadeh, 17; his uncle, Nejat Broukhim, 36; and Omid Tefileen, 26, whose older brother, Hamid "Dani" Tefileen, was the first to publicly "confess" to spying.

The rumour of the new charges has renewed fears that some of the Jews may face execution, a fear Iranian judiciary officials tried to dispel last week.

If the new rumour is true, "it's disturbing because it shows the Iranians are willing to charge them with anything," Dayanim said.

"It's a sign from Iran that they could still get the death penalty because they were committing espionage at a time of war. It also shows that the fate of the Jews is completely in their hands, changing from day to day on a whim."

A verdict was expected by the end of May.

The Week in Israel

May 22

• Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Sweden, which were delayed because of violence in the West Bank, will resume shortly, a top Israeli official at the talks said. Public security minister Shlomo Ben-Ami said the differences between the two sides remain substantial.

May 23

• The UN Security council endorsed a plan to verify Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon. The plan was based on recommendations from Secretary General Kofi Annan.

May 24

• Israel completed the removal of its troops from south Lebanon, ending a 22-year military presence there. No soldiers were hurt in the withdrawal. More than 5,000 SLA soldiers and their families were granted asylum in Israel.

• The attorney general adopted police recommendations against indicting President Ezer Weizman for accepting monetary gifts while serving as a cabinet minister and Knesset member.

May 25

• Speaking at a special session of the Knesset in Kiryat Shmonah, Prime Minister Ehud Barak called on the president of Lebanon to make peace.

• The Knesset passed a resolution calling on U.S. President Bill Clinton to grant amnesty to Jonathan Pollard.

May 26

• The attorney general recommended that transportation minister Yitzhak Mordechai stand trial for sexually assaulting three women in the past eight years. Mordechai could face up to seven years in prison.

Files from JTA

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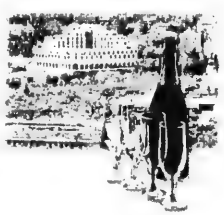

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'Israel is at a new crossroads'

IDF Leaves Lebanon –COMMENT–

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Senior IDF officers have been asked if they feel a sense of defeat in the forced rapid withdrawal from south Lebanon. All except one reported a feeling of failure.This is understandable, but not really justified.

In the past, the IDF was forced to withdraw

Tanks turn towards Israel [Isranet photo]

when the Egyptian army overran the Bar-Lev line in 1973, but later in Sinai, the tables were turned.

In Lebanon, the sense of failure comes from the fact that the IDF was unable to suppress a guerrilla organization and from the fact that the Israeli public's threshold for absorbing casualties has been lowered. It has taken some time for the IDF to properly comprehend this.

From a military perspective, the last stage of the withdrawal was commendable – the IDF did not retreat under fire as Hezbollah had promised. Northern Command and Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy deserve credit for overseeing a withdrawal with no losses, despite the difficulties caused by the collapse of the South Lebanon Army.

In the IDF, they feel ashamed – and rightly so – of the shabby treatment accorded the SLA, whose soldiers paid the price in hundreds of casualties for standing alongside the IDF in the fight against Hezbollah.

In the Prime Minister's Office, the cynical view suggests it's good that things turned out the way they did. From a political standpoint, Barak has notched a victory in gaining international legitimacy (from some Arabs too) for his withdrawal from Lebanon. For the first time, an IDF operation has actually won UN support.

Hezbollah's notable success during the withdrawal phase derived from its clever use of the Lebanese citizens who streamed back into the southern villages, for they are the ones who brought about the collapse of the SLA.

The IDF was paralyzed because it did not want to shoot at civilians. Hezbollah learned from the Palestinian intifadah – perhaps now the Palestinians will take a leaf from Hezbollah's book.

We ought to ask ourselves what would happen if now tens of thousands of Palestinians were to start marching from the refugee camps in Lebanon toward the border. Would we open fire?

In the Palestinian Authority, they have also planned for the possibility of having unarmed Palestinian policemen enter Abu Dis and other neighbourhoods near Jerusalem. Would we start shooting in such a situation?

Israel finds itself at new crossroads here, and it must grasp the plain fact that there are limits to military power. The country is now approaching the final stage of a process in which its self-defence will be conducted entirely from within its borders, without occupying or holding territory in neighbouring countries. This week, we freed ourselves of the last piece of occupied Lebanese territory.

Now there is some uncertainty as to how things will develop. It's doubtful that Syrian President Hafez al-Assad already has decided how to proceed from the new situation. One possibility is that he will continue, one way or another, to support terrorist action against Israel from Lebanon.

This would lead to military confrontation with the Syrians, first in Lebanon, and then possibly in the Golan as well. Assad is aware of the risks – including the risk to his son's inheritance. Israel's deterrent capability against Syria remains unchanged in spite of everything – as long as we know how to wield it properly.

The other possibility is that the situation will now calm down and Assad will decide to renew his negotiations with Israel. The Syrian president understands that following the withdrawal from Lebanon, the Israeli public will not feel much pressure to cede the Golan, much less the shoreline and water of the Kinneret. He also realizes that pressure to remove his own army from Lebanon will increase.

Barak took a big gamble in Lebanon. He will reap success only if the border stays quiet and the chance of negotiations with Syria is revived. But if the northern border sees new eruptions despite the withdrawal and if we slide into military confrontation with Syria, the wager will be lost.

Timeline of Israel's presence in Lebanon

April 1975: Beginning of the civil war in Lebanon.

1976: Israel and Christian militias hold their first contacts, aimed at developing an alliance against their common enemy, the PLO.

March 1978: Israel launches Operation Litani, taking control of Lebanese territory south of the Litani River in an effort to curb cross-border attacks by Palestinian guerrillas. Within days, the UN Security Council passes two resolutions on Lebanon: Resolution 425 calls on Israel to withdraw from all Lebanese territory; Resolution 426 establishes the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, a peacekeeping force that has remained in place until today.

July 1981: Israeli forces bomb PLO headquarters in West Beirut.

June 1982: Israel launches Operation Peace for Galilee, the start of its full-scale invasion of Lebanon, eventually driving the PLO out of the country.

September 1982: Christian Phalangists massacre hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

1985: Israel creates a nine-mile-wide security zone after withdrawing most of its troops from Lebanon.

November 1989: Ta'if Agreement brings the civil war in Lebanon to an end. Brokered by the Arab League, it endorses a Syrian military presence in Lebanon.

July 1993: Following the killing of seven Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon, Israel launches Operation Accountability, during which the IDF carries out its heaviest artillery and air attacks on southern Lebanon since 1982.

April 1996: Israel launches Operation Grapes of Wrath, striking at targets in Lebanon to retaliate for Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel. After shelling of the Kana UN camp in southern Lebanon results in the deaths of at least 91 Lebanese refugees who had taken shelter there, Israel suffers heavy international criticism and ends the operation.

September 1997: Twelve Israeli naval commandos are killed during a raid on Lebanon. It is the IDF's heaviest casualty count in a single military operation in more than 12 years.

November 1997: Dozens of Israeli soldiers are killed in a crash of two helicopters en route from Lebanon. The accident prompts growing demands for an end to Israel's military presence in Lebanon.

March 1999: Opposition leader Ehud Barak pledges during Israel's election campaign that if elected prime minister, he will get all Israeli troops out of Lebanon by June 2000.

March 2000: Israel's Cabinet votes unanimously for a full troop withdrawal.

Source: JTA staff

IDF soldiers show their joy at returning home.

Business Profile

Backweb Technologies

Ex-paratrooper leads e-commerce company

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In Backweb Technologies' promotional materials, Eli Barkat's service in the Israeli military is prominently detailed. Likewise on the company's Web site (www.backweb.com), it's there for all to see. Barkat, we are told, served as a lieutenant in an elite Israeli paratroops unit.

All well and good, but what does that have to do with running a company that operates on the cutting edge of e-commerce? Plenty, says Barkat, Backweb's 37-year-old founder and CEO.

"In battle, time to market is everything," he explained. "You're forced to make decisions in one to three seconds. If people think the Internet is fast, it's a joke compared to a real battle decision. In the IDF, you're trained to make instinctive decisions that are very powerful. You get trained to have no ego, to be a leader, to do something for a cause, to get a group of people to believe in a cause and to fight for it."

Those skills translate perfectly in the high-tech world where, "fast decisions are better than correct decisions... If you look at today's era, time to market is more important than distribution. Money [is] more important than anything. It's all about speed to critical mass," he said.

Backweb, Barkat's baby, is three years old and like many Internet companies, it's shown some impressive growth, up 150 percent in the first quarter of 2000 over the same period last year. It went public on NASDAQ in June and it has traded between $12 and $59.12 (all figures U.S.). It's currently trading around $19 and in its last quarterly financial statement, it reported a loss of $0.06 a share.

With a market capitalization of $689 million, Backweb boasts an impressive client roster that includes Bell Atlantic Mobile, Cisco Systems, Charles Schwab & Co., Compaq, Goldman Sachs & Co., Hewlett-Packard, Nortel Networks and SBC Communications.

Its corporate headquarters are in Ramat Gan and San Jose, Calif., but Backweb also has an important Canadian connection. The development of its new technologies is done right here in Toronto and the company has emerged as a major player in the world of "push technology" and of "Polite(TM) push technology," its bandwidth-friendly offshoot.

Push technology brings information to a client's desktop without the need to actively search for it. Polite push adds to that convenience by bringing it over the Internet in a way that takes advantage of lulls in network activity.

Barkat describes push technology this way. Once, people went to a well for water and brought it home in a bucket. That's old technology. Today, pipes bring water into peoples' homes. That's push technology.

"Push does the same with the Web," he said. Instead of a user going to a Web site for information, "a user-centric model is created where a user subscribes to areas of interest and the information comes to him. This eliminates friction."

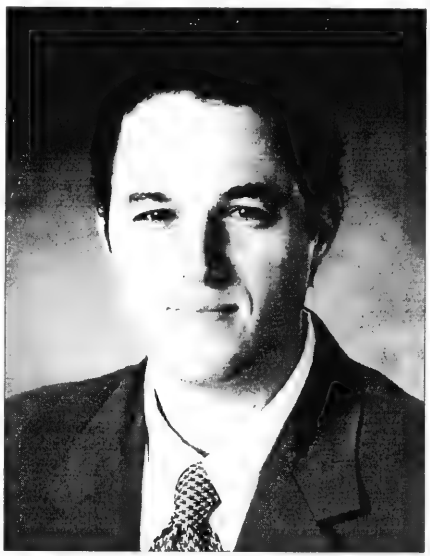
Toronto office develops new technologies

Barkat points to a computer jukebox as an example. Once a user has installed polite push, subscribed to a music service and filled out a form describing his or her tastes, the system will upload music to their electronic jukebox at a time when network traffic is low.

One of Backweb's products, the Sales Accelerator, was designed in Toronto and is geared specifically for sales and marketing executives, including resellers and distributors.

Backweb's business is geared primarily to the "intranet side," the business to business back office connections that are improving productivity and reducing costs in numerous companies.

So far, most of Backweb's revenue is generated through royalty fees and transaction fees. By next year, Barkat expects to increase revenue from transaction fees and he expects double digit growth in that area – despite the recent volatility in capital markets.



Eli Barkat

For Barkat, things have moved quickly since he, his brother and three partners founded BRM – their first high-tech company – in Israel 14 years ago. The success of BRM's anti-virus product led Barkat to search for other new technology.

Eventually he and two of his BRM partners, Lior Hass and Iftak Sneh, founded Backweb and placed their bets on polite push. Barkat, a former software engineer, is convinced that the future of the Internet will move from a "passive portal" to an "active portal where recipients and end users are in control of what is delivered to them."

Backweb is only one of dozens of high-tech players on the Israeli scene.

In fact, Israel is a world leader in high-tech and Barkat attributes that in large part to the IDF. At 18, he points out, the IDF drafts all Israeli youngsters and streams the most talented into elite military or intelligence units.

Their training prepares them perfectly for a management position in a high-tech company. The area around Ramat Gan "is quickly becoming the Silicon Valley of Europe. There's the right amount of entrepreneurship there, awesome amounts of talent and a huge amount of innovation," he said.

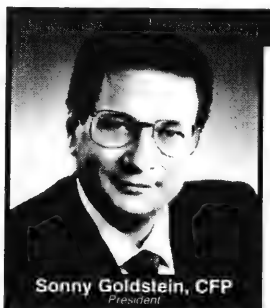
Barkat revels in the fast-paced action and challenges of the e-com world. He's admittedly "hyperactive" and needs the positive stress from being in a dynamic environment.

For him, e-commerce and the Internet are perfect fits for his personality and skills.

The Israeli government has established some good programs for start-ups but there are still plenty of roadblocks to success in the Holy Land, he said. Merger and acquisition limitations, shareholder regulations, the difficulty in issuing stock options to employees and countless other details make running a company in Israel very difficult. In addition, Israel's security exchange "can drive you crazy," he said.

These factors, combined with Israel's small domestic market, lead companies to look abroad for growth. The U.S. market has become a prime area for expansion and, ironically, 90 percent of Israeli startups are in the United States, Barkat said.

"To create a business in Israel you have to be a real big Zionist or a real stupid businessman. I'm a Zionist, so I stay there."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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Mamma Mia cast drop-out a blessing for 'priest'

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — "Somebody just dropped out of the cast – I've set up an audition for you, get your *tuchas* to Toronto tomorrow!"

This is the call that New York based actor, singer and dancer, Howard Kaye, got from his friend Edward G. Robinson, musical director for *Mamma Mia!*, a production based on the songs of '70s group ABBA now playing at The Royal Alexandra Theatre.

He got the gig! Kaye, 37, quit his job as dance captain and swing performer on Broadway in *Miss Saigon* and relocated to Toronto with his baby Sophia, a 10-pound chihuahua in toe.

Kaye landed the role of the priest in *Mamma Mia!* "It is the first time in my career, I've played a priest," said the brother-in-law of a rabbi.

Mamma Mia, a London stage hit last year, interweaves 22 Abba songs, including *Dancing Queen* and *Money, Money, Money*, into a humorous story, set in the present, of a mother and soon-to-be-wed daughter on a tiny Greek island.

Catherine Johnson created a story around the music and lyrics written 25 years ago by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus.

"It is groundbreaking to take music from one idiom and apply it to the theatre," explained Kaye. "They didn't even change any of the lyrics. It will catch you off guard when you remember these songs from another time and place and now hear them in a whole new way."

The Ohio born and raised performer broke into show business at the ripe old age of 12 playing John Darling in the touring company of *Peter Pan*, starring Sandy Dennis.

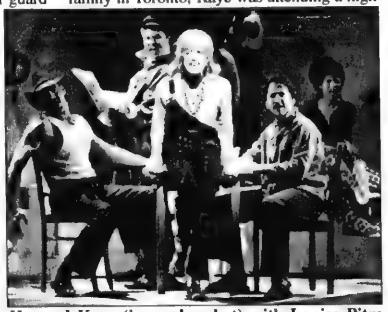
Ironically, a recent reunion with Dennis was the inspiration for Kaye to take a leap of faith and leave one theatre for another.

"I had a ticket for Sandy Duncan's last performance of *Chicago* on Broadway. It was important to me to see her again. In the hoopla of her closing, I did get to meet her after the show. I brought with me, the opening night gift she gave me 25 years ago.

"It was an engraved thimble on a chain which read – To HK, Love Sandy. She was mildly blown away. I asked her if she wouldn't mind giving it a squeeze, so I could have another 25 years of her good theatre magic and love.

"She took my hand and we gripped this thimble together. The next day Eddie called."

As a youngster when he wasn't visiting family in Toronto, Kaye was attending a high school for the performing arts in Cincinnati, where he was encouraged to learn to sing and dance as well as act.



Howard Kaye (in cowboy hat) with Louise Pitre and the *Mamma Mia* ensemble.

"I moved [to New York] in 1985 and attended Julliard. When you graduate from Julliard, you've got a degree from the most fantastic acting school in the world, but you've got no work. So, you start the endless hunt of auditions."

The thespian's driving ambition paid off. He won roles in the off-Broadway production *The Little Prince*, toured Europe in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and appeared on American stages in *The Wizard of Oz, Oklahoma!, Tin Types* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

His big break came with Broadway's *Miss Saigon* in 1995 where he first worked with Robinson.

"I didn't have a performing job, so I took a job bartending … and was assigned the Broadway theatre where *Miss Saigon* plays," Kaye said.

"I would show up and pour drinks, eventually I got an audition and got a job as a swing, performing different parts.

"Within a year, I became dance captain. I think it was more meaningful to me than any other cast member to be able to enter the theatre through the stage door."

Mamma Mia! is at The Royal Alexandra Theatre for a limited run before heading to San Francisco and eventually Broadway. For tickets call TicketKing 416-872-1212 or 1-800-461-3333.

Voices of Change highlights rights of minorities to kids

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The rights of minorities in the cultural mix of Canada is the theme of *Voices of Change*.

The production will be presented to students in grades 5 to 8 by Inner Stage Theatre at Leah Posluns Theatre, June 6 at 1 p.m.

Jewish producer, director and co-author Elizabeth Szathmary, a professional dancer and actor, is enthusiastic about the three languages in the play – Cree, French and English, and the three students – a native Canadian, a Québécoise and a Caucasian.

Of Hungarian descent, born in New York, Szathmary told *The CJN* it is important for Canadians of different backgrounds to be sensitive to the needs of others through the way they communicate.

"The dialogue is based on the rhythm of the body emotions," she said.

The actors portray students age 14 and 15. Ryan McMahon of Fort Frances is part Ojibwa. He was discovered at the Centre for Indigenous Theatre and plays the native Canadian. Jennifer Gautier plays the Québécoise and Sean Clement is the Caucasian. The teacher is acted by Michael Posthumus.

The Inner Stage producer has been through a trying time recently as the theatre's office and records were destroyed in a fire on St. Nicholas Street. The company has relocated to Harbour Square.

A resident of Toronto since 1967, Szathmary was co-founder of the Global Village Theatre, which produced several hits including *Justine*, starring Salome Bey, during the theatre's existence from 1969 to 1975.

The project occupying her just now is with the Amati Quartet's production of *Music, Mask and Emotion*, a classical music piece in which she portrays the dancer. Now being tried out at various schools, it will be performed at the Mississauga Children's Festival June 8 and 9.

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Aug. 13-Aug. 27
Aug. 20-Sept. 3
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Dec. 21-Jan. 4
Dec. 24-Jan. 7
SPRING 2001
March 5-20
March 22-Apr. 3
2nd TIMERS 2001
July 8-July 22
Aug. 12-Aug. 26
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS
MUNICIPAL RESTRUCTURING ISSUES

At the insistence of the Provincial government, the face of local government across Ontario is changing. Vaughan and the other municipalities that comprise York Region will soon face the challenge of restructuring or amalgamation.

What could happen? How will amalgamation affect your taxes, your services, your accessability to City Hall ...?

Tell us what you think! Attend one of these public meetings:

•Ward 1, Thursday, May 25, 7:30 p.m., Maple Community Centre, 10190 Keele St.
•Ward 2, Monday, May 29, 7:30 p.m., Woodbridge Memorial Arena, 5020 Highway 7, at Islington
•Ward 3, Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m., Chancellor Community Centre, 350 Ansley Grove Rd.
•Ward 4, Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m., Dufferin Clark Community Centre, 1441 Clark Ave. W.
•Ward 5, Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m., Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 501 Clark Ave. W.
•Full Council Public Meeting, Thursday, June 22, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Vaughan Civic Centre

Written submissions are also encouraged and should be addressed to the City Clerk no later than June 15, 2000.

For more information visit the City Web Site: www.city.vaughan.on.ca under "Top Stories", or contact the City Clerk's Department.

John Leach
City Clerk
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Vaughan, Ont.
L6A 1T1
tel: (905) 832-8585 ext. 8281
fax: (905) 832-8535
(905) 832-8143
e:mail: john.leach@city.vaughan.on.ca

LET'S BE READY! GET INVOLVED!

Arts & Travel

THREE YIDDISH CELEBRATIONS

Bialik Hebrew Day School hosts a lively community celebration of 1,000 years of Yiddish for the whole family on Sunday June 4.

Ashkenaz artist **Lenka Lichtenberg** performs with her group, including **Sasha Luminsky**, **Levon Ichkhanian**, **George Koller** and **Ben Grossman**. They also team up with the **Bialik Choir**, directed by **Nella Koren**. Fun activities, games, dancing and food follow the performances.

Bialik Hebrew Day School, 12 Viewmount Ave. June 4, 3 to 5 p.m. 416-256-2947.

* * *

Yiddishland Cafe: The Workmen's Circle presents the 25th Yiddishland Cafe evening, entitled The World of Our Mothers. The performers are **Denise Williams**, **John Botten**, **Nina Shapilsky** and **Michael Ziskind**.

Tickets, $12 in advance, $15 at the door, are available at Lasting Impressions One Hour Photo in the Bathurst Manor Plaza (416-635-0720) or at the Workmen's Circle (416-787-2081). 471 Lawrence Ave. W. June 11, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Yiddish at Beth Emeth: Celebrate the Joys of Yiddish Music and Humour. The concert features **Cantor Aaron Bensoussan**, **Cantor Louis Danto**, **Gloria Valentine**, **Michael Lebovic** and the **Zemer Chorale**; musical direction by **Charles Heller**, choir director.

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder Street, North York. Everyone welcome, admission free. June 13, 8 p.m.

* * *

Movie Camp for Teens: The National Screen Institute of Canada, a non-profit film and television training organization dedicated to training writers, producers and directors, is hosting a two-week-long day camp in five Canadian cities to teach young participants the film business. NSI Canada is also sponsoring a screen-writing contest and inviting aspiring screenwriters to write a five-minute script; winners receive free enrolment.

Aspiring filmmakers from 13 to 19 years old are invited to register for Movie Camp, which runs July 31 to Aug. 11 in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Toronto and St. John's. The fee is $450. The Toronto registration deadline is June 30. For details about the camp and the contest, phone 1-800-952-2307 or 204-956-7800 or visit the Web site www.nsi-canada.ca/moviecap.

* * *

At the Galleries: Quilts, wall-hangings and water-colours of textile artist **Linda R. Goldman** are on view at the Yorkville Library, 22 Yorkville Ave., June 1 to 30. 416-393-7647.

* * *

Composer Remembered: The Guelph Spring Festival pays tribute to **Louis Applebaum**, the great Canadian composer who died in April after a lengthy illness. Applebaum served as artistic director of the festival in 1989.

Born in Toronto in 1918, Applebaum wrote more than 250 film scores and composed works to accompany more than 50 plays at the Stratford Festival. He served as executive director of the Ontario Arts Council in the 1970s. He was a member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, and had honorary degrees from York University and the University of Windsor.

A music critic once said that Louis Applebaum had "the pedigree of an artist, the wardrobe of a businessman, and the mind of a rabbi."

The Festival Strings of Canada performs a memorial concert to Applebaum, featuring his composition *Notions*, a duet for violin and piano. June 3, 8 p.m. $24-$21. River Run Centre, Guelph. 519-763-3000.

* * *

Klezmer in Syracuse: Klez Fest is a day-long celebration of lively klezmer song and dance, scheduled for June 18, noon to 6 p.m. at the Armory Square in Syracuse, N.Y., (corner of West Jefferson and South Clinton streets).

This first annual festival features top bands from New York City, several Syracuse cantors, chassidic dancing, Yiddish folk songs and kosher food. Admission free. "Bring a chair." Sid Lipton, 315-682-8489, or Mimi Weiner, 315-446-7810.

Eye on Arts
By Bill Gladstone

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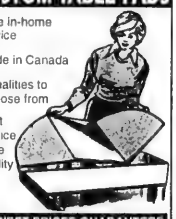

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Rosenfarb to read at Book Awards

By ADAM FUERSTENBERG
Special to the CJN

TORONTO — Chava Rosenfarb, one of the greats of modern Yiddish literature, will be the reader at this year's festive annual Jewish Book Awards. The occasion will mark Syracuse University Press' launch of English translations of two of Rosenfarb's most celebrated novels.

The book awards will be held 7:30 p.m. on June 7 at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Rosenfarb and this year's prize winners will have their works available for sale and autographing.

To Yiddish readers around the world, Rosenfarb is renowned as a great Yiddish writer who survived the Holocaust to bear witness to the indescribable horror of the ghettos and death camps. Born in Lodz in 1923, she first drew attention as a poet after the war, but she is also known as a playwright.

Her drama, *A Fojgl In Ghetto*, the heroic story of Itzik Wittenberg's voluntary martyrdom in the Vilna Ghetto, was performed in Yiddish at the Habima Theatre in Israel in 1959. However, she is best known for her darkly magnificent fiction, especially her magnum opus *Der Borjm Fun Lebn (The Tree of Life)*, the three volume epic story of life in Lodz before World War II and during the ghetto years under the Nazis.

Even though Rosenfarb was awarded the J.I. Segal Prize, her work has been largely inaccessible to English readers until recently.

Now she has found an effective helper in her efforts to translate her work, her daughter, Goldie Morgentaler, who is her child by her first husband, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, also a survivor of the Lodz ghetto and the death camps.

Goldie Morgentaler, a PhD in English who is a professor at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, helped her mother translate and shorten *The Tree of Life* into a single volume. The English edition, though still a massive 1,000 pages, was published by Scribe, an Australian publishing house, in 1985. Now Syracuse University Press has published translations of two of Chava Rosenfarb's best-known novels, *Bociany* and *Of Love and Lodz*, which is a significant recognition of her place in worldwide Jewish literature.

In the last few years, English readers have been able to read one of Rosenfarb's most powerful short stories, *Edgia's Revenge*, first published in the Yiddish journal *Di Goldene Keyt*. Morgentaler's translation appeared in the prize-winning anthology *Found Treasures: Stories by Yiddish Women Writers*.

Published by Second Story Press in Toronto, *Found Treasures* won the Jewish Book Committee's Prize for Yiddish translation in 1996. This anthology received widespread acclaim and circulation in the United States and undoubtedly led to the extensive coverage Rosenfarb received in the Summer 1997 issue of the National Yiddish Book Centre's very popular journal, the *PaknTreger.*

Adam Fuerstenberg, director of the committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation, is an adjunct professor of English at Ryerson Polytechnic University, chairperson of the Jewish Book Awards committee, and editor of Parchment.

Art of wooden shipbuilding comes to life in Mystic Seaport

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

CONNECTICUT — With great fanfare, and celebrities Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis on hand, Connecticut's Mystic Seaport launched its reproduction of the *Freedom Schooner* on March 25th.

This wooden masterpiece, which was depicted in Stephen Spielberg's film, *The Amistad,* took over two years to construct at the Mystic Seaport's Preservation Shipyard.

It is currently on display at the seaport until July 2 when it will make its maiden voyage with the Tall Ships Parade to OpSail 2000 in New York harbour on July 4, American Independence Day.

Thereafter, she will sail with hundreds of vessels to Connecticut's salute to the millennium, OpSail 2000 CT. The ship will dock from July 12 to 16 in New London, one of 33 towns and communities in the picturesque Mystic Places which comprises southeastern Connecticut and coastal Rhode Island.

In 1839, the original *Amistad* also found its way to New London, when 53 kidnapped Africans, bound for slavery, overtook the ship off the coast of Cuba and erratically travelled north before they were taken into custody in this coastal town.

In a landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the slaves were free men.

Tourists to the Mystic Seaport and the Museum of America and the Sea, which was founded in 1929, will enjoy the recreated 19th-century village buildings, tall ships, exhibit galleries and a shipyard. Here, the art of wooden shipbuilding comes back to life.

The *Argia*, a replica of an 81-foot 19th-century schooner, offers morning, afternoon and evening sails to the public.

Brilliant, Mystic Seaport's own schooner, is available for multi-day and weekend educational adventures for the entire family.

Lovers of the sea should include the Mystic Aquarium in their itinerary. The aquarium is home to three beluga whales and a new $9 million Alaskan coast exhibit.

It is worth the drive to nearby Groton to check out the Historic Ship Nautilus/Submarine Force Museum.

Visitors are invited to climb aboard the first U.S. nuclear submarine and take a self-guided audio tour free of charge. This scenic New England destination, one day's drive from Toronto or Montreal offers year-round activities and attractions including the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center.

You could spend a day exploring this amazing, interactive environment where native history is portrayed and you feel as if you were transplanted back 400 years to a Pequot village surrounded by 51 life like figures.

The Mahantucket Pequot people now own the Foxwoods Resort Casino, which houses a state of the art casino, golf courses, three luxury hotels, big name entertainment in a host of venues, and much more.

The Mohegan peoples run another gambling casino. Even non-players are attracted to the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, a beautiful entertainment complex designed in honour of the four seasons, which is important to Mohegan culture.

"Project Sunburst" slated to open in 2002 will include a 1,200 room luxury hotel tower.

Other places of interest include downtown Norwich, a historical industrial centre during the last century and the Robert Mills U.S. Custom House in New London. Still operating since 1833, the oldest operating federal custom house was where the original *Amistad* was docked for two years while in custody.

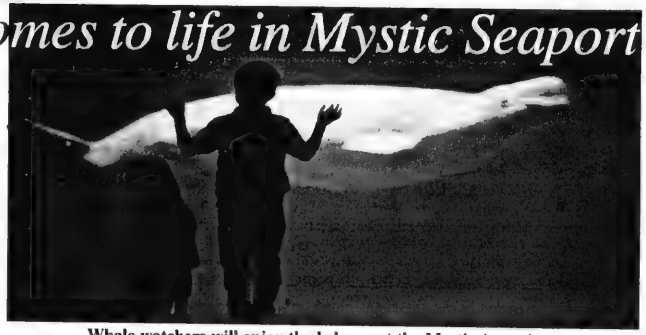
Of course, one of the main reasons tourists flock to Mystic Places is due to the beaches and there are plenty to choose from including the Misquamicut State Beach and the town beaches around Watch Hill, R.I., Ocean Beach Park, in New London and Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford, Conn.

Tchatchke shopping is great all over Mystic Places. I could have spent hours poking around the 60 unique boutiques at the Olde Mistick Village, just off Interstate 95, the Crystal Mall or the quaint shops in downtown Mystic.

Accommodations are plentiful and offered at all price points from family-hotels and motels, pet friendly B&B's, large hotel properties, to the Foxwood Resort.

Randall's Ordinary, circa 1685, is far from ordinary. This country inn, located in North Stonington, is set on 250 acres where guests can view an underground chamber that served as a stop for slaves along the freedom trail.

Air Ontario offers a number of direct daily flights from Toronto to Hartford, Conn. and Providence, R.I., both one hour drives to Mystic Places.



Whale watchers will enjoy the belugas at the Mystic Aquarium.
[Jim McEllholm photo]

For more information including obtaining a free Kids' Guide 2000, with coupons totalling $100, and the value packed Mystic Coast Card contact www.mycoast.com or call 1-800-MY-COAST.123487860

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

1 H	2 O	3 A	4 R	5 D	■	6 D	7 U	8 F	9 F	■	10 A	11 J	12 E	13 T
14 A	N	N	I	E	■	15 A	S	I	A	■	16 K	A	N	E
17 J	O	A	N	R	18 I	V	E	R	S	■	19 I	C	O	N
■	■	■	■	20 I	R	I	S	■	21 C	22 O	R	K	S	■
■	23 E	24 V	25 A	D	E	D	■	26 S	I	N	A	I	■	■
27 S	N	I	P	E	S	■	28 B	A	S	E	■	29 E	30 Y	31 E
32 A	R	C	E	D	■	33 S	I	F	T	S	■	34 M	I	A
35 R	A	T	S	■	36 M	I	L	E	S	■	37 T	A	C	T
38 A	G	O	■	39 S	E	L	L	S	■	40 M	O	S	H	E
41 H	E	R	■	42 U	G	L	Y	■	43 D	E	T	O	U	R
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■	47 M	O	T	E	L	■	48 G	A	L	A	■	■	■	■
49 M	O	R	T	■	50 L	51 E	N	N	Y	B	52 R	53 U	54 C	55 E
56 U	R	G	E	■	57 A	R	A	T	■	58 I	O	T	A	S
59 D	E	E	R	■	60 H	A	T	S	■	61 T	E	E	N	S

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CJ Kids

AN ENTIRE WORLD TO DISCOVER: Erika is a regular visitor to the Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum in the Bathurst Jewish Centre. The museum is open all summer.

How a grandfather shows love to grandson

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Many people who survived the horrors of the Holocaust don't like to talk about what happened. Sometimes it is because they get too upset remembering. Sometimes they don't want to upset their families.

The book *Why, Zaida?* by Alvin Abram, illustrated by Judy Willemsma, (AMAGraphics Inc., 2000) talks about that kind of person – a grandfather who talks about the Holocaust only after his grandson asks and asks.

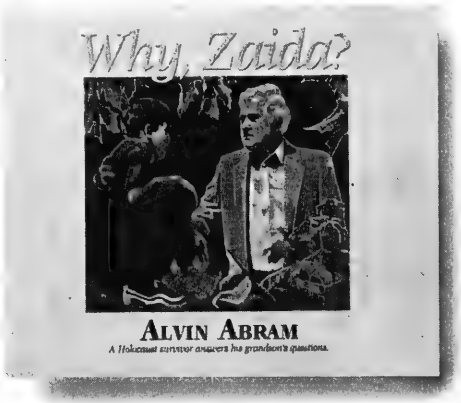
"Trapped in my head are images of the past and I can't find the key to open the door," the grandfather thinks, when his grandson wants to know why there are no pictures of his grandfather's parents.

"I was his age when it all happened and I don't understand why I had to suffer such pain."

Nevertheless, the grandfather has to answer his grandson. He does this with the time-honoured technique of parables, stories that help teach a lesson – a robin eating a worm, a dog chasing a squirrel, a leaf caught in a stream, a grassy bank.

The words the grandfather chooses are gentle, yet unbearably sad. "Yes, lies hurt... but the truth can also hurt. One day, bad men came for my father and took him to a bad place. Then my mother understood the truth and gave me to a family to keep me safe. Later they came for my mother."

Every page has beautiful illustrations in lush greens, blues and browns.



Abram, who wrote *Why, Zaida?*, says he is not just writing about what happened to the Jews, but about love, the love a grandfather and grandson have for each other, the love people have for relatives even though they died a long time before.

What the grandfather seems to be saying is that people should stand up to those who try to hurt the weak and innocent.

Abram says he couldn't get a publisher to see that the book could be about anyone, not just Jews.

He is donating part of what he earns from selling the book to charity.

CJ Kids

MENDY'S FRIEND ERIC in "HOLI-DAZE!"

WORDSEARCH

SHAVUOT IS ALSO KNOWN AS "THE DAY OF THE FIRST FRUITS" BECAUSE IT IS THE TIME THE FARMERS OF ISRAEL WOULD BRING THEIR FIRST HARVEST TO JERUSALEM AS A TOKEN OF THANKSGIVING. FIND ALL THE FRUIT IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW BY LOOKING UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, FORWARDS AND DIAGONALLY...GOOD LUCK!

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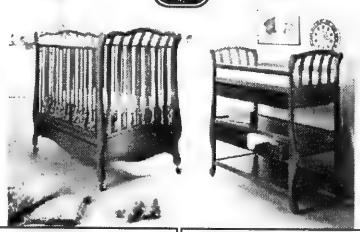
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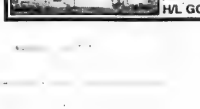

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COMPANION for elderly man, live-in Mon-Fri. Some cooking & light housekeeping. Exp. & refs. a must! 905-477-9022, ext. 228.

Nanny wanted - Live out. Caring & rel. Mon-Fri, 3-7pm. For 6 & 10 year old. Bath/Steeles. Refs. Call Rose 416-782-6312.

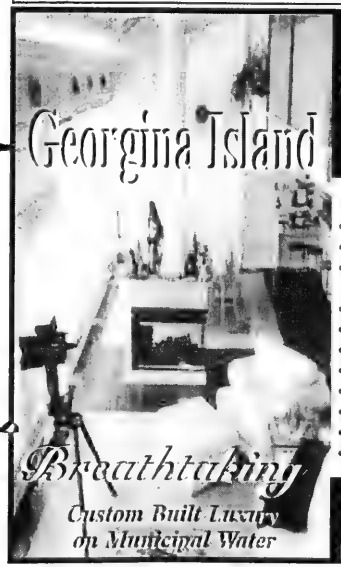
260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Bringing People Together. It only takes one match to light a fire. Call Ruth **905-731-5204.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric & Carole Gollant happily announce the engagement of their daughter **Michelle Lauren** to **Sandy Joel,** the son of **Bella & David Kestenberg,** and **Robert & Claire Levy.** Proud grandparents are Morris & Ruby Wiser, Mary Itzovitch, and David & Edna Shiffman. Great missed are Robert & Annette Gollant and Morris Itzovitch. Wedding date to be announced.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE



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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric & Carole Gollant happily announce the engagement of their daughter **Jennifer Marnee** to **Steven Mark** the son of **Joel & the late Barbara Axelrod and Helen Scolnick**. Proud grandparents are Morris & Ruby Wiser and Estelle Axelrod. Greatly missed are Robert & Annette Gollant, Al & Anne Litvack and Ben Axelrod. Wedding date to be announced.

265 PEOPLE SEARCH

I am looking for my relatives, **Roza Janower and Shlomo Janower,** born in Warsaw, Poland in 1918. Any info, call **416-225-4155 or 416-663-3963**

270 PERSONALS

Single female, early 40's, looking for an intermediate tennis player, and light hiking companion. Call Ronit at 416-631-6937.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Very shy, 33 year old man, would like to meet male or female to socialize. Please reply to CJN Box #7281.

Wanted to cherish a classy lady in her early seventies, 5"8, pleasantly plump, retired, university graduate by a retired professional widower. **Please reply to CJN Box #7279.**

Not a princess! I am an attractive, fit, professional, late 40's, divorced Jewish woman, dog owner, horse enthusiast, who lives just north of Toronto. You are a man who lives in the country, appreciates nature, travel & can ride a horse. If you would like to share adventures, email: **sunflowr@aci.on.ca** or reply to **CJN Box 7280.**

Romantic male, sensitive, caring, kind and honest. Looking for lady, any age, with the same qualities, for committed relationship. CJN Box #7283.

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

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1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

For the June 15 edition, the Classified & Service Directory advertising deadline is Tuesday, June 6, by 4pm.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

* CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

New wedding gown white matte satin. Sleeveless boned pearled bodice, scoop neckline. Size 8-10. View at: **www.lanstuart.com** style #9758. **Call 416-822-1528**

315 CARS

Turn your old car into renewed hope. Donate your used car to benefit Jewish special education and receive maximum tax credit. As an example of the incredible tax credit you may receive, consider this: An '90 Buick Le Sabre may be worth as much as $3,200. Free towing. 416-787-1101.

330 OBITUARIES

Mandelkern, Benjamin, peacefully at home, on May 19,2000. Benjamin, beloved husband of the late Helen Dear father of Rae and her husband Leonard Silver, Jeannie and her husband Norman Wexler, Arlene and her husband David Vaskevitch. Loving grandfather of Geoffrey, Theodore, Kate (TK), Darrell, Rachel and Helen. Cherished uncle of Yacov and Robyn Falkovitz and Johnathon and Tim Zyto. A wonderful, strong man who accomplished a lot in his life - he survived the holocaust, he wrote a book about his survival, he spoke to children at schools and at libraries, he made films of his own and his grandchildren's stories. A funeral service was held on Sunday, May 21, 2 p.m. at Steeles Memorial Chapel. Interment Bathurst Lawn Cemetery, Lubliner section. Shiva was observed at 269 Betty Ann Dr. In lieu of shiva gifts donations to Hadassah Hospital 416-630-8373 or the Soldiers of Israel 416-783-3053 would be appreciated

SWARTZ, Hilda - on Apr. 23, 2000, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
GOLDBLATT, Queenie - on Apr. 24, 2000, late of 33 Elmhurst Ave., #2105.
ROSEN, Sylvia - on Apr. 27, 2000, late of Cummer Lodge.
COHEN, Sandra - on Apr. 28, 2000, late of 56 Ridgevale Dr.
PHILLIPS, Allan - on Apr. 28, 2000, late of 65 Skymark Dr., #1904.
ANSELL, Milly - on Apr. 29, 2000, late of 86 Nottingham Dr.
FRANK, Philip - on Apr. 29, 2000, late of 1085 Steeles Ave. W., #1107.
GREENSPAN, Harry - on Apr. 29, 2000, late of 2113 Gordon St.
MASON, Sylvia - on Apr. 29, 2000, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
CHIKOFSKY, Herbert - on Apr. 30, 2000, late of 24 Corwin Cres.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

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LASS, Sarah - on Apr. 30, 2000, late of 10 Shallmar Blvd., #312.
GROSSBERG, Benjamin - on May 1, 2000, late of 155 Balmoral Ave., #319.
HILDEBRAND, Enid - on May 1, 2000, late of 4 Lowther Ave., #310.
KATZ, Heinz - on May 1, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
MANDELL, Sam - on May 1, 2000, late of 4001 Bayview Ave., #402.
SHULMAN, Frank - on May 1, 2000, late of 20 Preston Rd.
CHERNIN, Sol - on May 2, 2000, late of 355 St. Clair Ave. W., #2501.
ZENER, Pauline - on May 2, 2000, late of 2920 Lawrence Ave. E.
GLICENSTEIN, Rose - on May 3, 2000, late of 2045 Finch Ave., W.
GREEN, Elliott - on May 4, 2000, late of 22 Bunty Lane.
FIRESTONE, Anne - on May 5, 2000, late of 2121 Bathurst St., PH #4.
HENKLE, Hilda - on May 5, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
LACKSTONE, Serle - on May 6, 2000, late of 55 Huntingdale Dr., #1607.
ZAWIERUCHA, Joseph - on May 6, 2000, late of 168 Caines Ave.
BRAND, Reuben - on May 7, 2000, late of 1555 Finch Ave. E., #101.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

WEINBERG, Rochelle - on May 8, 2000, late of 625 Finch Ave. W., #304.
BRICKMAN, Sidney - on May 9, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BRUNER, Marty - on May 9, 2000, late of 445 Simonston Blvd.
GLICK, Ira - on May 9, 2000, late of 33 Holly St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

OLCH, Roger - on Apr. 20, 2000, late of 40 Gerrard St. E., #708.
AIZENBERG, Saul - on Apr. 29, 2000, late of 12 Rockford Rd., #604.
AVENUS, Florence - on May 6, 2000, late of 429 Walmer Rd.

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HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
TRADITIONAL GRAVESIDE SERVICE

LERNER, Ettie - on May 9, 2000, late of 105 Sultana Ave.
BELZBEG-REPPAS, Harriet - on May 10, 2000, late of 50 Cambridge Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

GOLDENBERG, Paula - on May 11, 2000.
KIRSHENBLATT, Samuel Nathan - on May 11, 2000, late of 7 Elder St.
KHIGER, Khaya - on May 12, 2000.
BADER, Edythe - on May 14, 2000, late of 18 Simonston Blvd.
BIGIO, Emile - on May 14, 2000, late of 650 Eglinton Ave., W.
HABIBI, Avigail - on May 14, 2000.
KALINKA, Ruth - on May 15, 2000.
LAPPIN, Ruth - on May 15, 2000, late of 80 Antibes Dr
RIGLER, David George - on May 15, 2000, late of 2 Covington Rd.
RAZMOV, Benjamin - on May 15, 2000, late of 115 Antibes Dr.
SCHEINMAN, Emanuel - on May 15, 2000.
SIMON, Reva - on May 15, 2000, late of 1 Canyon Ave.
KRIZKER, Yaakov - on May 16, 2000, late of 300 Antibes Dr
VANEK, Morris - on May 16, 2000, late of 95 Allingham Gdns.
SLOMIN, Ruth Helen - on May 17, 2000, late of 239 Atlas Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of
SALA LUST ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 4th
12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth David Section
Sam and Mary Hoppe Izchak and Ester Ratz, invite relatives and friends to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MEYER COOPERBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 4th, 10:30 a.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Royal York Rd
Beth Jacob Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of
HARRY EISEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 4th 11:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Dridzer Society Section
invite relatives and friends to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SABA HECHT ז"ל
will take place
June 4th, 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Shalom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MAGDI SENYI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 4th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Temple Sinai Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

336 CARD OF THANKS

From the Family of the late
GOLDA KAZDAN ז"ל

We wish to thank our family, friends and acquaintances for their kindness and support and for honouring her memory with cards, donations to worthy causes and for being here for us in these very difficult times.
It is gratefully appreciated.

KAZDAN/ROSS FAMILIES

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Sports & Leisure

CHECK OUT OUR INTERNET EDITION AT www.cjnews.com
The Canadian Jewish news

Teeny tiny gymnast wins provincial title

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — At 55 pounds, Samantha Katz is light enough to fly through the air like a feather in a warm gust of air, and flexible enough to practically bend in two. Some would say she has the ideal frame to develop into a champion gymnast.

Recently, the Thornhill youngster took a step along that road as she claimed first place overall in the Novice 1 category at the 2000 Ontario Provincial Youth Gymnastics Championships in Oakville.

Katz, 10, claimed the title with a first in beam, fifth in uneven bars, seventh in vault and eighth in floor exercises. She scored 33 out of a possible 36 points and eked out a razor-thin .1 point win over the second place finisher.

A fifth grade student at Westminster Public School, Samantha said she was "surprised to win, because there were a lot of kids...I'm pretty proud."

Her mom, Donna, is pretty proud too, considering the Oakville meet was Samantha's first ever competition at the provincial level. Last year, Samantha didn't even enter any pre-competition qualifying meets, but two years ago she won two regional events in East York and Oshawa.

Following the Ontario competition, Samantha qualified for a berth in the USAIGC national championships, a meet of independent gymnastics clubs, which will be held in Florida this June. Prior to that, Samantha will continue her tough training regimen at the Academy of Sports and Fitness (ASF), where she puts in about 25 hours a week, with only one day off.

"Samantha is a hard working kid. She's progressed tremendously in the last year," said ASF program co-ordinator Vicki Bialogrecki. "At her level, she's awesome."

Samantha currently competes at Level 1, an entry level for competitive gymnasts. Levels 2 and 3 feature progressively higher calibre gymnasts. Jennifer Horowitz, another ASF athlete, finished second in Junior 2 (12-year-olds) at the Ontario championships.

"Samantha I'm sure is working towards Level 2 next year. She's on her way up for sure," Bialogrecki said.

"Samantha is a tiny girl," her mother said. "She has to work on her strength. She has a lot of grace and flexibility."

Beyond her physical skills, Samantha "has become very disciplined," Donna continued. "She knows when she comes home from the gym, her homework has to get done. There's no whining or complaining. It gets done."

She's already found a favourite event, as her performance in Oakville suggests. "I like beam the best," she said. "I think it's the most fun to do."

Samantha has enjoyed gymnastics from the moment she first saw it demonstrated. That was about three years ago, when she was at the Promenade Mall. A gymnastics club put on a show and Samantha "thought it looked great," Donna recalled.

"I brought her to the club, the coach looked at her and saw her flexibility, her strength and her bone structure. She felt she could be a competitive gymnast.

"I didn't know what I was getting into," she added. Samantha's schedule means lots of extra carpooling and schedule-juggling.

Last year, Samantha's summer included a stint at a gymnastics camp in Pennsylvania. This summer there's the U.S. meet and she's already planning to enter the Metro East qualifying meet next December – the first step on route to next year's provincial championships.

Samantha Katz (right) demonstrates her talents on the parallel bars (top).

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Prices effective Saturday June 3rd to Friday June 9th, 2000.

Can you spare $232 million?

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

Another week, another disappointing vote by Canada on the world stage.

This time, it wasn't another dagger in Israel at the United Nations, but a little-noticed approval of a $232 million (US) loan from the World Bank to Iran for a sewage treatment project in Tehran and for improvements in health care.

No, I'm not anti-sewage treatment or opposed to better health care for women and children. But nothing talks like money, and international forums like the World Bank are afforded many opportunities to convey their disapproval of something or other in countries where human rights are an oxymoron.

Ottawa did not approve the loan, and neither did it oppose it. In an almost weasel-ly fashion, Canada (and France) abstained, thus squandering a golden chance to express real condemnation of the continuing farce that is the closed-door "trial" of 13 Iranian Jews accused of spying for Israel.

Montreal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, who's been following the proceedings as closely as anyone, comes to Canada's defence – sort of.

He says Finance Minister Paul Martin, who is fully apprised of the "Iran 13" situation, has been "superb" on the loan issue. It was Martin, Cotler said, who instructed the Canadian representative to the Washington, D.C.-based World Bank, Terrie O'Leary, to successfully seek a postponement of the vote until more was known of the detainees' fate. But the rules say only one postponement of any vote is permitted, and the balloting took place May 19.

Cotler is quick to add that despite her noncommittal vote, O'Leary (who also represents Ireland and the Commonwealth Caribbean nations) and other board members who approved the loan, issued a strongly-worded statement saying their vote should in no way be construed as support for current events. That's not unlike saying, "I saw you commit a crime; I'm not saying you did not commit the crime; but I'll lend you the money you want anyway."

The rest of the 24-member executive board of the World Bank, including Britain, voted in favour of the loan. The United States opposed it because it has a law that prohibits it from taking part in international loans to countries that are on its list of state sponsors of terrorism. Washington walks a fine line on this. It stuck to its principles on anti-terrorism, and has objected to the trial, while trying to mend fences with Iranian reformists and telling the Iranian people that it bears them no ill will.

In condemning the vote, the prickly and irascible Senator Jesse Helms noted the obvious. Said the long-time North Carolina Republican and chair of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "I believe all Americans should be offended. Do voting members of the World Bank believe that as a kangaroo court in Iran continues its relentless persecution of 13 Iranian Jews, we should continue business as usual?"

Cotler sees a glimmer of hope in all this. Iran, he feels, is where the Soviet Union once was in its treatment of Jewish Refuseniks and dissidents. "The very fact they felt compelled to engage in a trial," he explained, "shows that they are not unresponsive to international pressure."

And also like the old Soviet Union, the Iranian Jews are magically "confessing" to their crimes, referring to Israel, as do the Iranian media, as "the Zionist entity."

The World Bank explained that the loan will better the lives of ordinary citizens, while bolstering the reforms of President Mohammad Khatami. But after the vote, World Bank chair James Wolfensohn said future loans would depend on the progress of reforms in Iran. *That's* like saying, "You've misbehaved. Here's your money, but watch yourselves."

In the final analysis, Cotler thinks Canada should have voted against the loan. The loan would have been approved anyway, and Canada could have joined the United States in standing fast to principles.

Not this time. Maybe next.

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Filling:
- 1 lb. dry cottage cheese
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice

Dough:
- ½ c. butter
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ c. sour cream
- 2 c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt
- melted butter

Combine cheese, egg, sugar and lemon juice and mix until smooth for filling.

For dough, beat butter, sugar and egg until fluffy. Add sour cream alternatively with flour, baking powder and salt to a smooth dough, dusting with flour if it gets too sticky. Divide dough into ¼'s; roll each piece on a lightly floured board into ¼" thick rectangles.

Place some filling along one edge of each dough rectangle and roll up. Cut rolls into 8" lengths and form into bagel shapes, pinching edges together to join. Brush with melted butter.

Bake at 350° 35-40 min. on a greased baking sheet. Serve hot with sour cream. Yield: 1 doz. May be frozen after baking.

About Seniors

Several leading medical journals offer the charming and instructive device of reprinting short sections from their pages of 100 years ago.

These pieces are always entertaining yet frequently outdated – but not always. In fact they can still speak to the heart of our clinical practice, even after a century in which medicine has changed so dramatically.

Dr. Mark says...

For example, in a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Dr. J.W. Bell, a century ago a medical professor at the University of Minnesota penned an impassioned "Plea for the Aged." And it should be pointed out that in 1899, geriatrics as a specialty did not yet formally exist.

Dr. Bell offered a criticism that is unfortunately still quite relevant today: "The want of interest, as indicated by the scanty and fragmentary character of the literature on the subject, is largely responsible for the apathy existing to-day in our medical schools."

It must be admitted that just as we enter the new millennium, there has been some modest improvement in the number of Canadian schools offering a course in geriatrics. Still, the growth is not at all proportional to the increase in the numbers of elderly. In 1899 Canada's population enjoyed a rate of less than five percent over age 65. Today, that percentage has almost tripled and life expectancy, even at age 80, has gone up most significantly.

Despite his critique, Bell understood the curricular wars of the medical schools, which are still fought out today. He offers that "it would seem criminal to even suggest the addition of another distinct course to the already overcrowded college [medical] cirriculum." (sic)

But he does offer two suggestions, the first of which still makes sense today: "That the chairs of anatomy and physiology impart to the student the necessary primary instruction." His second suggestion may today seem a bit quaint, but it obviously arose from the faint hope that his plea might be heeded by colleagues. Here, Bell suggests that the "chair of... [internal medicine], or... in order to contrast disease, the chair of pediatrics enlarge its scope and furnish the necessary... instruction."

JAMA's recent column has helped us realize that, at least in the field of the elderly, despite some improvement, "the more things change, the more they remain the same."

Mark Clarfield is the chief of academic affairs at the Sarah Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem and a staff geriatrician of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Sir Mortimer B. Davis – Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, Montreal

The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

Stand Up and Deliver

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

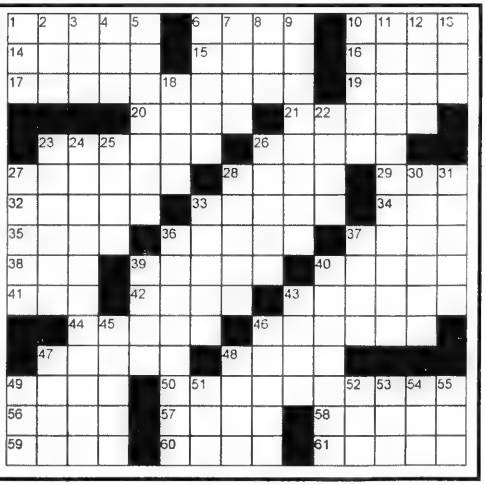
Across

1 Amass
6 Tuchus
10 "Leavin' On ___ Plane"
14 Hall of film
15 Setting for Israel
16 Welles's citizen
17 Comic
19 Windows sight
20 Lens neighbor
21 Champagne stoppers
23 Dodged the taxman
26 Victory site for 40-across
27 Nitpicks
28 Dimona, notably
29 CBS logo
32 Semicircular
33 Sorts (through)
34 Woody's ex
35 "Dagnabbit!"
36 Davis of jazz
37 Abba Eban quality
38 In the past
39 Emulates Willy Loman
40 War hero Dayan
41 That lady's
42 Tough to look at
43 Alternate route
44 Former chess champ Spassky
46 Kiddie transport
47 "Fiddler" character
48 Big ball
49 Comic Sahl
50 Comic
56 Yen
57 "I smell ___!"
58 Little bits
59 Venison source
60 Yarmulkes, essentially
61 Bar mitzvahs

Down

1 Uris novel, with "The"
2 Lennon lady
3 SNL star Gasteyer
4 ___ Tin Tin
5 Badmouthed
6 Underdog
7 Takes advantage of
8 Evergreen
9 Nazis, for instance
10 Director Kurosawa
11 Comic
12 Slaughter of baseball
13 Minyan
18 Angered states
22 Small bills
23 Irk and then some
24 Comic
25 Big galoots
26 They're cracked in crimes
27 Abraham's wife
28 E.L. Doctorow's ___ *Bathgate*
30 Social status, in a shtetl
31 Devourer
33 Soprano Beverly
36 Involved story
37 Kansas dog
39 Positive
40 Computer memory term
43 Actress Tyne
45 Playful animal
46 Craves
47 Additional
48 Summertime pest
49 Sty stuff
51 Time period
52 Wade rival
53 Western Indian
54 Sammy Davis, Jr.'s *Yes, I* ___
55 The capital of Syria?

(Answers are on page 27.)



THE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL of
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presents

UPDATE 2000

CHANGING ISSUES IN OUR CHANGING WORLD

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

100 Elder Street, Toronto

7:00 A.M. REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

7:50 A.M. WELCOME

GENA KATZ, *Ernst & Young*

7:55 A.M. OPENING REMARKS

David Wm. Brown, *Chair, UPDATE 2000, Al G. Brown & Associates*

8:00 A.M. CURRENT ISSUES

- **Taxation Of Stock Options**
  - The new Federal Budget rules
  - Remuneration planning
  - Moving in and out of Canada with options
  - U.S. company stock options and death

  ADAM RUBINOFF, *Soberman, Isenbaum & Colomby*

- **Changes to the Trust Rules**
  - Trust transfers and dispositions
  - Non-resident trusts
  - Planning with alter ego and joint spousal trusts
  - Insurance held by trusts

  HOWARD CARR, *Fasken Martineau Dumoulin*

8:50 A.M. MINUTES OF WISDOM

- Estate Planning and Charitable Gifts

- **New tax rules for charitable gifting**
  - RRSP/RRIF and insurance policy designations

  BARRY CORBIN, *Borden Ladner Gervais*

- **Trustee and director responsibilities and liabilities**

  TAMMY ANKLEWICZ, *Fogler Rubinoff*

- **Donations of personal use property**
  - shelters and otherwise

  JULES LEWY, *Fraser Milner*

- **Structuring testamentary gifts (CCRA views)**

  SHARON GOLDBERG

9:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

10:00 A.M. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

"Old Economy vs. New Economy - Fact or Fabrication"

DR. RUTH GETTER

Former Senior Vice President & Chief Economist, Toronto Dominion Bank

10:30 A.M. GOING PUBLIC - Is your client ready for "Prime Time"?

- Understanding the process - RTO, IPO, etc.
- How you can help your client

JASON BERENSTEIN & STEVEN DOLMAN

Mintz & Partners

11:00 A.M. POWER GIVING WITH LIFE INSURANCE

- Harnessing the potential of advanced life underwriting for charitable gifts
- Re-direct your tax dollars to your favourite charities

WILLIAM J. STRAIN, *PPI Financial Group Toronto*

11:30 A.M. MINUTES OF WISDOM - Pot Pourri

- **Status of civil penalties for advisors**

  BRIAN NICHOLS, *Spiegel Nichols*

- **Same-sex legislation and tax changes**

  HOWARD BERGMAN, *Kraft Berger Grill & Schwartz*

- **Dos and don'ts of multiple wills**

  ELENA HOFFSTEIN, *Fasken Martineau Dumoulin*

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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

Israeli MKs can be charged under new Canadian legislation. *Page 3*

Conference looks at the role of psalms in healing. *Page 6*

Former Mackenzie students reconnect at high school reunion. *Page 16*

Tribute to Israel

Twelve-pages pay tribute to the State of Israel. *Page 23*

Arts & Travel

Benson Simmonds' take on frustrated actor theme wins him Leo Award. *Page 45*

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Israel's UN isolation ends

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

After more than 50 years, Israel's isolation at the United Nations has come to an end, and Canada has won plaudits for helping to bring that about.

On May 26, Israel was finally invited to join one of the regional groupings at the UN, the Western Europe and Others Group, known as WEOG – something Canada has long championed.

Since its admission to the UN in 1949, Israel had been the only country to be barred from any of the world body's regional blocs, thus preventing the Jewish state from sitting on any UN committees and exercising influence in key areas.

Joe Wilder

Israel will now be eligible for nomination to several UN committees, including, potentially, the Security Council.

There are several conditions attached to Israel's membership in WEOG, but officials welcomed the move as a historic breakthrough.

Yehuda Lancry

Israel's ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Lancry, told Diaspora Jewish officials the development is a "historic turning point in our relationship with the UN. It is really a new chapter we are opening with the family of nations."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said the move "marked the end of four decades of discrimination and injustice," referring to the first time Israel was denied membership into the Asian regional bloc at the UN.

In a statement, Joseph Wilder, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), said the "discriminatory treatment of Israel has finally been rectified."

Wilder also praised Canada's efforts in securing Israel's membership, and Canada's "ongoing, active support for steps to normalize Israel's status at the UN and in other international institutions."

Michael O'Shaughnessy, a spokesperson for the Foreign Affairs department, told *The CJN* that Canada "has actively supported granting Israel temporary membership in WEOG, and is pleased WEOG has reached consensus in allowing Israel to attain membership."

Israel now finds itself in the same regional grouping as Canada, the United States, western European Union countries, Australia and New Zealand. Consensus from all 26 member nations was needed and secured.

Lancry sent a formal letter of acceptance to the Dutch ambassador to the UN, who currently chairs WEOG.

Since 1960, Arab nations have repeatedly denied Israel's admission to the Asian Group, to which it belongs geographically.

But there are several strings attached to Israel's membership in WEOG.

Continued on page 21

AWAITING VERDICT AND SENTENCE: Nasser Levi-Haim, right, one of the 13 Iranian Jews accused of espionage, confers with his lawyer last week inside the Shiraz revolutionary court. The outcome of the trial is expected by the end of the month.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

CJN wins award

MONTREAL — For the fourth year in a row, *The Canadian Jewish News* has been named Best Specialty Publication by the Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA).

"*The Canadian Jewish News*, even at first glance, was pretty much the runaway winner in all categories. A strong front page gets you into the publication and I found a good balance of articles from then on," said judge Shannon Berry.

The award was announced at the QCNA's recent annual general meeting held in Valleyfield.

The QCNA represents 34 English and bilingual publications throughout the province, with a total combined circulation of 302,340.

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Yizkor
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Fears for Barak's safety in Israel — please see page 41

The News in Brief

CANADA

Nazi Ad Sparks Suit

TORONTO — The National Ballet of Canada has launched a $1-million lawsuit against *Now* magazine for publishing an ad that compared the dance company to Nazis in their handling of the Kimberly Glasco affair.

The full-page ad listed a number of war-era Jewish artists, including Alexander Granach and Kurt Weill, who were dismissed from their positions "not for artistic reasons." The ad claimed Glasco suffered the same fate.

In 1998, James Kudelka, then the ballet's new artistic director, did not renew Glasco's contract. Glasco sued, alleging she was fired.

The suit will proceed despite a full-page apology from *Now*. A lawyer for the ballet said the comparison to the Nazis was "extremely hurtful" to the ballet and to Kudelka personally.

Degree for Feld Carr

SUDBURY — Judy Feld Carr, a native of Sudbury, was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Laurentian University at its spring convocation on June 3. From the early 1970s to the mid-1990s, Carr ran a secret operation in which some 3,200 Jews were rescued from Syria.

ISRAEL

New Olim

JERUSALEM — A total of 7,850 new immigrants from the former Soviet Union arrived in Israel during the first two months of 2000, a four percent increase over the same period a year ago, the Jewish Agency for Israel has reported.

Falash Mura On Way

JERUSALEM — The Jewish Agency is flying 100 Falash Mura from Ethiopia to Israel. Agency officials say the group is the first in a wave of some 5,000 to 6,000 people who will soon be flown to Israel. Thousands of Falash Mura – Ethiopians whose ancestors converted from Judaism to Christianity – have amassed in transit camps in Ethiopia hoping to immigrate to the Jewish state.

Polish President Visits

JERUSALEM — Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski paid a three-day official visit to Israel last week. Activists who claim Poland is ignoring Jewish calls for the return of assets stolen during the Nazi era promised to hold protests.

Lesbian Couple Wins

JERUSALEM — An Israeli lesbian couple has won the right to be registered as the mothers of a son born to one of them through a sperm donor. In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court last week ordered the Interior Ministry to register Nicole Brener Kadish as an adoptive mother to the four-year-old son of her lesbian partner.

WORLD

Shul Burns Down

PHILADELPHIA — A fire set by arsonists has destroyed a synagogue here. Police said the fire was set at Beit-Harambam Congregation by one person who broke in through a back window. The blaze destroyed Torahs and prayer books, gutted the synagogue's interior and left some 300 congregants without a house of worship.

Cemetery Attacked

ATHENS — Greece has condemned an attack by vandals on the main Jewish cemetery in Athens. Vandals attacked the cemetery May 26, painting Nazi slogans and symbols on its Holocaust memorial as well as on dozens of graves.

Zundel in Attendance

IRVINE, Calif. — Toronto pro-Nazi publisher Ernst Zundel was among several sympathizers who attended the kick-off to a three-month speaking and fund-raising tour by celebrated Holocaust denier David Irving here, the *Los Angeles Times* reported last week. Zundel joined such prominent deniers as Arthur Butz of the United States and Robert Faurisson of France to hear Irving speak at a secret location here, the newspaper said. Irving recently lost a high-profile libel lawsuit against U.S. Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt.

Temple Reopens

HAVANA — Cuba's Jewish community marked the inauguration of a newly renovated temple, Bet Shalom, in Havana last month. Attending the ceremony were Jewish delegations from several countries.

'Robin Hood Rabbi' Gets Seven Years

MONTREAL — Joseph Prushinowski, the so-called Robin Hood Rabbi convicted last month of multimillion-dollar fraud, will spend at least the next three years behind bars in an Israeli penitentiary.

Prushinowski, who fled Montreal in 1987, was recently handed a seven-year prison sentence by a judge in Jerusalem.

Authorities dubbed Prushinowski the Robin Hood Rabbi and the Chassidic Robin Hood because he allegedly distributed his ill-gotten funds to unwitting chassidic communities around the globe for housing, education and charitable causes.

He was convicted May 2 of having defrauded financial institutions around the world of about $200 million by using multiple false identities, dummy corporations, bogus offshore banks, and trading on his status as a religious Jew.

Montreal police have been told that Prushinowski, 61, will be on probation for 18 months after serving his sentence, and if he is found guilty of a similar offence within three years of his release, he will automatically be returned to jail for another 18 months.

He is likely to appeal his sentence, and will serve his sentence in the prison where he has been since his arrest in 1998. That jail time will count toward his sentence, making him eligible for parole in just over three years.

Over the years, Prushinowski has been pursued by the RCMP, the FBI, Scotland Yard as well as New York and Dutch police.

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Israeli MKs 'threatened' by Canadian proposal

Could be charged with war crimes under new legislation

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Under new legislation being considered by Parliament, members of the government of Israel who visit Canada could theoretically become the subject of extradition requests as alleged war criminals.

According to Prof. Ed Morgan, who teaches international law at the University of Toronto and is honorary counsel for Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), there is a potential problem with one specific article in the proposed legislation.

The legislation, Bill C-19, is aimed at facilitating Canada's membership in the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was established to prosecute modern-day war criminals. It is also an attempt by the federal government to facilitate the prosecution in Canada of perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A CJC delegation led by Morgan last week presented a brief to the House of Commons standing committee on foreign affairs and international trade, which is considering the legislation. CJC urged the government to ensure that the extradition provision in the proposed legislation not be abused or exploited by political considerations.

The concern CJC has with the bill, Morgan explained, is that it criminalizes "the transfer, directly or indirectly, by the occupying power of parts of its civilian population into the territory it occupies."

The inclusion of this provision and specifically the word "indirectly" in the Rome Statute two years ago, at the insistence of the Arab states, caused the Israeli delegation to withdraw its support for the Rome treaty. The Rome Statute established support for the ICC.

The provision itself is not the problem, said Morgan. The concern is with the potential politicized use of such an article, in particular by the Arab states against Israel.

Some people fear that, theoretically, a visiting member of the Israeli government or of a former government that authorized the building or the expansion of Jewish communities on the West Bank, or any other policy that someone might argue resulted "indirectly" in the "transfer of its civilian population, might be made the subject of an extradition request by a foreign government hostile to Israel.

"In principle, CJC welcomes Bill C-19 and we commend the government and Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy for their leadership in seeking to institutionalize the search for justice against perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide," Morgan said.

"We would like Canada to make it crystal clear that they will not extradite anyone

Continued on page 21

Zundel's appeals rejected

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel is facing tens of thousands of dollars in legal costs and the prospect of his human rights case resuming, thanks to two recent decisions by the Federal Court of Appeal.

In back-to-back unanimous decisions of a three-judge panel, the court slapped down Zundel's attempt to seek early judicial reviews of legal decisions made by the tribunal hearing his case. The court also rejected the neo-Nazi's contention that one of the tribunal members may be biased against him.

A tribunal of the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) is hearing allegations that Zundel, a distributor of pro-Nazi propaganda, operated a Web site that

Continued on page 21

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Greater Toronto Area

The message of freedom

From the editor's desk

As the sun slides this evening through the starlit heavenly corridor into the sixth day of Sivan, Jews around the world will be celebrating Shavuot, the second holiday of our religion and nation-defining pilgrimage trilogy.

Seven weeks after the people of Israel were emancipated from their slavery in Egypt some 3,500 years ago, they gathered at the foot of Har (Mount) Sinai, the low-lying, craggy, desert mountain, to hear the Emancipator give them His Ten Commandments.

That was the beginning of the transformation.

An unruly, wary, tentative, psychologically wounded rabble of individuals was on its way to becoming a free, freedom-loving, confident cohesion of distinct tribes but of one people.

But first, they would have to expunge from their psyches what the scars on their backs from the taskmasters' slashing whips had seared into their souls: the mindset and the outlook of a slave, the inbred sense of inferiority and worthlessness.

Not surprisingly, even though they actually saw the mountain tremble, felt its fire and heard the blaring blasts of the shofrot, after the accumulated indignity and suffering of centuries, they could not do that.

Moses saw this and understood the bittersweet truth that the message of human freedom would be carried into the Promised Land by the first generation of children whose backs would not be scarred by the whip or bowed by the weight of bricks and clay.

It was his historic purpose to teach that message to the first generation of free children. And it was their privilege to learn from Moses what had been the even greater privilege of their parents to hear directly from God.

A very poignant iteration of that "message of human freedom" was expressed by Joseph Hertz, the late chief rabbi of Great Britain.

"[Shavuot] is the anniversary of the Divine proclamation of the Ten Commandments, which remain for all time the fundamental rules of Right for all men. On that day, there was something new under the sun. A whole people was consecrated to a sacred task, that was to shatter the stone heart of heathendom, and render possible the coming of a new heart, obedient to righteousness and throbbing with pity and human brotherhood."

Etching by Gustave Doré

The message of freedom that Moses taught to the children of Israel was destined to become, in Rabbi Hertz's poetic words, a consecration to "fundamental rules of Right for all men."

This is what we must remember on Shavuot: Israel's "sacred task," to again borrow Rabbi Hertz's words, then and now, is to be an exemplar for all peoples of those "rules of Right."

How we do that and whether we are any longer able to do that is the subject of the important essay by Prof. Gil Troy that appears on page 9.

He urges readers to relate to our Judaism and thus, by extension, to the essential values and messages for which Judaism stands, in a positive and as a positive force. He calls for us to embrace our faith as something in which to feel great pride, something precious, something to be "hugged."

Troy wants us to discard the notion of a Judaism which is simply a set of restrictions. Our freedom, Troy pointedly writes, must be freedom *for* something, *on behalf of* something, *in favour of* something and not merely *from* having to do or perform some key obligation.

His argument is persuasive.

There is a beautiful and evocative midrash (homily) that describes the moment when the Torah was given at Mount Sinai to the children of Israel.

"Rabbi Abbahu said in the name of Rabbi Yohanan: When the Holy One gave the Torah, no bird chirped, no fowl flew, no ox lowed, not one of the offanim angels stirred a wing, not one of the seraphim said, 'Holy, holy, holy!' The sea did not roar, creatures did not speak; the whole world was hushed into breathless silence; it was then that the voice went forth: 'I am the Lord your God.'"

That single, awesome, frightening moment changed the course of human history. Everything and everyone stopped to reflect upon and to comprehend the true nature of our freedoms. On Shavuot, so should we. *MBD*

SEE JN

SPRINGTIME CHORAL RECITAL: The Jewish and Italian communities recently celebrated spring when the Koffler School of Music presented a recital at the Leah Posluns Theatre featuring the Renanim Children's Chorus and the Columbus Centre Schola Cantorum. Seen, from left, are: Diane Uslaner, director of cultural programming, marketing and development for the Koffler Centre of the Arts; Dorothy Shoichet, president of the Koffler Centre of the Arts; Alberto di Giovanni, director of cultural programming for the Columbus Centre, Centro Scuola; Franca di Giovanni, conductor of the Schola Cantorum Children's Chorus; Susan Michaels, conductor of the Renanim Children's Choir; and Adrienne Cohen, director of the Koffler School of Music.

Greater Toronto Area

Ritual directors form new group

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – They may complain to each other or make jokes about the long hours and multiple demands of their jobs, but the bottom line – according to members of the newly formed Ontario Ritual Directors' Association (ORDA) – is that synagogue ritual directors wouldn't be there if they didn't like what they do.

So far the Toronto-based group has seven members, including one from Hamilton. ORDA president Asher Tannenbaum, ritual director of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, anticipates the group will eventually expand. A native of Montreal who moved here in December, he said some of his contacts in Montreal have expressed interest.

Asher Tannenbaum

Tannenbaum and Cantor Marshall Loomer, who serves as cantor/ritual director/spiritual leader of the 350-family Congregation Adath Shalom, each had the idea of creating an organization of ritual directors and *chazzanim shniyim*. But it wasn't until a few months ago, when Tannenbaum spoke to his colleague Baruch Hoffman at Adath Israel Congregation, that he was eventually put in touch with Loomer and the two began working to make the idea a reality. Loomer wrote letters to other colleagues inviting them to be part of the new endeavour.

"I think we all felt the need," said Danny Allman, ritual director of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, who, like the others, had networked with his counterparts informally.

The members spoke to *The CJN* at ORDA's third meeting, held last week at Adath Israel, where Hoffman has been ritual director for the past 11 years.

At 51, he is ORDA's senior member.

Among the group's goals is setting and maintaining standards for bar and bat mitzvah teaching, which is often part of their job description. They also want to share experiences and learn from each other.

"We want to add credibility and professionalism to this profession," said Tannenbaum, who left the business world for the synagogue to turn his avocation into a full-time career.

Many American cities have such organizations, noted Loomer.

Although ORDA is open to any denomination, thus far members are all affiliated with traditional Conservative congregations.

A ritual director's job is hard to define, said the ORDA members. Different ritual directors may have different responsibilities. There's no school for ritual directors. Lorne Hanick, ritual director and b'nai mitzvah tutor at Beth Tzedec Congregation, has two degrees in Judaic studies, which he said "enhance" his job. "The practical skills I need for this job – like Torah reading and nusach – I learned independently."

"Everyone here knows how to daven, how to be resourceful, how to conduct life cycle events," said Loomer. "And we all probably swore we'd never work for a shul," he quipped.

Most of them teach bar and bat mitzvah students, are responsible for weekday minyans and have administrative duties. Some of them will substitute for the chazzan when he is not available. They're also called upon often to answer congregants' questions. Allman serves as building manager in addition to his other duties.

"You've got to wear many hats to be a ritual director," added Loomer.

The pool of candidates for ritual director positions is shrinking, said Hoffman, an American with an MBA who had his own health food business when he lived in Israel in the 1980s. In the past, he noted, many ritual director positions were filled by European immigrants with traditional backgrounds.

ORDA members all have traditional backgrounds, but "even guys who learn in yeshiva" may not be suited to the job if they can't sing or aren't people-oriented, he said.

"We are the maitre d' of the shul," said Hoffman, "We're the ones that show [new mourners] how to put on tfillin and show them how to say Kaddish."

In the summer it's not uncommon for him to put in a workday that runs from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., with perhaps a few hours off in between.

"If you like people," he began...

"It's a very rewarding profession," concluded Tannenbaum.

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Conference looks at role of psalms in healing

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Healing has to take into account the multiple dimensions of a person's life — physical, cultural, social and religious, said a leading rabbi in the field of Jewish healing.

Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, rabbinic director of the National Centre for Jewish Healing in New York City, was speaking at the second biennial conference of the Toronto Jewish Healing Project, co-ordinated by Etta Ginsberg-McEwan. The day-long event, held at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, was called Don't Rely on Miracles, Recite Psalms.

Rabbi Weintraub, the keynote speaker, used rabbinic text to illustrate a number of points, among them:

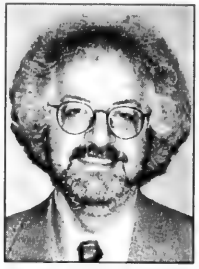
• People always complain about the question, "How are you?" he noted. "It comes attached to the answer, 'I'm fine.' That's not the whole story."

• Even healers need help to heal themselves.

• Community plays an important role in healing, as does touch.

"Victorian" attitudes have gotten in the way even of appropriate touch, noted Rabbi Weintraub.

One theme that occurs in Jewish stories of healing concerns "mutual weeping" as a healing source. This challenges much of what doctors have been taught, the rabbi said.



Rabbi Simkha Weintraub

Rabbi Weintraub believes that psalms can be used in at least seven ways in Jewish life, including ritual, prayer, song and meditation.

"We need to reapproach [psalms] in a new light," he said, noting that even though he has an Orthodox day school background and majored in Jewish studies as an undergraduate, he "really didn't turn to the psalms in my own suffering, until some bridges were built for me."

The words of psalms may offer new ways of communicating for those who lack words of their own to express their feelings around illness, suffering or loss, he said. The psalms are a flexible resource, he noted, because they don't require a quorum of ten, nor do they need to be said at certain times of the day.

For many people, however, it's not helpful to tackle a whole psalm, Rabbi Weintraub said. "For them, I think it's helpful to select a line, a phrase or even a single word to carry within their hearts."

Respondents to Rabbi Weintraub were Rabbi Dow Marmur of Holy Blossom Temple, and family physician Dr. Yoel Abells. The day also included a number of related workshops. Participating clergy included Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis.

Resources such as support groups bring comfort and strength, said Rabbi Marmur, and the use of traditional texts provides context. "The pain doesn't disappear, but it becomes more bearable."

There is more spiritual healing in sharing questions than answers, he said.

From a medical standpoint, Abells noted that although medicine was once the domain of spiritual leaders, in the technology-oriented 20th century, there was "no attempt to focus on the person as a whole." He recalled his days as a medical student, when patients often heard bad news from doctors and students discussing their case at their bedsides.

"There was no malicious intent," he said. "Just ignorance and stupidity. Professionalism was the term used."

On a personal level, Judaism guides his approach to patients, said Abells, who began his talk by reciting a doctor's prayer. "Medicine not transcended by spirituality is like a body without a soul."

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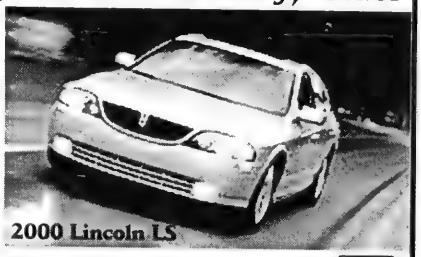

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'Pirate' radio explores wide variety of issues

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Like radio commentators everywhere, Jay Shapiro has an opinion on just about every subject.

The proposed trans-Israel highway, for example, is "the biggest mistake in Israel."

The abrogation by the PLO of its charter was "a fake."

Israel's elites and its courts are a "problem."

The courts make decisions "that make Israel less Jewish."

Israeli Arabs are "a hostile minority whose loyalty is to Arafat."

Syrian strongman Hafez al-Assad is "a rotten dictator of a fourth world country that makes a living off of drugs."

And so on.

Once a week, Shapiro gets to air his views during a 45-minute talk show on Arutz 7, the "pirate" radio station that broadcasts to Israel from a ship outside Israel's territorial waters.

A landlubber originally from Philadelphia, Shapiro need never get a whiff of the Mediterranean's salt air during his broadcasts. Comfortably ensconced in his home in Karnei Shomron, 30 kilometres east of Herzliyah, he uses a telephone to link up to the station, and his signal is then rebroadcast back to Israel from offshore.

For 2½ years, he's been calling it like he sees it on a wide variety of social and political issues, and not once has station management tried to modify his comments, he said. His views, it is clear, fit in nicely with those of the station, which Shapiro describes as "nationalistic radio that tries to be balanced."

Founded in 1988 by Ya'akov Katz and Rabbi Zalman Melamed of Beit El Yeshiva Centre Institutions, the station's goal is "to combat the negative thinking and post-Zionist attitudes so prevalent in Israeli's liberal-left media," its Web site (www.a7.org) states.

In some quarters the station has been called "settlers' radio" and "pirate radio," but Shapiro maintains it is more balanced and even-handed than Israel's state-run radio and television stations. It gives a voice to Israel's religious community, which is barely represented on mainstream radio stations, and it balances the overwhelmingly leftist orientation of the Israeli media, Shapiro contended.

Arutz 7 is located offshore because it is difficult to get a licence from the Israeli broadcasting authority. In February 1999, the Knesset passed a law granting the station legal status, allowing it to continue broadcasting, with the need for approval by the Israeli radio and television authority, said Arutz 7 spokesperson Yisrael Medad.

Unlike Israel's government-controlled media, Arutz 7 is privately financed through donations and advertising and has listeners among all segments of the Israeli population, he added.

Shapiro was in Toronto recently as part of an 11-day North American visit. He spoke to about 60 people at Yeshivat Or Chaim. His presentation was sponsored by Lior Tobias, a young man unaffiliated with any organization, but who has been impressed with Shapiro's radio commentaries since first hearing them 18 months ago. Shapiro's show is carried live on the station's Web site at 2:15 p.m. on Thursdays and an archive of prior shows can also be accessed on the Internet.

Tobias said he asked Shapiro to come to Toronto because "I felt the need to wake up Canadian Jewry. They're not thinking about the real problems in Israel."

CORRECTION

In *The CJN* staff Shavuot recipes, an ingredient was missing in the noodle kugel recipe. We have to research the proper information, and we will report back in a later issue.

We regret the omission.

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An inquiry into more than the quality of water

To its credit, the government of Ontario announced last week that it would establish a public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the drinking-water-related deaths in Walkerton. To its shame however, the government made the announcement only reluctantly, after more than a week of sharply expressed outrage by concerned citizens from all walks of life and from all across the province.

At least seven people in Walkerton, a small town of about 5,000 people, are known to have died after drinking the town's water which became contaminated by the deadly E. Coli 0157:H7 bacteria. Four previous deaths are now suspected to have also stemmed from the poisoned water. Around 1,000 people were made seriously ill by the water.

The calls for a public inquiry reached their peak last week after a series of revelations fell like related pieces of domino tiles, one after the other, onto the pages of local and national newspapers. The revelations were triggered earlier in the week by Dr. Murray McQuigge, the medical officer of health responsible for Walkerton, who angrily disclosed that the town's public utilities had still been pumping water days after it knew the water supply had been compromised. Subsequent statements, allegations and revelations cast further doubts upon the town's public water utility, the private laboratories testing the quality of water, and upon the Ministry of the Environment itself.

As of this writing, neither the terms of the inquiry, nor for that matter, the identity of the official who will lead it, are known.

It is imperative that the parameters of the inquiry be broad. The search for truth must not be confined to the narrow physiological line of causation that led to the deaths. The private litigations that will undoubtedly arise from this tragedy can and will follow the trail of that line more effectively and more appropriately.

Rather, the search for truth, for the answers to the "Walkerton water tragedy" must follow the questions that the wider public interest demands be answered. Alas, in these circumstances, that wider public interest now includes examining the role we expect our governments to play in providing the day-to-day essentials of our lives.

Governments cannot ensure against all exigencies; nor do reasonable people expect them to. But surely, in the year 2000, in the province of Ontario, the quality of the water that flows into our homes must not be considered an exigency. The delivery of safe drinking water is one of the very basic, fundamental, uncompromising expectations that reasonable people have of their government to fulfil, along with, one might add, high quality education and health care.

What are the reasonable limits upon a government policy that places at risk the fulfilment of these basic, fundamental expectations? That is one of the important questions for the public inquiry to answer.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Teffilin, Omed Teffilin, Ashesar Zadmehr.

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We should be shouting

As the 13 Iranian Jews await their sentences, I cannot help but ask, "Are we awake, fully, completely awake? Are we blind to the reminiscent nightmares of the past, when the world stood silent?"

For the sake of our brothers and sisters, for the sake of humanity, we should be rallying in the thousands outside the Iranian Embassy, yelling and shouting – *Let our people go*!

If we don't, next week or the week after, we will all be wearing the cloak of guilt, while we sit comfortably in our homes or offices reading in the newspaper how 13 Jews were hung, God forbid, asking ourselves, what did we do?

Sandy Stern
Toronto

* * *

Implications of Lebanon exit

In many of the discussions concerning Israel's recent withdrawal from Lebanon, certain facts have either been underplayed or not properly explained at all.

The key to understanding Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is a full comprehension of United Nations Security Council Resolution 425, adopted on May 19, 1978. This resolution, passed in the wake of Operation Litani – an Israeli military operation against PLO bases in southern Lebanon in reaction to a wave of terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians – calls first and foremost for "strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries." This clause effectively calls for all foreign forces, including Israel, but not only Israel, to withdraw from Lebanon.

Now that Israel has complied unconditionally with that part of Resolution 425 directed at it, it is incumbent upon the international community, including Canada, to ensure compliance by other foreign interests including Syria (and Iran) to do the same.

Finally, Resolution 425 calls for the government of Lebanon, with the assistance of the UN, to impose "effective authority" in southern Lebanon. This has several implications:

- The government of Lebanon must take decisive action to establish control over the border region with Israel, including disarming and disbanding all militias, especially Hezbollah;
- The UN should immediately reinforce the UNIFIL peacekeeping operation in southern Lebanon. Acting upon the offer extended by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien during his recent trip to the Middle East, Canada should formally advise the UN of its willingness to commit Canadian personnel to an enhanced UN force;
- The UN, through Resolution 425, is also committed to assisting the Lebanese people in rehabilitating their country after many years of strife. This is something that Canada should also be encouraged to participate in. From an Israeli perspective, the rehabilitation, independence and stability of Lebanon are crucial elements of regional peace and security.

Joseph Wilder
National Chair, Canada-Israel Committee
Winnipeg

True face of Ontario government

On May 17, according to provincial Hansard, Ontario education minister Janet Ecker stood up in the provincial legislature and boasted (in reference to the United Nations human rights committee ruling) that "when we were challenged by the United Nations and the federal Liberals to back off that commitment [to public education], we stood firm and said no."

The United Nations human rights committee's ruling was very simple. They said: "Provide an effective remedy to end the religious discrimination in Ontario." They did not tell Ontario and Canada how to end the discrimination; they left it up to both the federal and provincial governments to provide the solution. They did not rule that money should be removed from the public education system. They did not recommend taking money away from Catholics for the religious education of their children. They simply said religious discrimination against Jews in Ontario, manifested in the education funding formula, is wrong and must be eliminated.

So now we see the true face of this government. Not only do they ignore calls to end the religious discrimination against Jews in Ontario, they are proud of perpetuating it. And the Canadian government is ducking the international responsibilities into which it freely entered.

Will Jewish voters and financial contributors to the Conservative party of Ontario now call the premier and ask him to explain the words of his senior minister?

Arieh Waldman
Toronto

* * *

Israeli Arabs' behaviour disconcerting

There is no question but that the State of Israel will accommodate the fleeing South Lebanese soldiers and their families, most of whom are Christians and would come to harm at the hands of the mercenary Shiite Muslims, Hezbollah.

What is disconcerting is that leaders of Arab villages do not want these newcomers living in their communities. First and foremost, the South Lebanese Army for 22 years provided protection for all Israelis guarding Israel's northern border. The security that the SLA provided was not just for Israeli Jews but also for Israeli Arabs. The Arab leaders' first and foremost commitment is as Israeli citizens and they do not enhance their position in Israel by discriminating against the SLA soldiers and their families.

As it has done with a variety of displaced persons from all over the world, Israel will accommodate this newest group of refugees, whether they eventually settle in Jewish towns or in Arab communities. This commitment to the displaced is one of the foundations that makes Israel strong and unique.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Let us create a Judaism that we are thrilled to embrace

By GIL TROY

Poor Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks. This most important festival, celebrating the giving of the Torah, is a most neglected holiday. Most North American Jews celebrate Passover. Alas, not only do most non-Orthodox Jews ignore Shavuot, they do not even know it exists.

To be fair, Shavuot lacks a good shtick. Cheesecake eating cannot compare to the home-based drama of a Pesach seder, or the guilt-inducing grandeur of the Yom Kippur fast. Even Sukkot, the other major but neglected festival, at least has fun booths to build.

But the problem runs deeper. Pesach is popular because most of us relate better to deliverance from Egypt than to the delivery of the Law. For too many of us, our freedom is defined and limited by our slavery. Our freedom, our Judaism, is defined as "freedom from" – freedom from Pharaoh, freedom from Egypt, freedom from oppression.

We just ended this bloody millennium which was bookended by the Crusades and the Holocaust. It is not surprising that when the older generation of exiles from Europe or from the Islamic lands choose which holiday to celebrate, when they experience Judaism, they experience it as freedom "from" the horrors of the past. That was the central challenge for Judaism over the last 2,000 years, to figure out how to live freely as Jews.

Truth be told, we have mastered this "freedom from" kind of Judaism. Rooted in our common past, we have defined our history as a vale of tears, as an historical epic defined by one oppression after another: the Inquisition defines 400 years of rich Jewish life in Spain; the Holocaust defines 900 years of rich Jewish life in Poland.

Thanks to this trauma-focused reading of history, our community, and especially our community leadership, has become addicted to a theology of guilt and a politics of fear. "Don't Let Hitler Win" becomes our 614th commandment.

We guilt too many Jews into not breaking the chain, into not breaking their parents' or grandparents' hearts; we scare others with Arabs or neo-Nazis, with anti-Semites and Holocaust deniers.

For four millennia now, Jewish identity has been about covenants, commitments, and compulsion. Most Jews were Jewish not because they wanted to be but because they had to be. Sometimes these definitions were imposed internally, sometimes externally. No wonder our freedom was always expressed as "freedom from."

This, however, by and large, is yesterday's story.

If we look to the ultimate beginning point of the story of Shavuot starting with the enslavement of the descendants of Jacob in the Book of Exodus, 1:8: "and a new Pharaoh arose in Egypt who did not know Joseph," we can find a parallel today.

In our times, the Jewish story might begin: "and a new generation arose throughout *most* of the Jewish world that did not know Pharaoh" – that has not experienced anti-Semitism as intensely.

In this new millennium, Jewish identity is largely voluntary. Most Jews, thank God, are free. North American society in particular is an open *shuk* hawking 1,001 different identities for as long or as short a time as any one wants. My students, my peers, are – as the popular Marlo Thomas song from the 1970s declared – "free to be you and me."

Alas, too often the Jewish community has responded to the threat posed by freedom by trying to find a new set of compulsions, by guilting, cajoling, and mourning. We are stuck in a "freedom from" kind of Judaism when we need a "freedom to" kind of Judaism, an affirmative Judaism, a Judaism not defined by our oppression, but defined despite our oppression.

Let me be clear. I am an historian. I am not advocating forgetting our past. I am simply suggesting that all our memorials and commemorations and justifiable laments and still palpable fears need to be better balanced: we need a Judaism of joy not just sorrow; we need a community that is inclusive not exclusive; we need institutions that are more responsive than impressive; – we need a relationship with Israel in which we truly recognize its centrality to the Jewish people – rather than just relating to it as the central headache of the Jewish people – and we need to listen to the injunction from the Passover Haggadah: *Tseh U'Lmad* (Go out and learn) – not be taught, learn!

We need to engage our Judaism, to learn about it in the deepest of ways, and to see it as an anchor in this world and as a pathway to our humanity not as something separate from or in opposition to our identity as human beings.

These impressions – which have been building for years – were confirmed by my experiences this February when I accompanied 200 Montrealers and 20 Haligonians on the launch of the Birthright Program, Charles Bronfman's and Michael Steinhardt's $300 million initiative to send 18-to-27-year old Jews to Israel for free.

This is a bold, maniacal gamble, a dramatic attempt to save the community. It holds deeply Zionist assumptions about the importance of Israel in the Jewish world. And, ultimately, it is critical of the community: it acknowledges that things are not working, that we need to think outside the box, because the box itself, while beautifully decorated, is often stale and uninviting.

On that trip:

• I saw the joy of secular Jews dancing in the Shabbat to Shlomo Carlebach *niggunim*, (tunes), the first Friday night at the Wall, the second Friday night on the beaches of Tel Aviv.

• I felt the power of the community forged, an amazing camaraderie, that was often accompanied by a critique of the status quo, as participants said they had not met Jews like this before.

• I watched Birthright as an institution in formation, dedicated to giving the participants a fun and meaningful experience, naturally fall into a Martin Buber "I-thou" relationship with participants, trying to understand their needs; all too many existing institutions distinguish themselves with their "I-it" approach, the standoffishness and insularity that makes so many unaffiliated remain unaffiliated.

• I witnessed a return to the first principles of Zionism, viewing Israel as an answer to our Jewish problem; not a poor weak cousin for us to protect. Such an approach reversed the polarities, transcending the usual equation.

• And I reconfirmed that by understanding the Zionist message that Judaism is both a nation and a religion, participants could better appreciate Judaism as a response to their current concerns as humans. The *New York Times* has diagnosed a new disease: affluenza, influenza of the affluent. All these children of wealth grow up showered with material possessions and yet feel empty. When I speak to my McGill students, I urge them to find a framework, to find an alternative anchor. When I speak to Jewish students I say, "here's a framework we already have. It works. Try it. Take from it what you can, it's yours."

Now, on one level, these are what we call in the American history biz, "apple pie" suggestions. Who is going to disagree that we need more joy, that we need to be more welcoming, that our institutions need to be more responsive, that we need to love Israel and learn from it, rather than just defend Israel and write cheques for it, that we need to see how Judaism speaks to our souls. But, in fact, it is easier said than done. And each of us has to conduct our own private searches to find examples of the kind of Judaism I have criticized, in our own Jewish lives, in our own Jewish spaces.

Pogo, in the old Walt Kelly comic strip said, "I have met the enemy, and it is us." I have seen the Jewish past and it is here, in Montreal, throughout North America. But I have also seen the Jewish future and it is here, I hope.

Recently, I have seen signs of progress. I have seen this Birthright program revolutionize the lives of thousands throughout North America. I have seen a consortium of synagogues, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Orthodox, in Cote St. Luc and Hampstead, celebrate Simchat Torah together, rejoicing as one community. I have seen 750 Jewish students in Montreal "wake up" and celebrate Purim in the wildest, most joyous Purim party I have ever seen, that rocked until 3 a.m. And I have seen new rabbinic leadership that brings a Shlomo Carlebachian joy to the task of leading even Montreal's most venerable congregation into the 21st century – understanding that we have to dance Jews into the synagogue, not guilt them into it.

This file photo of children in Israel celebrating the Shavuot "harvest" resonates with the call by the author for us to experience a Judaism that we "are yearning to hug." [Isranet photo]

Our challenge is to free ourselves from this "freedom from" Judaism – and to figure out how to create a Judaism that we are not just free to embrace, but that we are proud, and thrilled, and yearning to hug. It is not easy; but nothing about Jewish life ever has been. This, however, can and should be a most happy and holy labour of love, that – because Judaism is a communitarian enterprise – we will undertake together.

Shavuot, the holiday during which we reflect upon our freedom under law is also a good and fitting time to reflect upon our freedom *for* that happy and holy labour of love we call Judaism.

Gil Troy is a professor of history at McGill University.

Opinions

The kids are coming

Once a year I write a column about a subject which only a minority of readers will relate to in their everyday lives, and therefore they may decide they don't want to read any further. Maybe I can persuade them to stay with it this time, for they'll learn of a change that is taking place in Israel.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

To be sure; it is small, but also highly innovative – and that's why I think more people ought to know about it. Have I caught your attention?

If so, you will be interested to learn that a marginal activity in Israeli life presents a most unusual scenario: Jewish and Arab children, who would never come in contact with each other, let alone socialize on any level, are afforded that opportunity — and they are taking advantage of it in increasing numbers. How is this minor miracle accomplished?

Seventy Arab youngsters now play tennis at the Jaffa Tennis Centre and are totally integrated with their Jewish counterparts.

Sixty children from the Arab village of Jisser-el-Zarka, where living conditions are below par and where even electricity is a problem, play tennis at the Haifa Centre.

Forty Bedouin children do the same at Beersheva, seven Druze children now play at Kiryat Shmonah; and at Caesarea the six to nine-year-old players represent an even number of Jews and Arabs. And because the young Arab kids have not yet learned to speak Hebrew the Centre provides them with Arab coaches who form a link to families, school and the community.

Here's how Helen Schary Motro, an American writer and attorney living in Israel, recalls the launching of this new venture: "Listeners sitting before the flaming fall sunset heard words seldom spoken in Caesarea, and indeed rarely in all of Israel. The speaker was addressing the mixed crowd in Arabic. Some of the beaming parents of the fledgling tennis players were wearing blue jeans, while others wore floor length embroidered dresses and white head scarves."

Thanks to donations from private philanthropists [in Israel, Canada and the United States] a segregated world has been breached. In addition to learning tennis, plans are being made to provide educators to help the children with their homework on three afternoons. Caesarea has put its country club at the disposal of the project, and transportation will be provided.

Great things have small beginnings, and programs of this type may be of this genre. If you want to see some of the children who participate in these activities you'll have your chance on Sunday, June 18, when they are coming to Toronto.

You don't have to be a tennis aficionado to enjoy an exhibition that will warm your heart. And, to boot, the price is right: you can watch them for the sheer pleasure of it, without paying a cent (if you can remember what that is). Call 905-660-1999 for details and location.

One lonely stone at Dachau

It rained the morning I went to Dachau. I didn't want to be there. Raining or not, visiting a concentration camp was not part of my vacation plans.

It was the tour guide's idea. We had extra time between leaving Munich and arriving in the Rhine Valley. The group, made up of mostly Canadians, Australians, and New Zealanders, shouted yes when they were given the choice.

Jennifer Fox on campus in Halifax

I shouted no.

This was my first vacation in three years and I wasn't mentally prepared to visit Dachau. This of course is a ridiculous statement since no one, Jew or gentile, is ever mentally prepared to be taken to Dachau. Still, I thought it odd to visit a place that murdered people en masse the morning after visiting a beer hall.

But I went. Even though I could have stayed with the bus in a nearby car park, I couldn't be so close and just forget where I was. So I walked into the rain and into the camp.

Dachau is not like other camps that were left in the same state as when the Germans left them. The barracks where people were crammed inside are gone. Instead, long and thin rectangles are marked out on the ground showing where the structures once stood.

At first I thought the rectangles were garden plots. I couldn't imagine what so many buildings so close together would have looked like. Nor could I imagine what it would have smelt like or if the air was hard to breathe or not. All I saw was space and I knew that was wrong.

This wasn't what I thought a concentration camp would be. I've heard stories from those who have visited camps in Poland as part of March of the Living. They saw piles of shoes and glasses and human hair. There were scratches on the walls of the gas chambers as people fought to escape.

I didn't want to be haunted by such images but in Dachau there's no evidence of people. How do so many people disappear?

I walked away from the main part of the camp and towards the crematorium.

The ovens used to burn the dead looked like any other wooden oven. Or maybe there was a difference but I couldn't tell as my glasses were dotted with drops of rain and tears.

I tried to say the Mourner's Kaddish out of respect but I had forgotten the words. I whispered I'm sorry instead.

The last part I saw was the Jewish Memorial Temple built on the grounds in 1965. It is stone and cylindrical. The opening is wide but inside it's cave-like. There are only two light sources – the entrance and a small opening at the top of the cylinder. Above the cylinder is a menorah. When I looked up all I could see was the menorah and a little bit of sky.

Jewish pride is found even in the darkest of places.

I placed a stone by the memorial to show I had visited. Not a solely Jewish tradition, but something I learned when I visited Yad Vashem in Israel. There, memorial statues are filled with so many stones that they seem part of the statue itself.

My stone at Dachau was all alone.

It still rained as I returned to the bus. My whole face was red from crying. I said nothing to the person beside me, just stared out the window.

I didn't know how I felt about what I'd seen or about deciding to go.

I saw so many things on my European vacation and I could tell you what I thought about all of them. But not this. I can only explain what I saw.

I'll probably never understand what I felt.

A disgruntled student volunteer

I wonder. I wonder about people's perceptions of students. And I wonder about how much credit students are given for their initiative and creativity.

As a student leader in the Montreal Jewish community, I have sat around many boardroom tables observing various committees of "adults" assign tasks of physical labour and mindless nothingness to students. Admittedly, in the same breath, these committees commend their students for their perseverance and dedication to certain projects.

Erica Horn on campus in Montreal

This praise, however, is worthless; it is meaningless because students focus on actions rather than words. Our parents, community leaders, elementary and high school teachers and even our university professors, teach this lesson to us. It is fine for Prof. X to say that (s)he is an easy marker, but until students have been privy to their flexibility with the red marking pen, the words mean nothing.

Community leaders instruct us to lead by example to encourage participation in various activities, but so long as they fail to treat us with deserved respect, their words float like dead weights in the air.

I have learned this lesson well. When I write in my column about attending Expos games and encourage my readers to follow suit, I make sure that I can be found at the Big O in section 123 on home game nights. When I encourage members of the Jewish community to protest on behalf of the 13 Iranian Jews imprisoned in Iran on charges of espionage for the United States and Israel, I make sure that I do more than simply write the words down for national publication.

Joking that students can be put to work stuffing envelopes or piling chairs is one thing; making the request is another. Students don't mind helping with physical labour if it means feeling involved but it is unfair to assume that students should necessarily be the ones put to work.

I know the rationale is "students are young and have more energy" and I agree, but that doesn't allow for assumptions to be made. We are young and we probably do have more energy, but that doesn't preclude others from helping us, or from using us for more than our physical strength.

Students have great ideas. These great ideas materialize into large productions because we have an overwhelming degree of drive. You can ask us to pack your boxes and poster our campuses but why not also put our ideas to work.

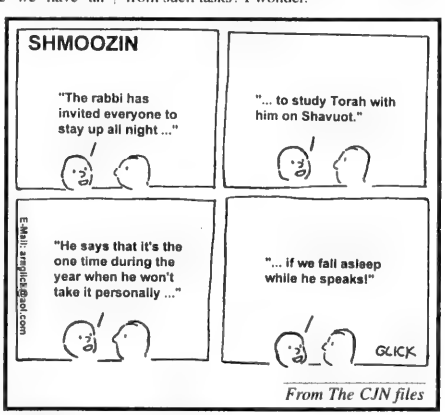
Use our energy in a positive manner, to benefit your organizations. Use us for what we are good at and for what we have in abundance. No one consults an astronaut on legal matters just as no one asks a lawyer about the retrograde rotation of Uranus.

It is possible that you sense bitterness in this column. I am not bitter, simply weary. I am under the impression that students are taken for granted, and allow themselves to be, because they think being involved in any capacity is better than nothing.

This disgruntling analysis has rendered me fearful of graduates who think that volunteering at a food bank is all about lifting vats of butter and slicing kilos of tomatoes. It is really about the people you are helping and the service you are providing.

Sometimes students allow themselves to be swallowed up by the power-hungry who view students as free-labour-intensive help. We should not be put in such situations to begin with.

I need to know: now that I have graduated, do I still fit into the "I am a student and therefore am eligible to be put to work" category? Or now that I no longer spend my days in the wonderful world of academia am I exempt from such tasks? I wonder.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From The CJN files

The Kirshner File

'All the news that's fit to print'

I have enjoyed reading the *New York Times* for many years now. I read it because it is quite authoritative and reasonably balanced in its coverage of American and international news.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Adolph Ochs, the son of German Jewish immigrants bought the newspaper in 1896 when it was deeply in debt. He promised to produce a "clean, dignified and trustworthy" publication that would present the news impartially. From a historical perspective, he and his successors have succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. Today, the *New York Times* is certainly one of the world's finest dailies.

But, as Susan Tifft and Alex Jones suggest in *The Trust* (Little, Brown), a history of the families that control the paper, there have been glaring occasions when it has not lived up to Ochs' exalted credo.

In 1929, when stock markets crashed and a catastrophic depression ensued, the editors chose Admiral Richard Byrd's exploration of Antarctica – an expedition the *Times* had sponsored – as the most important news story of the year. More egregiously, it minimized the Holocaust, usually burying crucial, heart-wrenching stories in the back. On July 4, 1944, a dispatch reporting the deportation of 400,000 Hungarian Jews received a paltry four column inches on page 12. On the same day, a story about Fourth of July holiday crowds ran on page 1. Talk about news judgment!

"Had the *Times* highlighted Nazi atrocities against Jews, or simply not buried certain stories, the nation might have awakened to the horror far sooner than it did," write the authors admonishingly.

How can one explain such lapses? Judging by *The Trust*, a fair-minded account of a dynasty, Ochs set the tone from the outset. An assimilationist who believed that Jews should keep a low profile, he decreed that the *Times* should never appear to be a "Jewish newspaper." The person who succeeded him as publisher in 1935, son-in-law Arthur Hays Sulzberger, took his command to heart.

Sulzberger, whose reign lasted more than a quarter of a century, was ambivalent about his Jewishness. Projecting his insecurities onto the newspaper, he played down the ethnicity of Jewish reporters by deracinating their bylines. Abraham H. Raskin, for example, was A.H. Raskin to readers of the *Times*.

The New York Times

In keeping with this philosophy, Sulzberger was, for many years, an anti-Zionist. He rejected Palestine as a haven for Jews, except as one of several places to which Jews could flee, and opposed the idea of a separate Jewish state. The *Times* backed the 1947 Palestine partition plan, not because it supported Jewish sovereignty, but because it wanted to lend a voice of confidence to the still-fragile United Nations.

"My attitude toward Israel is the same as my attitude toward Indonesia," he told a Jewish weekly. "I wish it well, but am completely without nationalistic fervour toward it."

As a student at Columbia University, Sulzberger was shunned by gentile fraternities, a rejection that embittered him. Yet, as the *Times'* publisher, he himself was a party to anti-Semitism. At his direction, the paper published business ads that included code words like "restricted" and "selected clientele," shorthand for No Jews Allowed. His rationale was that Jews should be forewarned of bias. He halted the practice in 1943 after being informed that it was patently illegal.

His successor, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the publisher from 1963 to 1992, broke with the past by appointing a Jew, Abe Rosenthal, as top editor. The current publisher, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr., is halachically non-Jewish, since his mother was a Christian. Although he was married in a Presbyterian service, he considers himself Jewish. A friend, however, is quoted as saying that Sulzberger is "kind of resigned" to his Jewish heritage. Like, perhaps, Adolph Ochs?

Memoirs of an editor

Max Frankel, executive editor of the *New York Times* from 1986 to 1994, claims in *The Times of My Life* (Random House) that Arthur Hays Sulzberger was careful to "never put a Jew in the showcase."

In plain language, he did not want a Jew as editor because he feared that the paper would be devalued in gentile circles.

Frankel, the son of Galician Jews expelled from Germany two weeks before Kristallnacht, began writing for the *Times* in 1949 when he was still at Columbia University.

Posted to Vienna in 1956, he subsequently reported from Moscow and the Caribbean. In 1973, he won the Pulitzer Prize for a series on president Richard Nixon's historic trip to China.

Frankel, in this engaging memoir, reviews his career as a foreign correspondent. He has plenty of interesting stories to tell, but there is an undercurrent of resentment when he recalls the way in which his analytical pieces were ruthlessly mauled by editors in New York City.

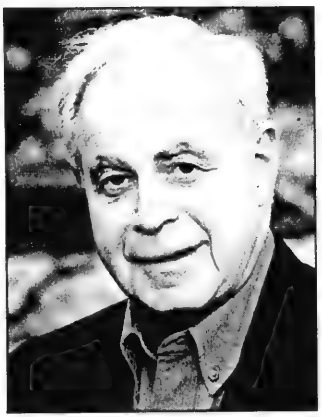
Speaking of "destructive deletions" and "erroneous insertions," he observes: "Some days, while reading your own story, it was hard to hold down breakfast. More than once, some of us were driven close to resignation."

Frankel stayed the course, and prior to his appointment as executive editor, he was in charge of the influential editorial page.

Glancing backwards, he regrets having written an editorial in which he denounced Israel's 1981 bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor: "It is folly to hold nations to a standard of 'law' in an anarchic world," he notes, adding that he has always been "deeply devoted" to Israel.

Frankel was editor when the 1991 Crown Heights riots broke out. Here, too, he acknowledges a lapse in judgment. "I did not give enough prominence... to the rioting... Our reporting... was thorough and fair. But we were distracted... by the simultaneous and fateful coup in the Soviet Union."

As mea culpas go, this one may be understandable. Who could have known, in the heat of events, that the Crown Heights affair would have such far-reaching consequences?



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Film tribute to Moroccan refugees

By AVI BENLOLO

Kudos to the Toronto Jewish Film Festival for choosing to screen the recently released Israeli film, *Egoz* (1999). Produced by acclaimed Israeli director Eli Cohen (*The Summer of Aviah* and *Buzz*), the film was among the first ever produced documenting the journey of Moroccans to Israel.

Egoz was the name of a ship that capsized off the coast of Morocco in 1961.

The tiny vessel was carrying some 40 Jewish refugees en route to Israel via Gibraltar. While their story ends tragically, the film exemplifies the sacrifices many Moroccans made in their attempt to get to Israel.

Although Morocco was fairly hospitable to Jews compared to other countries, the government was hostile to any attempt by Jews to immigrate to Israel. Any intention to immigrate was interpreted by the government as a renunciation of citizenship and immediately classified the individual and their family as enemies of the state.

For this reason, many (if not most) Moroccan Jews who left the country did so under guise. For example, many Jews fled by pretending to go on vacation to Paris. From there, they would immigrate to Israel as refugees. Most often, they escaped with only what they could carry, leaving their assets behind to be seized by the state.

Egoz wonderfully projects the story of how one family was torn apart over the issue of whether or not to immigrate to Israel.

Some family members were indeed willing to take the chance of arrest by fleeing to Israel. Others were reluctant to leave, since they would have to give up the life they had built in Morocco. Their knowledge of the hardship awaiting them in Israel was another impeding factor.

Egoz's most significant contribution, however, is that rather than focusing on traditional stereotypes, it highlights the socio-economic affluence that many Jews achieved in Morocco. For example, the family on which the film is based was educated, owned a luxurious hotel in Casablanca and had formed relationships with government officials.

In fact, the king of Morocco's court often included Jewish advisors and consultants. Most recently, the king's minister of finance was Jewish.

Historically, Jewish involvement in government has led Moroccan people to have a stronger affinity with the Jewish communities in Morocco and, more recently, in Israel.

For those seeking further insight into Jewish immigration to Israel from Morocco, *Egoz* is possibly the best film ever made depicting this period of history.

It's worth trip to Salt Lake City

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

As of this writing, more than 600 people have registered for the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, scheduled for Salt Lake City, July 9 to 14. Most are American but some will be coming from as far away as South America, Europe, Israel and Australia.

Why are so many Jews shlepping to Utah? For genealogists, the key attraction is the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Housed in a four-storey building in downtown Salt Lake City, the Mormon-built library is the world's most comprehensive genealogical research facility. It could reasonably be nominated, along with the Genome Human DNA Mapping Project, as one of the wonders of the modern world.

Established in 1894, the library began to microfilm records in 1938, and greatly accelerated its rate of acquisitions in the postwar era. At present, hundreds of LDS camera operators are busy at work in dozens of countries, microfilming birth, marriage, death, land, tax, census, passenger and other records.

The collection presently boasts about 2.4 million reels of microfilm, 700,000 microfiche, and 280,000 books. It grows, on average, by 5,000 reels of microfilm and 1,000 books every month. According to director David Rencher, the library holds information on at least two billion people.

"Our estimates calculate that there are about six billion people in recorded history, of an estimated 72 billion that have ever lived," he says. "We believe we've collected about one-third of all genealogical related records ever made."

The Mormon Church has gone to extraordinary lengths to make the collection accessible. Its satellite network of some 3,400 library branches worldwide includes 129 in Canada. "It would be safe to say that we're the largest private library system in the world," Rencher says.

In May 1999, the library opened an Internet site (www.familysearch.org). Initially expecting as many as five million "hits" per day, representing about 80,000 visitors, LDS officials built it to handle five times that capacity. To their astonishment, that wasn't nearly enough: it quickly crashed under the weight of up to 100 million hits daily, and was soon revamped and expanded.

"We've had industry experts tell us that ours was the fastest site in the history of the Internet ever to go 'large,'" says Richard Turley Jr., managing director of the Church's Family History Department. (Turley is giving the conference's keynote talk on The Family History Department: Its Past, Present and Future.)

The conference offers many more attractions besides the LDS Library and its strong Jewish collections. There are vendor exhibits, resource and computer rooms, power breakfasts and lunches with genealogical specialists, and talks on diverse subjects including the latest research developments in Belarus, Czech Republic, Galicia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and the United States.

For details, visit the conference Web site at http://iajgs.org/slcy2k.

While you're surfing, check out http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/. That's the Web site of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland, the ground-breaking project through which more than 700,000 Jewish vital records from 19th-century Poland are listed in an index that is searchable online.

The fast-growing index lists close to 10 percent of the Jewish vital records from Poland microfilmed by the Mormons. It also contains citations for thousands more Jewish documents, typically from the 1880s and later, most from the Lodz region not yet microfilmed.

The idea for JRI-Poland came from Stanley Diamond, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal and one of many volunteers who have made it the great resource it is today.

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Jewish Life

Torah online

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

In a previous column, we looked at some of the weekly Torah commentaries that are available on the World Wide Web. But what if you want to read the original Torah? No problem – if you know where to look.

One of the most impressive sites that I have come across anywhere is World ORT Union's Navigating the Bible **[http://bible.ort.org/]**. This remarkable site is a one-stop resource for anyone studying Torah. There are many goodies here, such as a calendar to look up the proper Torah and Haftorah readings for any Shabbat.

And there's even an atlas and maps so you can follow the Israelites on the trek to the land of Israel or illustrations of wildlife mentioned in the Bible. The very readable English translation was written by the late Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan for his work *The Living Torah*.

But the centrepiece of the site is the online Torah. Every verse of the Torah can be viewed in Hebrew, Hebrew transliterated into English and English **[http://bible.ort.org/bible/index/inx_tora.htm]**. In addition, each Hebrew verse appears both as it is written on Torah scrolls and as it is seen in a Chumash with *nekudot* (vowels) and *trope* (musical notation). And since each verse appears as a picture rather than text, you can read the Hebrew on your computer even if you *don't* have Hebrew fonts installed. And last but not least, if you want to have the verse sung to you, simply click on the speaker icon and you'll hear Cantor Moshe Haschel perform it for you.

The folks at Breslov.com have also done a great job - but you need to have Hebrew fonts installed to really appreciate it **[http://www.breslov.com/bible/bible.htm]**. Here you'll find the Hebrew, English and even Aramaic translations for every verse in the Tanach. And to top it off, each verse is linked to the corresponding one at the Navigating the Bible site.

Any student of Torah knows that it is virtually impossible to learn Torah without the commentary of Rashi. You can find the scholar's entire work translated into English at the Torahscroll site **[http://www. torahscroll.com/bible]**. The Metsudah site contains an English translation of the Chumash, Rashi commentary and text footnotes, as found in the Metsudah Chumash **[http://www.mnemotrix.com/metsudah/]**.

I have found a couple of amazing lists that document hundreds of other Torah-related sites such as Eric Simon's Torahnet Page **[http://shamash.org/reform/uahc/torahnet/]**. But my favourite list is not only an impressive piece of work, it also has a great name: The Electronic Torah Warehouse **[http://eparsha.homepage.com]**. The Warehouse is the work of Joshua Cypess, a rabbinic student and educational co-ordinator at Yeshiva University. (Bonus: check out Joshua's cheeky answers in his site's frequently asked questions section.)

Anyone who has been honoured with *haghah* in synagogue knows the challenge of trying to hoist a Torah gracefully into the air. Thanks to modern technology, you can effortlessly lift a Torah in the palm of your hand. A company named Penticon Technologies is creating Hebrew products for Palm Pilots – and some of them are free at their Web site **[http://www.penticon. com/moadon.html]**. Download the week's Torah reading and you'll still have room in your palm for the five megillot, Mincha, Ma'ariv, Birkat Hamazon – and a must for all mobile Palm users: Tfillat Haderech – the Traveller's Prayer.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home.com.

'Like soup without salt'

Jewish – Does It Make a Difference?
by Elvira & Mihai Nadin, Jonathan David Publishers, Inc. $23 (US)

Books
Bernard Baskin

How would you answer the following questions? Does it make a difference to you that you are Jewish? Why? How? Or: Why not? In your opinion, are there any values that remain distinctly Jewish? Which ones? How do these values guide you in your outlook and in your daily life?

The authors of this unusual book believed that these questions were especially pertinent today because the world in which Jews live has changed radically in the last 50 years. Official anti-Semitism has practically disappeared. The Soviet Union collapsed. Jews have their own land in the modern State of Israel. More importantly, many of the values that originated in the Torah and that Jews have preserved and developed throughout millennia have been integrated in secular, non-Jewish society.

Over a six-year period, the authors distributed questionnaires and interviewed Jews worldwide – from Hollywood to Istanbul, from Cologne to Rome – to find answers. The respondents included well-known personalities as well as "average" hard-working Jews, some old, some young, some highly observant and some completely uninvolved in Jewish life. Most of the responses were positive. One must assume that negative thinking Jews or assimilationists didn't became involved in the project.

Some of the varied answers follow:

Being Jewish is the privilege and the burden of belonging to perhaps the oldest literate, moral and religious heritage, unbroken in its continuity, far more durable than any national sovereignty has ever succeeded in lasting. *–Yehudi Menuhin, violinist.*

Jewishness is complicated. It influenced all, or almost all, of my plays. *–Arthur Miller, playwright.*

To be Jewish means to be contaminated with humour. *–George Burns, comedian, actor.*

I don't know about my role in the continuity of Judaism. I only know that without Jews the world would have no flavour. It would be like soup without salt. *–Hannah Jordan, stage designer.*

Although both my parents were Jewish, I feel that I am more of a passive type of Jew. Being Jewish means being committed to a legacy of caring social activism and the possibility of creating a better and more just and compassionate social order. Being a Jew also means being committed to Israel. For me, Israel is the most significant aspect of Judaism, now and in the future. *–Tom Lantos, U.S. Congress representative from California.*

For me, Tolstoy was wisest in his attempt to explain what is a Jew: "The Jew is the source and well from which all other nations have drawn their religions and beliefs… The Jew is the discoverer of freedom… The Jew is a symbol of civic and religious tolerance… The Jew is a symbol of eternity." *–Arthur Gelb, former managing editor of the* New York Times.

I don't care about Israeli politics or various sects in Judaism. I don't care if someone goes around with payes down to his ankles, or whether he votes for Likud or Labour. I am a Jew and all Jews are my brothers. Better said, I try to be a Jew by studying the Torah and donating my money so others can study it in order to become better people. *–Kirk Douglas, actor.*

This volume stimulates thought and self-inquiry as readers must decide how they would answer the questions.

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Greater Toronto Area

From left: Batya Feigenbaum, Aryella Weisz, Toronto co-president; Orna Wellman, Judith Rubinstein and Edie Kalk, Toronto co-president.

Emunah honours three

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Dealing with paraplegia is no problem, scoffs Batya Feigenbaum. "I'm 15; my problem is dealing with my parents!"

This kind of inner strength was honoured by Emunah Women of Toronto at its annual dinner, held recently at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

The religious Zionist organization paid tribute to three people who, said co-president Edie Kalb, have dealt courageously with adversity: Feigenbaum, a student at Bais Yaakov high school; Orna Wellman, one of whose children was disabled in an accident; and Judith Rubinstein, a Holocaust survivor.

Feigenbaum talked about the time at camp when she watched her friends swimming and climbing."I had to pretend I was having fun, even though sitting in a wheelchair in the heat isn't terrific."

She recalled a passage from Proverbs that says people will relate to you the way you relate to them.

"No one likes someone who is miserable," she said. "Everyone has their own problems, which they think are huge because they are their problems."

We are not obligated to never be sad, she said. "But we are obligated to get over it."

The surprising thing, she said, is that when you pretend to be happy, you become happy.

Together with one brother, Rubinstein was the only survivor of a large Hungarian family. She lectures about her experiences before the war and in Auschwitz-Birkenau, to "pay tribute to all the mothers and sisters – good, innocent people."

Her father, she said, sang *L'Shana Haba B'Yerushalayim* at the end of the Pesach seder with tears running down his cheeks. "I only understood his feelings when I was homeless myself. He didn't have the *zhut*, the merit, to witness the rebirth of our country."

She urged people to also remember "those brave young people who gave their lives so we could live in peace..."

Emunah Women, said Rubinstein, recognizes that our children are "our assurance that *Am Yisroel Chai*, that the people of Israel live, and that they (the children) will be able to take their place in the world."

Nearly six years ago, Wellman's son, Adin, choked on a grape at a neighbourhood supermarket. He now is in a stimulation program at Bloorview Macmillan Centre, and, his mother told *The CJN*, although he can communicate only with his eyes, "is in the process of rehabilitation."

Wellman said that she coped with what happened with "faith in God's greatness."

"God says that reality is the presence of miracles. I believe in miracles."

Pain is everywhere, she said, adding that without it, people wouldn't learn how to struggle and succeed.

Her faith in God gives her a sense of optimism, she said. "I knew that I was invincible. I knew that God would come through for me."

She doesn't deny that even with faith, "confusion and despair can set in. You wonder if God has forsaken you."

The key to survival is laughter, she said. "If you can't laugh at absurdity, you won't survive."

It is not inspirational to suffer, Wellman said. "What's inspirational is what we do with [that suffering]."

Blanket yourself with people who can offer you love, support, wisdom and laughter, she said. And remember that "if we have HaShem in our soul, we have a role [in his plans.] The power of prayer allows us to demand from God, to plead to him. That's what emunah, faith, is."

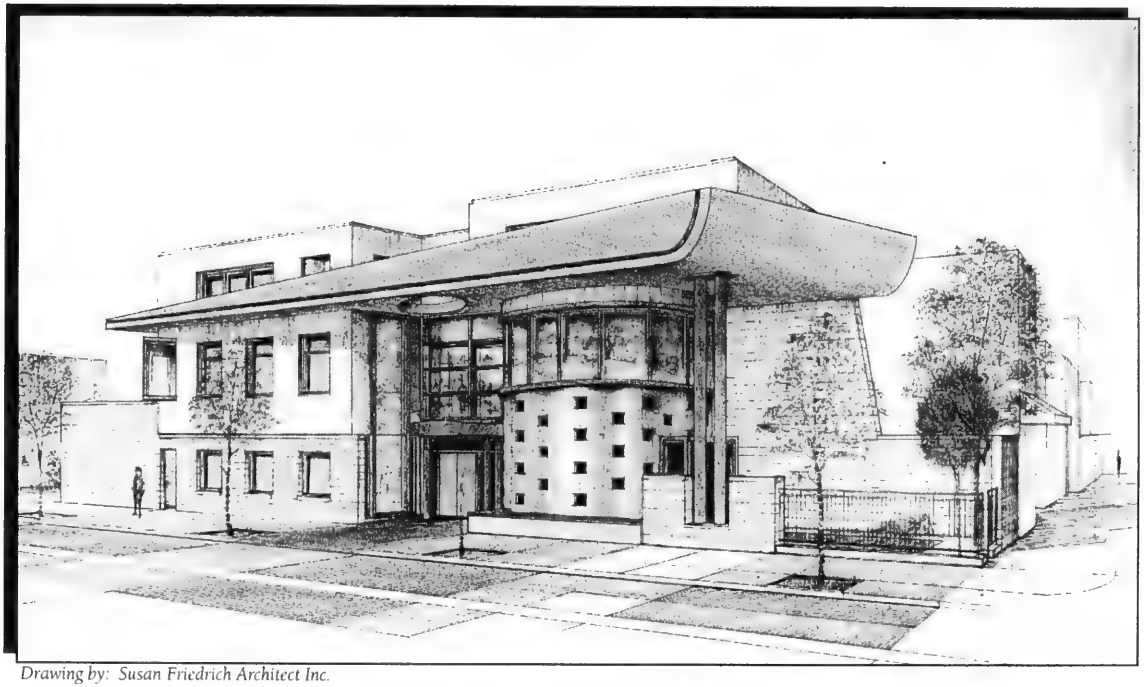
Marlene Segal and Joyce Rifkind presented graduating Ulpanat Orot student Laura Shiderman with a scholarship, which she will use to study at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Israel.

National Emunah president Judy Pachino said that Emunah is the only global – and the world's largest – women's religious Zionist movement. "It is in 30 countries, and every continent except Antarctica."

A crisis centre that Canada had pledged to furnish is nearly complete, she said.

The organization also provides services to various segments of Israeli society, including special education students, day care centres, children in crisis, and for pastoral counselling.

Another Dream Come True



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CORRECTION

In the May 25th *Salute to our Community's Volunteers*, Shem Tov Award winner Tom Lobel was incorrectly identified as studying at Harvard University. It is, in fact, his son Aaron, 28, who is working towards his Ph.D. in International Relations.

UJA FEDERATION regrets this error.

EYEING THE FUTURE

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Secular and religious Jews not divided, rabbi says

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The dichotomy between secular and religious Judaism may be a false one, says Rabbi Dow Marmur, spiritual leader of Holy Blossom Temple.

"Whatever secular Judaism may be, it's not necessarily the opposite of religious Judaism, because Judaism cannot be expressed without religion," he said at the recent Louis Lenkinski memorial lecture sponsored by the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada.

Rabbi Marmur, president and one of the founders of the foundation, said that at the bar mitzvah of Lenkinski's grandson, Lenkinski, a secular Jew, was called to the Torah and read the blessings. "I understood why Louis would have a mezuzah on his door; he may have viewed it as a folk symbol with only a residual religious connotation. But to praise God for having given us the Torah is no sociology; it's theology," he said.

He said that Irving Howe, a Jewish academic and student of American secular Judaism, said Jews have tried to find ethnic, national and cultural substitutes for the religion of their fathers, though in this effort they have had to recognize that the religion they were putting aside was itself a crucial part of the culture they wished to preserve.

"In the writings of the early Jewish radicals, there is a recurrent imagery derived from the religion they have abandoned." Howe wrote.

That implies, Rabbi Marmur said, that though you may be able to take a Jew out of Judaism, it's virtually impossible to take Judaism out of a Jew.

"Religion permeates all aspects of Jewish existence... it cannot be expurgated from one's life as a Jew, whatever one's ideological commitment may be. A Jew can be with God or against God, but not without God."

The distinction between religion and secularism, and the determination to show that they are not incompatible in the spirit of Judaism, Rabbi Marmur said, "is still characteristic of much contemporary Jewish life and thought, even though there are some who believe in the need to entirely separate the two – not in order to safeguard the Jewish religion, but to remove religion from the agenda of Judaism.

"Of late, however, this radical approach of total separation is being abandoned even by avowed secularists," he said.

The experience of the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel have a lot to do with it, said Rabbi Marmur. "Even adherents of Jewish secularist organizations who have survived the Holocaust and relocated to other countries, have come to affirm... traditional Judaism on the grounds that [its] preservation is yet another way of not letting Hitler have a posthumous victory."

The term Jewish religion is misleading, Rabbi Marmur said. "It implies a symmetrical counterpart to the Christian religion, and that isn't possible. Christians insist that there is a real divide between them. For them, the unredeemed world is bifurcated between flesh and spirit, the church and the world."

Jews, on the other hand, believe that it's impossible to make clear distinctions between the religious and the secular, he said.

"The Hebrew Bible does not even have a word for religion, let alone secularism. Its content is both secular and religious, as are the texts of rabbinic literature.

"The sharp distinction between secularism and religion is more at home in Christian thought than in Jewish life, even when Jews have borrowed the terminology," Rabbi Marmur said.

RUNNERS AT THE WALK: For the first time in the 30-year history of the UJA FEDERATION walk for Israel, a group of runners covered a shortened 5K route. [Stephen Epstein photo]

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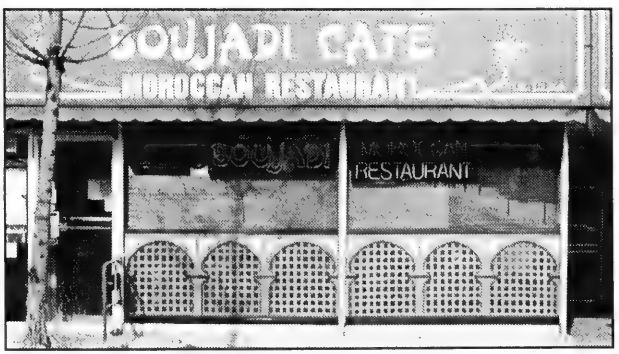

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The BBYO Greater Toronto Area floor hockey championhip team for 1999-2000 was Chapter Magen AZA. Seen from left (back row), are Esther Feinwax, chapter sweetheart; Sheldon Baker, advisor; Jonathan Brown; Lawson Hennick and Terrence Gakman; (front row) Sammy Kligman, Teddy Kaye, Ron Lew, Ricky Kaye, Jonathan Brandes and Mitchell Gakman.

ש'שאר ב'ניו

גידי קורן וחברים

חוויה ניו יורקית

חבר סיפר לי סיפור אותו שמע לפי דבריו ממקור ראשון או במילים אחרות,מגיבורות העלילה. אם וביתה, שתי תל אביביות כבדות במקנה מהאפון המיוחס, מבקרות לראשונה בניו יורק. לפני הטיסה קיבלו השתיים עצות על האלימות המשתוללת ברחובות העיר הגדולה, באילו אמצעי זהירות צריך לנקוט, כיצד להימנע מהליכה ברחוב ליד גברים לטיניים או שחורים, והחשוב מכל, לא לעלות למעלית עם זרים ממוצא אפריקני.

הן מגיעות למלון ניו יורקי מפואר. והינה נעצרת המעלית בקומה כלשהי, ולמעלית נכנס גבר שחור ענק עם כלב לא פחות גדול. בעוד השתיים מנסות שלא ליצור מגע עין עם הזר, מתחיל הכלב ללקק את המסכנות.sit down מצווה בעל הכלב, ושתי התל אביביות מתיישבות על רצפת המעלית, כמו גם הכלב. הענק פורץ בצחוק גדול, שממשיך להדהד גם בצאתו מן המעלית.

כעבור מספר ימים , יורדות השתיים לסגור חשבון עם סיום השהייה, מבשר להן פקיד הקבלה שהחשבון שולם במלואו, ובמכתב שהושאר להן כתוב: תודה על שהצחקתן אותי את צחוק חיי. על החתום: מייקל ג'ורדן. **יורם פירוצקי**

Urban Myth

את הסיפור ששמע יורם שמעתי כבר כעשר פעמים, והגברות היו מטורונטו, חיפה ואפילו ממצפה רמון, וכל המספרים היו מוכנים להישבע ששמעו אותו מפי הנשים עצמן. סיפורים אלה נקראים "אגדות עירוניות", ויש מאות אגדות שנשמעות מאוד אמינות, כאילו סופרו על ידי השכן אבל שיישאר בינינו.

יציאת לבנון

צהל יצא מלבנון ללא פגיעות בחיילים , אך בישראל, שבה יש תמיד מי שינסה לעשות הון פוליטי, היו אלה שדיברו על ההשפלה של הפינוי, ועל זה שחיזבאללה כבש את כל הכפרים שנעזבו לאור קריסת צבא דרום לבנון. עכשיו אין ללבנון עצמה כל תירוץ לא להגיע לשלום עם ישראל. תמיד אמרו לנו בילדותינו שלבנון תהיה השניה לשלום. שניה היא לא תוכל כבר להיות, אבל שלישית כן.

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SHMOOZIN

"I guess Polly knows that Shavuot is coming!"

Israel continues debate over Zionism: author

By ANNA TURKIENICZ
CJN Staff

TORONTO — The founders of the State of Israel would be astonished to see the current state of Zionism.

In his new book, *The Jewish State: The Struggle for Israel's Soul* (Basic/New Republic Books), Yoram Hazony argues that the mainstream artistic and academic world in Israel is laying the groundwork for a major break from the Zionism envisioned by the early founders of the state.

Most of the debate has focused on the new historians, like Benny Morris and Avi Shlaim, Hazony said in an interview, "and this has meant that the debate has formed around the question of whether they are doing good historical work.

"However, there is a far greater issue at stake here. In Israel over the past 10 to 20 years, the mainstream academic world has been arguing that Zionism and the central purpose of the State of Israel is unjust."

Today, the law of return, the question of the Star of David on the flag, removal of the words "Jewish soul" from the national anthem, have all become issues open to debate by mainstream academics and artists, as they move away from traditional labour Zionism.

Hazony agrees that you need open academic and artistic debate in a free and democratic country; the problem in Israel is that there isn't any substantial public opposition to these new trends.

And this anti-Zionist direction is appearing in all aspects of academic life – from philosophy and literature to political science and legal analysis, Hazony said.

For example, recently all mention of the Jewish people has been removed from the Code of Ethics of the Israel Defence Force.

It isn't that the people of Israel don't care about these changes. Rather, it is that they are completely focused on security and peace concerns. Issues of national importance, such as the crisis in the national health-care system, the looming water shortage or changes in the education curriculum, are not given very much attention by the Israeli public, he said.

Yoram Hazony

When committees made up of these academics manage to significantly change public policy so that it runs counter to Zionist beliefs, it is done with little awareness on the part of the Israeli public.

The new history curriculum used in Israeli schools today became a public issue in Israel only after the *New York Times* dealt with it last summer.

The current curriculum is based on a completely different approach to Jewish history than was intended by the founders of the State of Israel, Hazony said. David Ben-Gurion and his education minister Benzion Dinur felt that the purpose of the education system was to unite the children of Israel and give them roots. The focus of the curriculum, therefore, was on those aspects of history common to Jews, no matter where they came from.

The current curriculum uses a more "universal" approach, where each Jewish community stands on its own. The focus is on the non-Jewish civilizations and their influences on the values and culture of the Jewish communities within them. In this way, Hazony said, one of the basic values of Zionist thought, which teaches that the Jews are "one" people, is neutralized.

Zionism, according to Theodor Herzl, is based on the notion of "peoples," and as long as these people have their own legitimate needs and problems, it is necessary to have a state.

"The real need," Hazony said, "is defined by national interests and each national case has to be looked at individually. In Israel today, the Jewish people have irreconcilable needs that are in conflict with the needs of the Arab people."

In Canada, he said, where the issue of Quebec nationalism arises, the question that must be asked is: Do the people of Quebec really have separate interests that are irreconcilable with the anglophone people?

The question that has to be asked in Israel is: "Can the Jews live, in the long term, a dignified, safe and fulfilling life without the existence of the State of Israel?

"After World War II, the Zionist answer was: No, they can't.

"Today, we have to ask whether we have reached the point where humanity has made a break with the past so that national interest is no longer a decisive factor in politics. Some people believe that there has been a fundamental change in human values.

"I don't," Hazony said.

"Zionism was created so that the machinery of the state could hear the needs of the Jews everywhere. Ben-Gurion said that [before the State of Israel] nowhere in the world was there a country that would intervene for the Jews, no matter where they were.

"States look after the interests of their own people."

If Jews are in trouble in Ethiopia, then Israel makes the effort to go out and help Ethiopian Jews, Hazony said. It doesn't matter where Jews are, the Jewish state will attempt to help them.

Hazony is president of the Shalem Centre, an institute for Jewish social thought and public policy in Jerusalem and Washington D.C. He is a former adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu and was a member of the Israeli delegation to the Madrid Peace Conference.

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Greater Toronto Area

Continuity, values, knowledge said goals of Jewish education

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The goals of Torah education are to assure Jewish continuity, inculcate Jewish values and impart knowledge, Rabbi Berel Wein recently told a packed audience at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation in Thornhill.

Rabbi Berel Wein

Rabbi Wein, historian, author, educator and now producer of educational television materials, was giving the seventh annual Sam and Sarah Kerzner Memorial Lecture of Eitz Chaim Schools.

Jews in the modern world are facing assimilation, intermarriage and a decreasing birth rate, he charged.

"In 1950, there were six million Jews in North America. That means there should be 20 million now. But statistics from the federations say there are at the most, five million," the rabbi said. "We complain about the Holocaust that killed six million Jews – but what about the Holocaust that caused 15 million to just not be here?"

Education must "bind the generations together," he said, lamenting the vacuum that has arisen between parents, grandparents and children, not only in learning, but in observance as well.

"The goal of education is to teach who we were and where we came from," he said. "It is not only true but fatally dangerous, for instance, to say that everything was perfect in Europe, and that Judaism was destroyed in Israel and North America. The Jewish world fell apart in the shtetl."

The secular Jews in Israel, he said, "didn't come on a ship from Mars." Many don't realize that their great-grandparents were part of the chassidic or yeshiva worlds.

Educators are falling down on the responsibility of teaching "that there is such a thing as the Jewish people, not just people who agree with me or daven with me."

He contrasted the current lack of a feeling that "we are all in this together," with the action of the Brisker Rav, who sent his congregation home on Yom Kippur to get money to ransom two Communist Jews who had been arrested.

The holiness and uniqueness of the land of Israel for Jews, the Jewish ethic that "no end justifies an evil means," and traditional values of solidarity, hope and the ability to laugh at ourselves, are all ideals that are not being passed on, Rabbi Wein said.

"The world is sad," he reflected. "There is no sense of the joy in accomplishment that is part of our value system."

While he acknowledged that "there have never been so many Jews so committed to Torah learning," he noted that the proliferation of so many different institutions of learning is leading to even more disunity and disharmony among the Orthodox.

Rabbi Wein stressed the need to follow the Talmudic dictum to "educate each child according to his way," in other words, in the best way suitable for that individual child.

"What do you do," he asked, "with the child who can't sit for six to eight hours and study Talmud?"

Dealing with questions like that, he said, will inevitably have an impact on how Orthodox Jews relate to those who don't study Torah at all.

A passage in Proverbs tells us that if we educate a child according to his unique needs, "when he grows old he won't leave the path of Torah," Rabbi Wein said.

Tehillim were recited for the 13 Iranians being tried for spying for Israel, and for Harry Korolnek, son of Itche Meyer Korolnek, founder of Eitz Chaim, who is very ill.

Eitz Chaim students Abigail Jesian and Shlomo Nauman gave divrei Torah.

CLOTHING DRIVE: Israel Funwalk 2000, which raised an estimated $200,000 towards the UJA FEDERATION annual campaign, also included a clothing drive by the Just a Second Shop, which is run by Jewish Family & Child Service.
[Stephen Epstein photo]

Coast to Coast

Zundel's appeals rejected by Federal Court

Continued from page 3

exposed Jews to hatred or contempt.

The four-year-old case was initiated by Holocaust survivor Sabina Citron. Others to have joined the case include the Toronto mayor's committee on community and race relations, the Attorney General of Canada, the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, Canadian Jewish Congress and the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada. The Canadian Association for Free Expression, an organization associated with ex-teacher Paul Fromm, has intervened on Zundel's side.

Writing for the appeal court, Judge J. Edgar Sexton ruled that Zundel could not ask for judicial reviews of tribunal rulings while the case was still being heard.

"The unnecessary delays and expenses associated with such appeals can bring the administration of justice into disrepute," Sexton wrote. Furthermore, giving one party the right to appeal every adverse ruling "would, in effect, be a right vested in such a party to frustrate the work of the tribunal."

The court also rejected Zundel's contention that one member of the tribunal, Reva Devins, could reasonably be believed to be biased against him. Zundel based that contention on a 1988 news release issued by the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC). Devins was a member of the OHRC at the time. In a press statement, the OHRC applauded Zundel's Criminal Code conviction for publishing lies about the Holocaust.

The court also noted that statements of the kind made by the OHRC can be justifiable. Zundel's criminal conviction was eventually overturned by the Supreme Court of Canada on constitutional grounds, but not before Judge Beverley McLachlin referred to Zundel's beliefs as offensive. Judges "Cory and Iacobucci described [Zundel's] pamphlet as part of a 'genre of anti-Semitic literature' that 'makes numerous false allegations of fact.'

"In light of these statements, how could it not be objectively justifiable for the OHRC to have made similar statements regarding the same pamphlet in their press release?" the Federal Court asked.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre applauded the appeal court's decision.

Congress spokesperson Bernie Farber said, "All Zundel's motions have done is draw out the hearing."

Zundel has 30 days to launch an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Proposed law 'threatens' MKs

Continued from page 3

for a politically motivated charge at the International Criminal Court."

CJC's proposed amendment requests that Bill C-19 incorporate the wording from the existing extradition treaty between Canada and the United States. In that treaty, politically motivated extraditions are excluded.

Congress welcomed the sections of the legislation that will remove the obstacles the Supreme Court of Canada placed in the path of domestic criminal prosecutions of suspected war criminals in its 1994 decision in the case of Imre Finta, a former Hungarian gendarmerie officer.

Finta's acquittal was upheld after the Supreme Court allowed several defences, including that of following superior orders.

"Members of the committee received the CJC brief with interest," said Eric Vernon, director of government relations for CJC, "and indicated that it made a positive contribution. The committee will now go on to review the recommended amendment and return the bill to the House of Commons."

Israel's UN isolation ends

Continued from page 1

It will only be allowed to sit on committees at the UN's New York headquarters, excluding it from discussions and consultations at other UN offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome and Vienna. Israel is also barred from nominating candidates to UN posts for two years.

Officially, Israel's membership in WEOG is temporary, although it's renewable every four years. The Jewish state, however, must keep applying to join the Asian Group.

Canada has long crusaded for Israel's membership in WEOG. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, in a meeting with Canadian Jewish leader in early 1997, said Canada would try to facilitate Israel's inclusion in the group.

But in a puzzling development a few months later, Axworthy said he would advise Israel to "forget it" because WEOG is dominated by the European Union, which makes decisions en bloc.

Axworthy told leaders on the 1997 UJA Fly-In to Ottawa that while he supported Israel's membership in WEOG in theory, he doubted the "utility" of the group in practical terms.

But at the CIC's annual policy conference in March, Axworthy repeated Canada's commitment to Israel's inclusion in WEOG.

David Goldberg, the CIC's director of research, said the principle that drove Axworthy's support for Israel's inclusion in WEOG never really waned.

"He has lived up to his commitment," Goldberg said.

Goldberg told *The CJN* that Israel's recent withdrawal from Lebanon may have been a contributing factor in its inclusion.

Israel had been inching toward membership in WEOG since the 1993 Oslo peace accords. Progress was slowed following the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and the Europeans especially were seen as loath to reward his successor, Benjamin Netanyahu, who was perceived as too intransigent in the peace process.

Soon after his election in 1997, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan revived the issue, saying that "this anomaly should be corrected." Goldberg also praised Canada, especially its envoy to the UN, Robert Fowler, for helping to move the issue along.

He stressed that the significance of Israel's membership in WEOG far outweighs the stipulations imposed.

Goldberg said he hopes Canada will continue to push for complete normalization of relations with Israel at the UN.

— *With* CJN *wire services*

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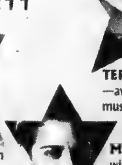

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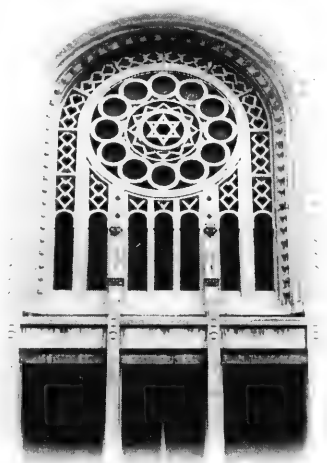

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On Campus

Jewish journalists urged not to hide their religion

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — Jewish journalists should not be afraid of incorporating Jewish sensibilities into their reporting – even on Israel, said filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici at a recent student journalism conference.

Speaking to a room full of aspiring journalists at *Afterword's* Second Annual National Media Conference For Young Jewish Adults, Jacobovici, an Orthodox Jew, said many Jewish journalists make the mistake of trying to hide their Jewishness for fear of being labelled as biased reporters.

"Jews tend to self-censor, and keep the [professional and religious] worlds apart," he said. "I have a problem with this.

"I never hide the fact that I'm an Orthodox Jew. I just try to tell the story honestly and intelligently," he said.

Jacobovici, who has won two Emmy's and five Gemini's for his films, said he has never suffered professionally for being openly Jewish, even when interviewing Islamic fundamentalists for the film *Deadly Currents* (1993).

"I bring a Jewish sensibility to all of my films," he said. "[But] when I make film on a Jewish topic, I try to make it so everyone will say 'wow, that's interesting.'"

Jeremy Costin, a conference participant from Vancouver, said Jacobovici's talk drove home the importance of journalists being deeply rooted in their beliefs. If "you're aware of your convictions and biases and you're confident enough in [them], then you will go out of the way to be objective," Costin said.

But not everyone at the conference agreed that journalists should bring Judaism or any other religion into their work. "The workplace is not the place for your personal religious beliefs to be aired to everyone," said Marci Surkes, a participant from Montreal.

Jacobovici conceded the journalism field has not always welcomed public displays of Judaism. He recalled that several years ago, a friend of his at the CBC requested he be allowed to wear a yarmulke during a broadcast and "he got a very weird response."

But Jacobovici noted times have changed. He recently appeared on the CBC and Arts and Entertainment (A & E) wearing a yarmulke while narrating his film *Quest For The Lost Tribes* and said the head covering was warmly received by audiences.

20 students receive TD Canada Trust scholarships

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Emily Pearlman is one student who won't have to worry about student loans when she heads off to university in the fall.

Pearlman was recently awarded the TD Canada Trust Scholarship valued at over $50,000.00.

The scholarship, awarded for outstanding community leadership, is the largest scholarship program of its kind in Canada, providing each winner with full tuition at any Canadian college or university, $3,500 a year toward living expenses, and a guaranteed offer of summer employment for up to four years.

This year, 20 young people from across Canada were chosen from among 2,700 applicants, based primarily on their outstanding community leadership.

"Each of these remarkable young Canadians have made a positive impact in their communities, and our country as a whole," said Edmund Clark, chair and CEO, TD Canada Trust, in announcing this year's recipients.

Pearlman, a student at Lisgar Collegiate Institute, founded Youth Infringement, a student-run theatrical festival that encourages youth to explore their creativity in the dramatic arts in such areas as script writing, acting, producing, lighting and directing.

After securing a $4,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa-Carleton last year, to help with start-up costs such as venue space and rental equipment, Youth Infringement had a successful inaugural season, and has just completed its second season with a three-night, nine-play schedule.

Winning the scholarship has been exciting for Pearlman, she said. The first round of applicants was narrowed down to 80 finalists who were flown to Toronto for personal interviews.

"It was an amazing group of people from all across Canada. Everyone was so enamoured by what the others had done," she said.

Jane Kilburn, manager, sponsorships, corporate and public affairs at TD Bank Financial Group said, "[Meeting the students] for me, is the most fulfilling part. You read their bios, you hear about them, and speak to them over the telephone, but meeting them is inspiring...It really makes you feel very humble to see what these young people have done in a few short years."

Pearlman plans to attend Concordia University in the fall, in the theatre performance program. She won't be taking advantage of the summer employment offer for this summer, however. "I have been saving for a trip since I was 12 years old, and I will be going to Egypt, Israel and Greece for the summer."

Tribute to Israel

On this page we publish snapshots of various "Israeli" moments this past year, each of which, in its own unique way, offers a tribute to that tiny, often frustrating, but remarkable country. Seen are (clockwise from top right) Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Aline Chrétien during their visit to Jerusalem; an Israeli aid worker assisting some of the famine-starved people in Ethiopia; Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak last month at Ben-Gurion airport greeting the one millionth immigrant to arrive from the former Soviet Union; Israeli troops pulling out of Lebanon; Canadian youth activist Craig Kielburger shmoozing with a group of students in Beersheva; and a trio of young Canadians on the Birthright Israel program displaying their emotions as they stepped off the plane.

[Israpet, RNS/Reuters and Israel Sun photos]

Israelis accepting of Ethiopian immigrants: survey

BY AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Israelis have a generally positive view of Ethiopian immigrants to Israel, but they are divided over whether to allow a mass immigration of 26,000 Falash Mura, according to a new poll.

The poll, commissioned by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, was released last week in Jerusalem, as the organization announced a commitment of between $3 million and $5 million (US) over the next two years to help finance the absorption of Ethiopian immigrants.

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, president of the fellowship, said findings showing Israelis are very accepting of Ethiopian immigrants indicate that the difficult absorption process can be improved.

"If we combine the positive views with greater financial allocation to help in areas of job training, placement and education, the immigrants here will indeed reach the same level one generation from now that others have," he said.

But Rabbi Eckstein also warned against an "explosion" in Israeli society if the present "five to 10-year window of opportunity" aimed at the integration of immigrants is not employed.

One day before the poll was released, the Jewish Agency for Israel flew 100 Falash Mura from Ethiopia to Israel.

The group was the first to arrive since Interior Minister Natan Sharansky visited Ethiopia last month to assess the situation of the thousands of Falash Mura – Ethiopians whose ancestors converted from Judaism to Christianity – who have gathered in transit camps hoping to immigrate to the Jewish state.

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein

In a related development, the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency announced the allocation of about $240,000 for extra staff people to absorb some 5,000 to 6,000 additional Ethiopian immigrants.

According to the poll, 49 percent of Israelis said Israel has behaved "adequately" in absorbing the Ethiopian Jews, and another nine percent said the country has done an "exceptionally good" job.

The remainder of the responses ranged from "minimally acceptable" to "exceptionally badly."

Nevertheless, responses to several questions indicated that a strong majority view the immigration of Ethiopians as a great success, and 63 percent said they consider it a net gain for Israel.

Only 29 percent considered the immigrants a burden on the economy.

Other responses contradicted complaints of racism often voiced by the Ethiopians.

An overwhelming 89 percent said they would be happy to be treated by an Ethiopian doctor, and 95 percent said they would not mind having their child serve under an Ethiopian officer in the army.

Natan Sharansky

One question touched on the issue of marriage.

Of those polled, 71 percent would consider it "a problem" for their children or grandchildren to date or marry an Ethiopian.

"It's very similar to the Sephardi experience that happened here," said Rabbi Eckstein. "Part of the poll also indicated that most Israelis don't know [any Ethiopians] or have Ethiopian friends. I believe that as integration increases and there are more friendships, that number will increase."

Those polled showed far less acceptance of Russian immigrants.

When asked who, if they were acting as an employer, would be their first choice between three equally qualified candidates for a job, only three percent said a Russian, while 38 percent chose a sabra – a native-born Israeli– and 22 percent chose an Ethiopian.

On the Falash Mura issue, 35 percent said they supported accepting the 26,000 Ethiopians waiting for approval to come to Israel as citizens. Another 18 percent preferred granting entry to a limited group, while 26 percent rejected the Falash Mura completely and 21 percent had no opinion.

Israelis are also divided over the ongoing debate on whether to change the Law of Return, which grants immediate citizenship to anyone who had a Jewish parent or grandparent.

While 39 percent said the law should not be changed, 41 percent said it should be more restrictive.

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Tribute to Israel

High-tech takes root in Jerusalem

By SHIMON BEN NOACH
WZPS

Now that major international companies like Intel, Digital, News DataCom (part of Rupert Murdoch's global empire) and local firms such as Eva Pharmaceuticals have established major facilities in Israel, high-tech has emerged as one of Jerusalem's principal industrial sectors.

In fact, with dozens of high-tech start-ups rapidly developing market-oriented, value-added export products, high-tech looks set to overtake tourism as Jerusalem's number 1 foreign currency earner.

"High-tech is ideal for our city," says Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. "We have a highly educated work force looking for new challenges. In addition, high-tech industries are not polluting and in the limited space that we have for industrial development, high-tech can offer the greatest returns."

Ehud Tokatly, a seventh generation Jerusalemite, is typical of a new generation of entrepreneurs hoping to hit the big time with high-tech products. Vice-president of MovieStar Systems Ltd., Tokatly is a former script writer for Israel television. Several years ago, he teamed up with American immigrant Michael Jaffe, a former film producer with Israel TV and MovieStar System's CEO.

"We have developed software for moviemakers," explains Tokatly. "At the moment, film producers, even with multi-million-dollar budgets, must sit down with pen and paper and work out budgets, timetables and the dozens of other logistical factors involved in making a movie. At best they might use a simple Word program. This is the first software worldwide that will facilitate movie making."

MovieStar Systems is located on the Har Hotzvim Science Based Industrial Park near the western entrance to the city, where it recently graduated from the high-tech Har Hotzvim — Technology Entrepreneurship Centre — one of four technological incubators in Jerusalem.

Three of the Jerusalem incubators — PATIR R&D Ltd., the Jerusalem Software Incubator Ltd., and Hitecx Har Hotzvim — are part of a nationwide network of 26 technological incubators set up by the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The fourth incubator, also located at Har Hotzvim, is privately owned by local industry.

"Israel has the second highest number of start-up companies in the world after the U.S. in absolute terms," observes Dr. Orna Berry, the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, whose office is in downtown Jerusalem.

According to minister of industry and trade, Natan Sharansky, Israel, remarkably, has more high-tech start-ups than all of the western European nations put together. So far, more than 400 start-up companies have graduated from the country's incubators, attracting over $130 million (all figures US dollars) in investments and reflecting a success rate of 51 percent. Over 10 percent of these start-ups are located in Jerusalem.

The criterion for success is the ability to attract investors. MovieStar Systems, for example, is currently negotiating with a major U.S. investor in Hollywood. This would not only supply the company with the capital needed to finalize development of the product, but also provide a strategic partner closest to the company's largest potential market in California.

MovieStar has received significant sums of seed money from the OCS, while the incubator provided know-how, advice and logistical support, which helped the fledgling company get off the ground. The incubators in Jerusalem have been especially well positioned to help those newcomers from the former Soviet Union who reach Israel with innovative ideas and entrepreneurial ambitions.

'The ability to attract investors'

New immigrants have complemented the country's traditional strengths in software, communications, medical electronics and biotechnology by introducing innovative materials and new industrial processes.

ELAM Electroluminescent Industries, based at Har Hotzvim, was started in 1992 by micro-electronic engineers Moshe Voskoboinok and Israel Baumberg, both new Russian immigrants at the time. Initially located at the PATIR incubator based on the campus of the Jerusalem College of Technology — Machon Lev, ELAM has made a revolutionary breakthrough in electroluminescent light technology. With annual sales of more than $3 million, ELAM produces thick transparent wire that is luminescent and can be used in tunnels, for clothing and signs, and has broad consumer and industrial applications in the transportation, entertainment, textile and defence sectors.

"The people in the incubator believed in us," recalls Voskoboinok, "and that gave us the confidence to develop a viable product."

Indeed it is this infrastructure of college, research institutes, incubators and high-tech industrial parks that has enabled Jerusalem to take full advantage of Israel's high-tech revolution.

Har Hotzvim covers an area of 37 acres with 120,000 square metres of high-tech buildings and an additional 45,000 square metres under construction. More than 5,000 people, most of them professionals and academics, work in Har Hotzvim.

Continued on page 26

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The attractive Malcha Technological Park in south-west Jerusalem, still under development, is occupied by numerous high-tech enterprises. [WZPS photo]

New industries offer hope for city's economic salvation

Continued from page 26

Furthermore, the Malcha Technological Park in the south-west of the city comprises three buildings and has an additional four buildings planned. A significant amount of space in the capital's other industrial zones in Talpiot, Givat Shaul and Atarot, is also occupied by high-tech enterprises.

An added incentive to setting up a high-tech enterprise in Jerusalem is that the city enjoys Development Area A status. This entitles tenants to government incentives, including grants of 24 percent or 10 years tax exemption.

Yet despite these high-tech perks and the vast opportunities they provide for all the science graduates and new immigrants in Jerusalem, some commute to the coast, while others leave the city altogether.

There are 28,000 full-time students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem alone and an additional 14,000 studying there in continuing education. Some 3,500 scientific research projects are currently in progress and 800 new projects are begun each year at the University's science campus on Givat Ram and the Hebrew University — Hadassah medical campus at Ein Kerem.

The Hebrew University's know-how and intellectual property are developed by the Yissum Research Development Company. Mordechai Perlmutter, CEO of Yissum reports that he regularly has America's foremost business corporations visiting him as Israel's reputation for high-tech innovation spreads.

Last year alone Yissum signed 130 contracts, 50 percent of them with companies overseas, earning Yissum $12 million. Yissum has also been a partner in start-ups such as Perio Products, founded by researchers from the Hebrew University's Faculties of Pharmacology and Dental Medicine who developed a tiny, biodegradable chip that treats gum disease. The chip, which can be used by dentists, slowly releases the drug chlorhexidine to treat inflamed and infected gums. Perio Products has since been acquired by Israel Chemicals Ltd.

Some Jerusalem start-ups have needed neither incubator nor university to nurture them. Gamda-Cell Ltd. was established in 1998 by Dr. Avi Treves. Located in Givat Shaul, Gamda-Cell is a medical biotechnology start-up owned by Gamida for Life Group, Biomedical Investment Ltd. and the Pamot Venture Capital Fund.

"We are executing joint R&D programs with Hadassah," explains Treves, an experienced scientist in cell therapy and immunology, "and hope to develop technologies and products for ex-vivo expansion and manipulation of cells for clinical applications."

Other promising Jerusalem start-ups include: Catalytic Systems Technologies Ltd., which has developed novel environmentally friendly heaters and boilers based on catalytic combustion; BATEC Ltd. which is developing proprietary diagnostic kits for food colouring and DNA extraction; JPB Technologies Ltd., which develops and produces electronic ballast for street lamps; and Driver Safety Systems Ltd., which has developed electro-optical equipment and applied software for automatic traffic law enforcement.

Last year nearly 80 percent of the $18 billion worth of industrial goods that Israel exported had high-tech components. With the "brain drain" still plaguing Jerusalem, high-tech offers new hope for the city's economic salvation.

Tribute to Israel

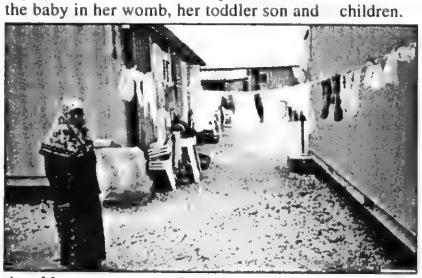
Community for quake victims has a solid design

By ESTHER HECHT
Special to The CJN

The temporary housing Israel provided for some of Turkey's earthquake victims was designed to restore community life. Five months after the Israel Village was inaugurated, new neighbours are helping each other, children have made new friends and an engagement party is in progress.

Sefanur Aydin was one of the lucky ones. It was the dead of night on Aug. 17, 1999, when a violent earthquake devastated her home in Adapazari, Turkey, 150 kilometres southeast of Istanbul.

The quake that killed thousands, including Aydin's brother-in-law, spared her and the baby in her womb, her toddler son and her husband. But their home and all their possessions were gone and a brutal winter lay ahead.



An old woman approaches a laundry line on the way to her courtyard in the Israel Village.

Then Aydin won the lottery. Hers was one of 312 families who won the draw for housing in an Israeli-built complex on the outskirts of Adapazari that has come to be known as the Israel Village. And it was here, just after Aydin moved into her new home in October, that her daughter was born.

Since then, Aydin has measured her good fortune in neighbourly terms. "In the beginning we shared everything" she says. "It's amazing how the neighbours help."

The quake that destroyed Aydin's home and a second, more powerful, tremor three months later left 16,016 people dead, about 30,000 wounded and 400,000 homeless, according to Col. Benny Cohen, Israel's defence attaché in Turkey. Some 120,000 people have spent this, the harshest winter in 10 years, in government-provided tents.

Some did not even get tents. In Izmit and Adapazari, the cities hardest hit by the quakes, survivors have sought shelter in shanties made of plastic sheeting, tin and other scavenged materials.

Fethi Sen (pronounced Shen), 66, a former bookkeeper, was thrilled to move to the Israel Village from a tent camp.

"When we got the keys we were as happy as a five-year-old with candy," Sen says.

At first, relatives crowded in with his family so that 15 people were living in the 30-square-meter [about 270 square feet] flat. Eventually the relatives found housing elsewhere, leaving just Sen, his wife, and four children.

Pakinur Aka, 39, punctuates nearly every sentence with "Thank God." She shares her new home with her parents-in-law, her husband and two adolescent sons, and everything, thank God, is very good, she says, even the shower.

In August, her mother-in-law, Fatma Aka, 68, was trapped for six hours in the rubble of her home and suffered a leg injury. After her rescue, she was treated at the Israeli field hospital.

"If not for the Israeli hospital her leg would have been amputated," Pakinur Aka says. "We keep saying, 'Thank God.'"

***

When Israel decided to go beyond its rescue efforts and medical treatment and help provide temporary housing to Turkey's quake victims, time was of the essence. The target date was Oct. 25 – about two months after the first quake.

The Defence Ministry called in Shalom Kelner, 62, a U.S.-trained architect, to design the community. Every detail was discussed with Turkish government officials, whom Kelner and ministry representatives met to find out more about their needs and local customs.

"We knew we had to build a Turkish village, not an Israeli village," says Abraham Haber, head of the ministry's construction department.

The Polish-born Kelner knew from his own five-year experience as a new immigrant in a tent camp in Israel that "temporary" housing might have to serve for years. That knowledge strengthened his resolve to build it in a way that would foster a return to normal communal life. That meant arranging the housing units around courtyards, rather than in rows, to create spaces where new friendships could grow and children could play safely.

Sefanur Aydin (far left) shares a cup of tea on the steps of her neighbour's home.

He also planned a 10-room school for the 330 children, a clinic, playgrounds and parking areas.

The housing units were to be prepared in Israel, so they had to be strong enough to withstand shipping. Kelner chose used marine shipping containers as his basic building blocks.

Each housing unit is built of two containers joined lengthwise. Besides the two bedrooms, there is a bathroom with a toilet and shower and a multipurpose space with a kitchenette and dining area. Each unit costs $15,000.

Continued on page 28

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Tribute to Israel

Israelis unite to help Turkey rebuild

Continued from page 27

Kelner also decided to paint the houses bright colours, taking his cue from local architecture. The colours turned out to be a boon in more ways than one. They enabled the construction companies involved to identify their containers upon arrival in Turkey. They also help the residents find their way around the project.

When asked where her home is, 13-year-old Ayse Demir responds in what seems to be her only word in English, "yellow."

Despite the record speed with which the project was completed, it was anything but a smooth operation. The Defence Ministry's Victor Bar-Gil, who headed the Israeli team, ran interference at every level.

The Israeli government put up 19 million shekels toward the village. More than four million shekels came from the Israeli public and from organizations, including the American Jewish Committee and the Joint Distribution Committee; Kibbutz Artzi donated playground equipment. The Turkish government provided the infrastructure.

The Israel Village was the first such project completed by a foreign country. The opening ceremony on Oct. 25 was attended by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

Israel's rescue efforts, medical treatment of quake victims and the Israel Village made front page news in Turkey.

***

The weather is unexpectedly mild on the day in mid-March that Kelner and I visit the project. We find Sefanur Aydin sitting on the steps of a neighbour's home sharing a sociable cup of tea with two of her new friends.

In the school, and in some of the houses, white curtains add a homey touch. Wooden lean-tos have sprouted on some of the homes, as have outdoor shelves and TV antennas.

On a small table near Ayse Demir's front door a tiny plant has opened its red blooms to the faint spring sun. Meanwhile, an outdoor engagement party is getting under way. At last the couple arrives, the young man in a black suit and his fiancée in a maroon velvet and lace gown, her hair done in elaborate ringlets.

A girl stands on the steps outside her home in the Israel Village. The housing units were raised on concrete stilts to avoid flooding.

The engagement party, the curtains and the flowering plant are all signs that the residents of the Israel Village are looking to the future.

But the quake has left a legacy of grief, anxiety and tension. The tremors that destroyed homes also brought factories and shops crashing down, taking with them the livelihood of most of the residents.

Many of the men, uneasy with the forced idleness, have taken to binge drinking, according to Funda Gapoglu (pronounced Chap-Ollu), 25, former representative of the area's governor. And that has led to domestic violence, she says.

Continued on page 29

Mazel Tov

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Children at the Israel Village crowd into a classroom for a meeting with Israeli visitors. The curtains give the classroom a homey feel.

[Esther Hecht photos]

Many people now call Israel Village home

Continued from page 28

Student volunteers from a nearby university have asked the children to model in clay the bodies of their friends and loved ones and the graves in which they were buried.

One of the graves is marked "my grandfather," another "my grandmother."

Seated in front of their models, the youngsters describe the earthquake in oddly matter-of-fact tones.

Hazel Aydin, 10, had moved into a new home just two days before the quake. "The walls fell on each other," she recounts. "I got out by myself. A piece of concrete fell on my mother."

Hande Bahcivangil, 10, remembers going with her father to her aunt's house. "No one came out of the ruins. We had no hope. On the third day they brought out the body of my uncle. They took my aunt to the hospital."

The children say they have made new friends and that they feel good in their new school. But when asked what it was like to start life anew here, Emine Ozen, 10, bursts into tears and buries her face in her hands as she answers, "This house is no substitute for my real home. I miss my home very much."

Tears roll down the cheeks of Emine's 12-year-old brother, Yigit, as he says, "In my dreams I see my [old] home."

According to Benny Cohen, 50 of the children need professional help, but getting it required busing them to another town, so the therapy had to wait until the Joint Distribution Committee offered funds for the bus trip.

The quake has created other problems. Sefanur Aydin had no clothing or equipment for her newborn baby, and essentials like diapers and laundry detergent are often in short supply.

Yet, we hear nothing but gratitude. For its residents, the Israel Village is now home. Sefanur Aydin is not sure where she will be five years from now, but she could see herself here.

Fethi Sen has a clearer view. "Probably the young people can't adjust easily," he says. "[But] if someone tells me I have to live here forever, I can live with that."

Esther Hecht is a writer who lives in Jerusalem.

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Tribute to Israel

Israel owes nothing to its detractors

By PAUL MICHAELS
Special to The CJN

"It has become evident that no external factor can induce anti-Semitism in the anti-Semite."

Jean-Paul Sartre wrote those words just after World War II, after the Holocaust. I wondered, upon reading John Lloyd's op-ed column, "Slaying the ghosts of Jewry's past," in *The Globe and Mail* (April 24), how Sartre would have reacted to Lloyd's piece.

Guest Voice

In the immediate aftermath of Deborah Lipstadt's courtroom victory over David Irving, Lloyd uses the first part of his article to denounce anti-Semitism. He then segues to a skewed consideration of Israel's democracy, including its failure to provide full equality for its Arab citizens. Pointing out the imperfections of the Israeli state, he implies that Israel, as a Zionist (Jewish) state, is incompatible with democracy.

Here is Lloyd's concluding paragraph in full: "Israel's need is to supersede its Zionist destiny by transforming it from an ethnic and religious cause into a democratic one. This action would deprive the anti-Semites of part of their platform – that part which feeds its monstrous vision with observation of the real breaches of human rights committed by the Israeli state. In doing this, Israel begins to slay the ghosts of Jewry's most tragic century."

Lloyd's words unmistakably imply that Israel as a Jewish state is a cause of current anti-Semitism. This is a modern, political variation on the age-old theme of blame the Jews for anti-Semitism (e.g., "If only you Jews were not like this or that, the rest of society would be more tolerant of you").

'The anti-Semite will grasp at any rationale'

But Lloyd's thesis is paradoxical, to say the least, in light of his earlier denunciation of anti-Semitism and anti-Semites. When Lloyd observes that anti-Semites today, "feed off behaviour by the state of Israel itself," he is confusing the issue. For only some anti-Semites focus on Israel; many anti-Semites never do. But for those who consider Israel, one of their favourite devices is to delegitimize Israel as a Jewish state by, among other things, making the very claim that Lloyd uses in his own concluding paragraph.

Lloyd may not have meant to be participating in the vile phenomenon he explicitly denounces, and indeed in conversation insisted that no "reasonable" person could possibly infer anything anti-Semitic from his remarks. To this I would reply that strictly on the basis of what Lloyd has written, any reasonable person would have considerable difficulty avoiding that very conclusion.

Israel, like all democracies, should work to strengthen its democratic institutions and to protect its minorities, not only because these are admirable goals in their own right, but also because Israel owes it to itself as a decent society as enunciated in its founding declaration. While equality for all its citizens is enshrined in its foundation, Israel, along with all other democracies, has imperfections in its practice. But in no way does Israel owe anything to its habitual detractors, anti-Semites foremost among them. To argue that it does as a means of disarming them, as Lloyd argues, is preposterous.

Lloyd believes that if Israel were to become more virtuous, this would diminish the anti-Semites' arsenal. One could more readily argue just the opposite: that Israel's perfectibility would elicit even greater anti-Semitism since, historically speaking, the resentment at Jewish "over-achievement" has often been at the root of anti-Jewish sentiment and violence.

From time to time we encounter persistent attempts, some blatantly obvious, some cleverly subtle, to delegitimize Israel as a Jewish state. For these detractors of Israel, the national liberation struggle of any people is worthy of support – except in the case of the Jewish people. Other democracies have imperfections in their treatment of ethnic minorities and in their human rights record. Examples abound. Yet I do not know of a single case other than Israel where the very foundation of the state itself gets put in question as a result. Why the double standard?

This brings us back to what was so evident to Sartre in 1946 but completely incomprehensible to Lloyd more than half a century later: "No external factor can induce anti-Semitism in the anti-Semite." The anti-Semite will grasp at any rationale to justify his anti-Semitism since his hatred of Jews is very much the irrational "passion" Sartre describes. That Israel just happens to have been, since 1948, another convenient target for such hatred imposes no obligation whatsoever upon Israel to live up to a higher standard. The rub for the anti-Semite is not Israel's behaviour, good or bad; it is Israel's very existence as a Jewish state.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications at the Canada-Israel Committee.

From Belgrade to Jerusalem; building a new life in Israel

By SIMON GRIVER
WZPS

When Goran Alkalai was told last April in Belgrade that he could leave ahead of the NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia with just two suitcases, he elected to take his guitar instead of one of the suitcases.

Alkalai, 24, never returned and today, more than a year later, he is studying for a master's degree in classical guitar, as well as teaching undergraduate students at the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem.

Alkalai said he first visted Israel nearly three years ago on a World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS) seminar. "I liked the country then, but I didn't plan to make aliyah," he said.

"Then during a pilot tour that the Jewish Agency arranged for us during April and May '99, I really got to see Israel. I fell in love with the country and the people, and I really feel that this is my own country.

"In particular I was enchanted by Jerusalem," he added. "I decided that if I was going to stay, then there was only one place in Israel that I wanted to live. I am not an Orthodox person, but the city definitely has something special spiritually. It inspires me to play even more music."

The Kosovo crisis in April also gave Orna Rosenfeld (née Svetlana Rudicvranic) the final push that she needed in order to immigrate to Israel.

"Since coming to Israel I have taken on my mother's Jewish name," she explained, "which is something I have always wanted to do. My father is half Croatian and half Hungarian, but I have always felt closest to my Jewish roots."

Rosenfeld, 25, was an integral part of the small Jewish community in the northern Yugoslav town of Subotica where she was born and grew up, and in Belgrade, where she studied architecture at Belgrade University. She was active in Jewish heritage matters — documenting Jewish synagogues in Yugoslavia for the Hebrew University's Centre of Jewish Art in Jerusalem, among other projects. She recently undertook a Jewish Agency speaking tour of the United States, addressing United Jewish Communities (UJC).

"I always planned to emigrate to Israel," she explained. "But I was always postponing it. First I wanted to come when I had completed school. Then I put it off until after university. The Kosovo crisis gave me the necessary push to really do it."

Rosenfeld described herself as being in love with Israel, citing the special energy of the people and the delightful architecture of Jersualem as some of the irresistible attractions of the country. She has completed four years of study at the University of Belgrade, and after improving her Hebrew at the East Talpiot Absorption Centre ulpan, she was accepted to continue her degree at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.

The Technion is considered the best school of architecture in Israel and Rosenfeld did not want to compromise on academic standards. So, regrettably, she has temporarily left Jerusalem but plans returning after she graduates next year.

Olga Israel, 21, is already fluent in Hebrew, having spent a year at a Youth Aliyah school in Jerusaslem when she was 13. "At that time I phoned home to my parents to tell them I was making aliyah," she recalls. "They acted very wisely. They said, 'Fine, come home and have a summer vacation and then you will be able to go back.' Of course, they pampered me all summer and I never made it back to Israel."

But she always stayed in love with Israel and especially Jerusalem. "The city has an exotic, romantic and very spiritual atmosphere and we have a historic and emotional bond with it," she said.

An economics student at Belgrade University, Israel will continue her studies next year. This year she is working for the Jewish Agency's Tnuat Aliyah, co-ordinating all matters related to Yugoslavian Jewry. She has also just returned from a speaking tour of UJC federations in the United States.

"But while we are so much at home here," she said, "it is still very difficult for us. Resettling as an immigrant is like trying to learn to walk again. Being here without our parents to help us is very difficult. But it is worth the effort."

The three new immigrants prefer not to discuss the situation back in Belgrade. Even though, and perhaps because, the Kosovo crisis has been resolved through a NATO imposed solution in favour of the Albanian minority at the expense of the Serbs, nationalism is very intense in Belgrade. They fear that their parents will be considered traitors because their children have emigrated.

But all the Yugoslavian immigrants insist that they would have emigrated anyway — drawn by Jerusalem and the strength of their Jewish heritage.

A group of young adults at Kiryat Moriah in Jerusalem – some of the 350 Yugoslavian Jews brought to Israel by the Jewish Agency during the Kosovo crisis last year.
[WZPS photo]

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Tribute to Israel

The old lady of no. 1 Ben – Maimon Street

By ADINA ESHEL
Special to The CJN

Memoir

It was about noon on a rainy day in January. The drizzle had not stopped for a moment. I was sitting in my office, at the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem, then still on Ibn-Gavirol Street, absorbed in my work. I did not expect any visitors and I was enjoying the opportunity of working undisturbed.

Suddenly the door opened, and a little old lady was standing on the threshold. Upon seeing me she seemed surprised and stopped.

"Where is Rachel Ever-Hadani?" she asked in a rather demanding tone.

"She retired two months ago," I replied.

The old lady hesitated for a moment, then made up her mind and entered, closing the door behind her.

"Not another grumpy old woman!" I thought.

She was very small, one would say petite, but there was something about her expression that gave an impression of strength. She was wearing a grey suit, a small grey hat and a string of black pearls. She also wore light makeup.

While she was approaching my table, I noticed that she was using her umbrella for a walking stick, and her legs were supported by thick leather straps. When seated she unfastened the straps, which were obviously troubling her.

"These blasted things are supposed to help me, but if you ask me they only disturb me," she said dryly.

She straightened herself up and examined me with a serious, direct look. "Have you inherited Miss Ever-Hadani's job?"

"Yes," I replied.

"And did you catch up with everything you ought to know?" she added.

"I hope so," I replied cautiously.

"My name is Lea Weitz-Cohen. Does it mean anything to you?"

"I must confess it does not," I answered.

"So I assumed, but my name is of no importance; you keep here some of my father's and my husband's papers, and you people say they are important, so I have brought some more."

Her voice was young and strong, she spoke clearly and with no accent. While speaking she continued to examine me.

"I shall be pleased to see the papers," I said.

"Among many other documents, dating back to the turn of the century, I also have papers regarding the Jewish Colonization Association. Miss Ever-Hadani was familiar with it, her father had written a book about JCA, and she was quite fluent in French. Do you read French?" she asked.

"Not in handwriting," I replied, knowing I was losing marks.

"So how do you deal with the papers?" she asked, partly in wonder, partly with contempt and without waiting for my reply, she went on asking: "Are you a Jerusalemite?"

"Yes, I live here."

"But were you born here?"

"I was born in Tel Aviv," I replied.

"And where have you studied?"

"At the Herzlia Gymnasium," I said.

A broad smile lit the old lady's face and the next inevitable question followed: "What graduating class?"

"Number 39," I replied.

"Pleased to meet you," she said, taking my hand. "I am a graduate of the second graduating class of *the* gymnasium, and that makes me 37 years your senior. Now make out quickly how old I am," she demanded and an impish smile danced in her blue eyes. The ice broke.

"I am a relic from the last century. In April I shall be 85," she said

I did not know what to say. "You don't look 85," I replied. Although my comment was true, it seemed to be a worn out cliche and this lady was not fishing for compliments. I kept quiet.

She began fumbling with her briefcase and took a bunch of handwritten letters.

Continued on page 33

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Tribute to Israel

'The beginning of a wonderful friendship'

Continued from page 32

"Pity you can't read this handwriting," she said. "You would have enjoyed every word. It is Ahron Ahronson's handwriting in French. Does *this* name mean anything to you?" she asked.

"Something," I teased her.

She smiled. "I assume you'll find someone to read it to you," she said. "However, I shall be pleased to do it, if you want me to. Not here. At my place, of course. Miss Ever-Hadani used to come to my house for the papers. Are you willing to continue with this arrangement?"

"With great pleasure," I replied.

"Whenever you want to come let me know, and I shall prepare my famous apple and cinnamon cake. I hope you are not on a diet, as I put in lots of sugar." She began fastening her supporting straps, which required quite an effort on her part.

"So, we have an arrangement; and don't forget, I live on No. 1 Ben-Maimon St.," she said, standing up. "Write down my telephone number — 631046." I wrote it down in my phone book and accompanied the old lady out to Ibn-Gavirol Street.

That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship that was to last for 13 years. Her phone number was one of the most important and useful numbers in my phone book and in my memory.

Upon returning to my office, I hastened to look up what the names Weitz and Cohen were supposed to tell me. Weitz was the name of her father. Cohen was the name of her husband. They had died one after the other, her father in 1935, her husband in 1936.

Dr. Naftali Weitz was a doctor in the Jewish settlements of the Galilee, appointed and sent there by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, in 1898. Her mother, Anna, remained in Paris to complete her studies, and arrived in Palestine, with her four-year-old daughter Lea, on Jan. 1, 1900. Her mother was the first woman doctor in Palestine. They had lived at first in Rosh Pina, near Safed, then in Zichron Yaakov and finally in Jerusalem.

Dr. Zvi Eliahu Cohen was a lawyer who also indulged in writing, under the pen-name Talmon. He came to Palestine from South Africa, like many youngsters at the time, to study at the Herzlia Gymnasium, where he met Lea Weitz.

During World War I, the Weitz family was deported from Palestine to Egypt, together with many other Palestinian Jews. In Alexandria, Weitz was among the founders of the Zion Mule Corps that served under the command of Joseph Trumpeldor, with the British forces in Gallipoli, Turkey. The secretary of that corps was Sgt. Eliahu Cohen.

Lea and her mother left Alexandria for Paris, where Lea studied biology. Eventually, Lea met Eliahu Cohen who came to Paris to study law. Upon their graduation they were married and returned to Palestine, then under British rule.

Both her father and her husband

Continued on page 34

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Tribute to Israel

'Her strong sense of justice directed her'

Continued from page 33

were community minded people, who cared about people and helped them, quite often offering their services free of charge. After their death, Lea was left with three children and no money.

Being fluent in French and Hebrew, she began translating from French into Hebrew and vice versa. Among others, she translated books by André Maurois, with whom she also corresponded, and Guy de Maupassant. She became the first Hebrew announcer on Palestine Radio under British rule, and on the whole, worked hard to support herself and her children.

All along she held papers of utmost historical importance, which she could have sold to eager collectors. That possibility never occurred to her. She kept the papers lovingly till she was in her 80s, and then donated them to the Central Zionist Archives.

Those papers included many unique photographs that told the story of an important chapter in Israel's history, along with the history of her parents and of people she loved; so she passed them on gradually, over a period of 15 years.

Sitting with her and the papers felt like sitting with history itself. Each document she handed over to me was accompanied by its complete story; each name mentioned in a document was given an accurate background, so that a complete picture emerged. She was, in fact, a connecting thread between past and present. She knew people who were dubbed national heroes, like Sara Ahronson and her famous brother Ahron, whose younger sister Rivka was her best friend.

Lea Weitz-Cohen exuded the spirit of Palestine at the beginning of the century. Her furniture, kitchen appliances and dishes belonged to the turn of the century period; partly brought from Paris by her parents, partly handmade by local craftsmen. She did not bother to buy new kitchenware. "What for?" she would say when asked. "They still serve me perfectly well."

Her intelligence and astonishing memory, combined with a sharp tongue in perfect Hebrew, as well as her incredible sense of humour, were an intellectual pleasure just as they were of invaluable help in my work. She could speak about an event that occurred before World War I, as dramatically and accurately as if it happened last week. I could ring her up and mention a name or an event I did not know about, and she would fill in the gap.

At the same time, we would discuss current events and politics, of which she was just as well informed and had very firm opinions, despite her old age and failing eyesight. When angry about a political folly or a public scandal, she would call me up and express her opinion very sharply.

Sitting and working together for many years drew us close to each other, despite the gap of 37 years between us. Reluctantly, and very slowly, she unfolded her own personal story, which was as interesting as the other stories she told me.

Regrettably, she did not write her memoirs. She was quite capable of doing it, considering her outstanding memory and style, but for some reason she wouldn't. She preferred to devote her time to causes she thought were important. Her strong sense of justice directed her.

There were two or three people she knew, who, she believed, had been wronged by society or by history. Therein she invested much of her energy.

One day she called me up very agitated. "You must help me! Have you read the outrageous article in the local newspaper? It's a shame! It's sheer blasphemy! I know the case perfectly well. I have researched it thoroughly here and in France! The accusations are completely unfounded!"

I knew what she was referring to, but how could I help her?

"You probably hold some additional new material regarding this case, in your archives, please look it up. If you find anything at all, please make a photocopy thereof, for me. I shall carry on from there."

It took me a few hours to unearth some relevant material, which I photocopied and brought over to her. It related to the case of one of her classmates at the Herzlia Gymnasium who had perished in the Holocaust, but who was, nevertheless, accused of collaborating with the Nazis.

"I am convinced of his innocence," she said, "and I shall prove it! If only they bothered to read all the material, as I did! It's not the truth they are after, it's sensation!" She wrote to the man's nephew offering to work with him, then kept writing to politicians and newspapers, in an effort to vindicate the man's name.

All her contemporary history books and biographies are marked with corrections she inserted in her neat and beautiful handwriting, wherever she had found inaccurate information.

Local and foreign researchers used to consult her with regard to specific points that required clarification, knowing they could count on her accuracy. "Sometimes I feel like a Road Junction," she once said, quite pleased.

On a rainy day in mid-October 1994, the great little old lady passed away, at the age of 98. A piece of history of the rebuilding of this country passed away with her.

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CORRECTION

The phone number for **The Kenny Simon Band** in the article, "We Asked Some Local Party Bands..." (*CJN* June 1, page 36) was incorrect. The correct number is 416-638-2549. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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'Rocket' Richard's star shone in oil as well as ice

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — A Jewish company rescued Maurice Richard from under-employment in the years after his hockey career was over and gave him a job that lasted longer than his two decades with the Montreal Canadiens, says the company's former president, Norman Spector.

Richard, who died last week, was vice-president for sales of S. Albert & Co. for about 30 years. Through the power of his name and personal magnetism, Richard was largely responsible for transforming S. Albert from a small heating oil company whose clients were 80 percent Jewish, to one of the biggest distributors to residences and businesses in Quebec, Spector said.

Spector, who joined S. Albert in 1948 and was running it from 1955, met Richard at a golf game more than 30 years ago. At the time, Richard, who retired in 1960, was living mainly on a small hockey pension, having been spurned by Molson brewery, then the owners of the Canadiens.

Spector had a brainwave – hire Richard and make him a vice-president. Richard readily accepted. Spector thinks it was probably the best move he ever made for the company.

For years, Spector, Richard and the late Danny Albert (grandson of the company founder) were the triumvirate of the company, their names appearing in all its advertising. One memorable newspaper ad was a cartoon of Spector and Richard tooling around in an oil truck.

"[Richard's] job was public relations and he was very successful. Because of his presence, our sales volume increased from 32 million litres to closé to 500 million litres in sales, and S. Albert became one of the leading oil retailers in Quebec," Spector said.

Richard had an office at the company's St. Lawrence Boulevard headquarters, but his job was essentially to be the star attraction at sales promotions.

S. Albert often ran contests for customers in which the prize was a hockey stick signed by Richard.

Richard helped market some of Spector's ideas, like a multi-fuel burner that in emergencies could use coal, wood or even debris for fuel.

The relationship was Richard's first association with Jews, Spector said, and he believes it was "extremely revealing" for Richard.

Spector was a leader in the Jewish community, notably in Combined Jewish Appeal, of which he was chair in 1975, and State of Israel Bonds, which he headed as national president until last month. He also had a firsthand knowledge of the Holocaust, having served with the U.S. army from 1945-48 in the resettlement of camp survivors and refugees.

"Maurice was always willing to come to Bond dinners, to speak at synagogue men's clubs or other activities. Although a fairly devout Catholic, he was totally respectful of Jewish rituals," Spector said.

Spector, who was himself athletic, and Richard were not infrequently seen together at the YM-YWHA. In 1976, when the Jewish community hosted a reception for the Israeli athletes at the Montreal Olympics, Richard did the honour of presenting each one with a commemorative medal.

In person, Richard was "the total antithesis" of the intense, aggressive man he was on ice, Spector said.

"He was a humble, shy and very considerate individual. I'd go so far as to say that he tried to maintain a pious image, he was very restrained. He spoke politely and was very respectful. I never saw him angry. Whatever you requested, he did willingly."

Richard had a particular soft spot for kids and the needy. "I remember a family that had won two hockey sticks in our contest. They came to us with a boy of about 11 asking if he could have one, too.

"They were told the rules didn't allow it. But Richard came to me and said, 'Give him the stick, I'll pay for it.'

"He'd never refuse to sign an autograph and he treated his fan mail as a religion. He would answer everyone, enclosing an autographed photo and a personal wish, such as 'Hope you feel better' or 'Congratulations.'"

Poor families unable to pay their oil bills often contacted Richard and he would turn to Spector and something could usually be worked out.

Richard, in fact, remained with the company – or more accurately, with Spector – until the end of his life, although he was not active in recent years.

Spector insisted that Richard remain with S. Albert when it was bought by Irving Oil in the 1980s (the name S. Albert was retained) and then a few years ago, when Ultramar bought S. Albert and the name disappeared, one of Spector's conditions was that Richard come with him. At 74, Spector continues to work as a vice-president at Ultramar.

Spector was among the tens of thousands who attended the funeral and the visitation at centre ice in the Molson Centre.

Canadian Jewish Congress officially expressed the community's condolences to the Richard family. In a letter, Quebec region president Dorothy Zalcman Howard said, "Like all Quebecers, our admiration and affection for Maurice Richard transcended his unparalleled status as a hockey legend.

"It is the dignity, determination and decent simplicity of the man that will live on for all of us. Whether it was watching a patented goal-scoring rush on TV while poised on a father's knee or listening to the seemingly endless ovation for the Rocket at the closing of the Montreal Forum, Maurice Richard left us with a special legacy."

The three flags on the Jewish Community Campus – the Maple Leaf, the Fleur-de-lis and Star of David – were at half-mast last week.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 12, is deadline for June 22 issue and Monday, June 19, is deadline for June 29. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, June 8

SACRED STORIES

A Night of Sacred Stories featuring storytellers **Alec Gelcer, Leslie Robbins, Meryl Arbing** of Jewish Storytelling Arts; **Avrum Rosensweig**, Ve'ahavta; **Eli Rubenstein**, Beth Habonim. Moderated by author/lecturer **Yitzhak Buxbaum.** Program for students ages 10 and up co-ordinated by **Ron Solomon** of Habonim's Hebrew School. 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., Congregation Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave.

AT THE VILLAGE SHUL

Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. 785-1107.

Sharing experiences of the March of the Living with **Ariel Tal** 9-10:30 p.m. for ages 13-17.

All-night learning with **Rabbi Yaakov Palatnik** and **Shmuel Bowman** including stories, midnight hike, and lots more, starts at midnight.

Sunday, June 11

YIDDISHLAND CAFÉ

Workmen's Circle Yiddishland Café evening, The World of Our Mothers, performers **Denise Williams, John Botten, Nina Shaplitsky, Michael Siskind**, 7:30 p.m., 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $12 in advance, $15 at door. 787-2081.

SINGLES EVENT

Shaar Shalom Singles and Intersynagogue Singles wine tasting with live music, refreshments, 7 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd. 905-889-4975.

REMBRANDT, JEWS, BIBLE

Congregation Habonim invites you to hear slide lecture by **Miriam Schneid-Ofseyer,** a former professor of Technion-Haifa on Rembrandt, the Jews and the Bible. 10 a.m., Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and lecture $6.

FESTIVAL ON BLOOR

A day of festival fun in the Annex with the Annex's main street filled with live music, street performers, children's entertainment and more, including an arts and crafts sale. Organized by Bloor Annex Business Improvement Area and Bloor Jewish Community Centre. Bloor Street West is closed to traffic from noon to 6 p.m. To volunteer **Maureen McIlveen** 924-6211. For information, 538-2683.

CHARITY GARAGE SALE

Jewish Women International charity garage sale 8 a.m. to noon, 86 Couperthwaite Cres., Unionville. Some of the proceeds go to Markham-Stouffville Hospital.

JEWISH MEDITATION

An evening of Jewish Meditation with **Yitzhak Buxbaum**, 7-9 p.m. at Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. $25.

GRAND OPENING

Celebrate the grand opening of the Gallanough Resource Centre, 1 Brooke St., Thornhill. Free kids concert with Juno Award winning singer **Martha Johnson**, Kosherland barbecue available, book sale and more. 1-4 p.m. Co-sponsored by the City of Vaughan.

SINGLES SOCIAL EVENING

Games Jewish singles play, a fun social evening for men and women Group A – ages 21-39; Group B – ages 40-69. 7:30 p.m. Beth Torah Synagogue, 47 Glenbrook Ave. Games include Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?, Trivial Pursuit, Chutzpah and more. Early bird bingo 7:30-8 p.m. **Mollie** 733-3634.

GARAGE SALE

The Thornhill Study Group multi-family garage sale 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 44 Bluffwood Dr. (Bayview/ Steeles area). Household

Continued on page 37

What's New at Two Neptune Drive

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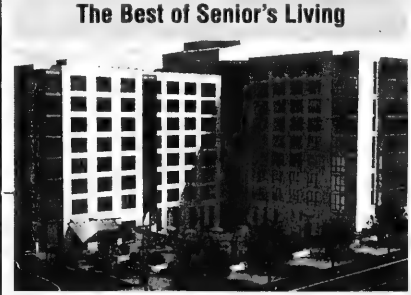

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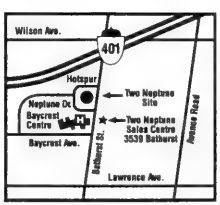

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What's New

Continued from page 36

items, clothes, books and more. All proceeds go to National Council of Jewish Women.

HEEL 'N' WHEEL-A-THONS

Run, walk or skate at Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Heel 'N' Wheel-a-thons.

Metropolitan Toronto chapter at Sunnybrook Park (Leslie and Eglinton). For pledge forms 920-1212.

York Region chapter at Toogood Pond Park, Unionville. **Meriel** 905-881-4656 or **Diane** 905-770-1936.

Monday, June 12

SINGING AND DANCING

Cranbrooke Friendship Club presents An Afternoon of Singing and Dancing (Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian folksongs, gentle dancing) featuring **Shelley Gordon**, 12:30 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Preceded by light lunch. $5. 789-5502.

GOODBYE PARTY

Village Shul hosts a goodbye party for **Rabbi Yaakov** and **Lori Palatnik**, 7:30 p.m. 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. RSVP 785-1107.

Tuesday, June 13

YIDDISH MUSIC, HUMOUR

Celebrate the Joys of Yiddish Music and Humour with **Cantor Aaron Bensoussan, Cantor Louis Danto**, singer **Gloria Valentine,** actor/storyteller **Michael Lebovic**, the Zemer Chorale directed by **Charles Heller** 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 633-3838.

Wednesday, June 14

CANTORIAL CONCERT

Third annual Cantorial Concert: Yaakov Motzen and Friends at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Performing with **Cantor Yaakov Motzen** are **Cantor Benjamin Moshe Warschawski** of Baltimore, **Cantor Moshe Schulhof** of Miami and **Cantor Shlomo Simcha Sufrin** of Shaarei Shomayim. 8 p.m. 789-3213.

SHOW, SHARE AND KVELL

Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles meeting 8 p.m. Lodzer Holocaust Centre, 12 Heaton St. Bring your unfinished and finished work: 402-7189.

OUR MUSICAL LEGACY

Temple Sinai's Our Musical Legacy series presents in recital violist **Rebecca Gitter**, winner of the Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award, accompanied by **Susan Archibald**. 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 15

MEDINA THEATRE

Medina Theatre Ensemble's Evening of Scenes, 7:30 p.m., Earl Bales Park Community Centre. Scenes include **Neil Simon's** *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and **Henrik Ibsen's** *A Doll House.*

And What Else Is New

BOOK REVIEW

Book review at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue by international artist **Ernest Rabb** 10 a.m. Sunday, June 18. He will discuss his life and works as reflected in his recently published book, *Violin of Stone*. Rabb is the creator of the synagogue's sanctuary window, *From Holocaust to Remembrance* and the Earl Bales Park Holocaust Memorial. 633-5500.

AT AISH HATORAH

Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-764-1606.

Evangelical Entrapment – Attacking Your Jewish Beliefs, featuring clips from the controversial movie *The Rabbi* and a recent Larry King Live Show with **Rabbi Michael Skobac,** educational director, Jews for Judaism. Sunday, June 11, 8 p.m.

Tuesday Night at the Movies , insights on *The Sixth Sense*, June 13, 8 p.m.

Women to Women – Let's Talk. Learn about good nutrition, effective exercise, attitude. Wednesday, June 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

DRAMA CLASSES

Leah Posluns School summer drama classes for children and teens, a 4-week, 8-session daytime program starting the first week of July. Call 636-1880, ext. 464 for information, and ext. 231 to register.

SHABBATON RETREAT

Havurah Shabbaton Retreat, a Jewish weekend dedicated to the ideals of pluralism and egalitarianism with a strong commitment to Jewish tradition, June 16-18 in the Hamilton area. The event is vegetarian and 100 percent kosher. Contact David Bender 485-4377.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service workshops and groups. 638-7800

Divorce Workshops: Invest in Your Child's Future: For Parents Experiencing Separation June 22; Adolescents and Divorce June 20; When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids June 20. **Teena** or **Pat.**

Goups: Parenting Can Be… 1, 2, 3 Magic, 3 sessions for parents to learn new behaviour management techniques, begins June 11, daytime and evening groups. **Pat Lieberman**; Today's Woman: Making It Happen, begins June 8; Parenting Your Teenager: Friend or Foe?, begins June 27; Looking Ahead for people recently separated or divorced, begins June 14. **Pat.**

REENA VOLUNTEERS

Reena Foundation requires volunteers to help with spring telethons. Various shifts are available on June 11 and evenings June 12, 13, 14, 19, 20. Help the Reena Foundation reach its fund-raising goals by giving only 3 hours of your time. Training provided. 905-763-8254, ext. 3034.

FOR SENIORS

Canadian Association for the Fifty-Plus free seminar on How to Protect Yourself, chaired by **Lillian Morganthau**, CARP president, with **Judith Wahl**, Advocacy Centre for the Elderly; **Carolyn Davis**, Ontario Securities Commission; **Police Constable Joanne Verbeek**, Tuesday, June 13, 3 p.m. and Thursday, June 15, 7-8:30 p.m., City Room at Metro Hall, 55 John St. Reserve 363-8748, ext. 235.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama June 21, July 15, 19; Sunday dance June 25; Thousand Islands June 11-15; *Vaudeville* at King's Wharf Theatre June 14; Catskills Paramount Hotel July 23-30; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23. 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: *Vaudeville,* King's Wharf Theatre June 14; *Second Time Around*, Gryphon Theatre July 14; *Damn Yankees,* Drayton Festival Theatre Aug. 22. **Lena** 785-5773.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m.Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Registration of new members continues. June 8, no meeting ; June 15, bingo; June 22, lecture (Israel politics); June 29, Muskoka trip. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

LZA Seniors Father's Day luncheon June 21, entertainment by **Mikhael Khinkis.** *Fiddler on the Roof* Sept. 13 at Stratford. Dance classes Thursdays+1:30 p.m. and Cultural Club meetings Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630- 9444.

Young at Heart Seniors vacation to kosher Raleigh Hotel July 28-Aug. 6. Seats are being given out now. Deposits have started. Partners available. **Helen** 635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Therapeutic Touch treatments with nurse **Florence Baum**, Tuesday, June 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Joan** ext. 126.

Hearing Aid Checkup with **Barry Katz** Tuesday, June 13, 12:15 p.m. Book appointment, ext. 131.

Parkinson's Support Group Tuesday. 1:15 p.m. **Iris Weinberg,** dietician, Baycrest Centre, discusses Nutritional Issues in Parkinson's. **Ruth** ext. 105.

Lunchtime Wellness Chat about health issues, facilitated by **Joan Turner**. Thursday. June 15, noon to 1 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking persons every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, bingo, picnics. June 13, current events lecture; June 20, lunch out; June 27, sing-along with **Miki Levine**, ext. 110, **Anna**.

Sunday movie, *The Ideal Husband,* June 11, 2:30 p.m.

IN MEMORY: Although Club Savoy, which evolved from the pre-World War II Jewish Boys Club, disbanded more than 55 years ago, "the boys" still get together from time to time and remember each other in a unique manner. To honour the memory of Henry Ross, vice-president and creative director of an advertising agency for many years, they presented his wife Ann with an Inuit sculpture. Henry, a graduate of the Ontario College of Art, was also a talented painter.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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moderator
Special guest, Yitzhak Buxbaum, internationally known author, lecturer & storyteller

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2000
Time: 8:30 p.m.-2:00 a.m.
Place: Congregation Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave., one block north of Glencarin

Concerns voiced in committee

Having returned from the Victoria Day break, MPs were back on the job in Ottawa. Last week saw the Foreign Affairs committee deal with Bill C-19.

This bill is intended to bring Canadian law into line with the provisions of the newly established International Criminal Court (ICC).

The ICC is intended to deal with war crimes, crimes against humanity and the like.

Without the passage of C-19, Canada would not be in a position to participate in the ICC. This enabling legislation is therefore important to the government, given that Canada was one of the principal proponents of the court in the first place.

Unfortunately, certain countries hostile to Israel sneaked a provision into the Rome Treaty (the agreement that gave birth to the ICC), one that would make it possible to try Israeli officials for facilitating the transfer of Jewish populations into the West Bank and Gaza.

Naturally, Israel and its supporters in the west are anxious that the ICC not be exploited to advance such base political interests; and here in Canada, Jewish groups have been lobbying the government to ensure that Canada moves to pre-empt the possibility that the ICC would be used in such a manner.

All of this sets the scene for the committee hearings last week. Canadian Jewish Congress, led by their legislative expert, Eric Vernon, and their legal counsel, Prof. Ed Morgan, were there. Noted legal researcher, Ken Narvey – who came to national attention during the years of the Deschenes Commission – was busy handing out documents that highlighted the amendments he proposed. Prof. Irwin Cotler, MP, with an amused smile on his face listened to all the testimony. Mark Berlin, the Justice Department legal eagle who is responsible for the legislation, was flitting between various officials. Even Shimon Fogel of the Canada Israel Committee deigned to saunter in and exchange a "smile and wink" with committee chair, Bill Graham.

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

In truth, there were enough Jews in that room to hold a respectable minyan.

The real message here is that it should be of some comfort to the Jewish community that it still has the capacity to access the system and make its views known on issues that are important to the communal agenda.

B'nai Brith honours Ottawa couple

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — For the first time in this city, a husband and wife have been jointly honoured by B'nai Brith Canada for their service to the community.

John and Shirley Westeinde, owners of the Westeinde Group of Companies, were recently presented with the B'nai Brith Award of Merit 2000 at a gala dinner at the Westin Hotel. More than 450 people paid tribute to the couple, who have made a mark on the Ottawa community for their contribution to the construction industry and for their many volunteer activities over the years.

Lawrence Hart, national president of B'nai Brith Canada, presented the award to the Westeindes. "Tonight we are especially proud," he said, "to pay tribute to two people who have played, and continue to play, a defining role in the Canadian business establishment. Their dedication to charitable causes has earned them recognition."

For 20 years, the Westeindes have worked side by side, successfully building the company they founded into a large and profitable enterprise and earning the respect and admiration of their associates and employees for their fairness and business ethics. In addition, both have worked hard on behalf of the community.

John Westeinde is a director of the Canadian Tulip Festival and chair of the Friendship Windmill Corporation, a charitable organization that is building a working windmill to commemorate the liberation of the Netherlands by the Canadian Armed Forces.

When he was six, he said, his family and others were liberated. "As a result of the liberation, a large number of Dutch immigrants came to Canada. I am so lucky, thanks to Canadians, to be here."

Shirley Westeinde, a former nurse, changed careers in 1978 to join her husband in business. She has worked tirelessly and been recognized with a number of awards for both her business and community involvement over the years.

"There are two reasons for the dinner this evening," she said, "and the most important is to raise funds for B'nai Brith Canada programs. The goal that is most important to me is to eradicate anti-Semitism and racism… With the help of [organizations] like B'nai Brith, we can ensure that Ottawa continues to be the greatest place to live and work."

Israeli Ambassador David Sultan, one of several ambassadors at the dinner, said, "The honourees of tonight, John and Shirley Westeinde, have succeeded in making a commendable combination of excelling in their professional life while excelling in service to their community in a deep and unselfish way to make it a better one. May you go from strength to strength."

The evening was chaired by Dr. Norman and Myrna Barwin.

Holocaust centre dedicated

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The city's Jewish community participated in the recent dedication of the Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre at the Asper Jewish Community Campus.

Financing for the centre was raised almost entirely from among Holocaust survivors and their families.

"When the campus opened in the summer of 1997, our centre wasn't part of it," said Barbara Goszer, the centre's chair.

"We were told there was no community money for us, but if we could raise the money ourselves, we would be given space in the building."

Goszer, a past chair of Winnipeg's Holocaust Awareness Committee, who was among a large group of Jewish war orphans directed to Winnipeg in the late 1940s, organized the group's fund-raising efforts.

"We did very well," she says. "Ninety-five percent of the money came from survivors, including many from out of town."

The major contributor, Hamilton businessman Zoltan Freeman, was among the orphans that came to Winnipeg, Goszer says, but he did not stay long before moving to Hamilton.

At the dedication, all contributors of $1,000 or more were honoured.

The centre is meant to fill a void in Holocaust education in Manitoba, said Goszer. It consists of photographs, a large map and other exhibits about the Holocaust. An adjoining reading room is named for the late father and son, Max and Irving Goldman.

The centre's purpose, Goszer said, is to educate students and other visitors about the Holocaust, and teach tolerance in general.

Ottawa Jewish community takes to the streets

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — They walked, they ran, and they raised money for two very worthy causes.

This year's Loblaws UJA Walkathon 2000, held in memory of the late Lawrence Greenberg with Loblaws as a major sponsor, will provide funds for the Tikvah Poverty Assistance Fund and for poverty assistance programs of the United Way.

Greenberg, a former president of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir and longtime supporter of the annual Walkathon, was killed in a car accident several months ago.

When asked to lend her husband's name to the annual event, Lynda Greenberg agreed wholeheartedly. "I was moved and honoured," she said. "This was the event of the year for Lawrence in the Jewish community. I think what made it special for him was that…it was a bringing together of the community in a fun-filled way."

Greenberg was very active with the United Way, and his cousin, Stephen Greenberg, president of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir, will carry on the tradition.

"I am humbled that I have been asked to take Lawrence's place on the board of the United Way and I have accepted," he said. "I know he would be very pleased that the funds raised today are going to two funds that were very close to his heart – the Tikvah Fund and the United Way."

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson addressed the participants at the opening ceremonies, speaking fondly of the late Lawrence Greenberg. "I had the great honour of knowing Lawrence," he said. "I think this is a wonderful tribute to him. The entire community misses Lawrence's input. This keeps his memory and the wonderful work he did on this good earth alive."

Adding to the excitement this year was a team relay organized by husband and wife team Allan and Naomi Cracower. Each five-person team had to walk or run five kilometres and each member was asked to raise at least $36.

Younger members of the community took part relays that included potato sack races, watermelon eating and human pyramids.

Volunteers kept things running smoothly throughout the day. Molly Hersh and Judith Weinman, who were seated at the registration desk before 8 a.m., explained their dedication. "We wanted to give back to the community and this is a great way to do something."

מזל טוב Mazel Tov

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Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Big sister Eden Rose would like to wish Bailee Sloane a happy second birthday, as would parents Andrea & Michael Kleinhandler.

Mazel tov to Usher & Ruth Krasowsky on their 50th wedding anniversary on June 11. With much love from your children and grandchildren.

Happy first birthday to Alyssa Polon on May 5. Love from your parents Dina & Jonathan.

Mazel tov to Albert & Victoria Sonego on their 55th anniversary. With love, your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and brothers David and Joseph.

Happy 60th wedding anniversary Frank & Yetta Lean. Your family and friends wish you many more years of health and happiness.

Congratulations to Klara & Victor Wise on their 61st anniversary. All our love, Peter, Sherri, Miriam, Michelle, David, Jamie and Dina.

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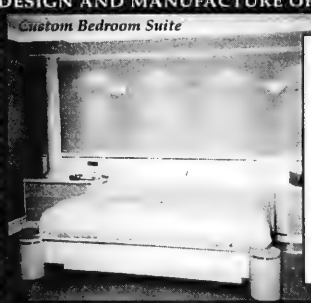

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It's hard not to love your mother-in-law

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Why are mothers-in-law the butt of so many jokes?

The situation is often so painful, the only relief you get is comic relief, says Irene Bloomstone, a lifestyle educator.

"A mother-in-law – daughter-in-law relationship is the story of two women struggling for the love of one man. The mother fears losing the love of her son, and the daughter-in-law is afraid she'll never get control. The man is the major player in the scenario. He has split loyalties, and there are often hostilities because of that," she said at a recent panel discussion sponsored by Hadassah WIZO Lev Zahav chapter.

The panel included Elise Kalles, vice-president and associate broker, Harvey Kalles Real Estate, and daughter-in-law Dana Rocket; Sharon Kroft, past president, Hadassah WIZO and daughter-in-law Marci Kroft; and Carol Seidman, national CEO, Canadian Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and mother-in-law, Shirley Seidman.

"We are all good wives and good mothers, but something happens when our sons get married. Just the title mother-in-law conjures up negative images," said Bloomstone.

There is a big difference in the relationship between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law, and mothers-in-law and sons-in-law, she said. "The former relationship is often full of conflict, especially when the mother feels her daughter-in-law is not good enough for her son."

The onus is on a mother-in-law to have realistic expectations, she said. "Go easy on your advice so you don't sound like a critic. Allow the couple some privacy, and don't pressure them about anything. There are really no rules – only guidelines. Everyone is in a different situation."

Women should not argue with their son about who he chooses to marry, said Bloomstone, "and do not be quick to blame your daughter-in-law for various things. Try to grin and bear it."

Seidman, who has been married to Shirley's son Peter for 28 years, said that at the beginning of their marriage she always felt she could not live up to the expectations of her mother-in-law. "Over the years, however, I realized that my self-esteem did not depend on her approval, and today we are friends."

Mothers-in-law need to pause before they say anything, said Shirley, "and think about whether you would want anyone to talk to you in that tone of voice."

What can we do to present ourselves well as mothers-in-law? "Hopefully, there should be good thoughts, good words, good deeds. One of the big problems women have is that we tend to let our emotions override our rationale," said Bloomstone.

It is also up to the daughter-in-law to honour the older woman, she said.

"Be in tune with the needs of your mother-in-law. If she needs to be called mom, respect that and call her mom."

NYGH to get funding

TORONTO — The Leslie and Branson sites of North York General Hospital will receive $20.8 million in capital funding for restructuring, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Elizabeth Witmer announced recently.

The funds represent the government's portion of new construction costs for both projects, she said.

The Leslie site will receive $19.1 million, which will help the hospital meet enhanced regional needs and serve more patients on an inpatient, outpatient and emergency basis.

The $1.7 million for the Branson site will be used to convert it to an ambulatory care centre, with a focus on services for seniors.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. There has been a lot of negative press around peanuts in past years; however, I was always under the impression that they are a healthful choice. Is this still believed to be true?

A. It is absolutely true. Peanuts are full of heart-healthy monounsaturated fat and are beneficial in raising HDL (good cholesterol levels). However, peanuts, like most nuts, are very high in calories and total fat, and therefore should be consumed in small amounts to prevent weight gain.

Q. I often hear that eggs are high in fat. I really enjoy poached eggs on toast for breakfast. Can you tell me exactly how much fat is in one egg.

A. Actually eggs are not that high in fat. One egg contains just under six grams of fat, about the same as can be found in a small chicken breast. Eggs are an excellent source of protein and can be enjoyed without fear. Eating them poached is an excellent way to save on any added fat from frying. If you are making a fried egg or omelet, use a non stick pan or cooking spray to eliminate a lot of fat and calories typically found in the butter added to the pan.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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See Page 45

80% of settlers would be 'historic achievement': Barak

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Barak said last Friday that Israel should consider any agreement with the Palestinians whereby 80 percent of settlers remain under Israeli sovereignty as a historical achievement.

Speaking at Labour party headquarters, Barak addressed recent criticisms levelled against him, including those by Interior Minster Natan Sharansky.

"They say that [I am] going to evacuate 40,000 settlers," Barak said. "First and foremost, we have not evacuated anyone, and wait and see – maybe we will not have to evacuate anyone.

"However," he continued, "if we reach a situation whereby, either under a framework agreement or permanent status accord, 80 percent or more of the settlers in Judea and Samaria remain in an area recognized by the rest of the world as solely Israel's, under Israeli sovereignty, we will have accomplished an historic and unique achievement."

Barak added that he hoped there would be no attempt by the Palestinians to avoid the framework agreement.

Barak's speech reflected his election promise that the majority of settlers, but not necessarily of settlements, would remain under Israeli sovereignty if and when an agreement with the Palestinians is reached.

While Israel's prime minister discussed possible final status goals concerning Jewish settlers, the London-based, Arab language, *Al Hayat* newspaper reported on Saturday that Israeli negotiators in Stockholm talks had assented to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Negotiators in the secret talks in Sweden agreed that Jerusalem will remain under Israeli sovereignty and that the majority of Palestinian refugees will not be allowed to return to their homes, *Al Hayat* wrote. According to this report, Stockholm agreements relating to major issues of Palestinian statehood, Jerusalem and refugees are still awaiting approval from Ehud Barak and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Al Hayat reported that Israeli and PA negotiators reached agreements after nine rounds of talks in Stockholm. These include:

- Jerusalem: The city is to remain under Israeli sovereignty, and to be headed by an Israeli mayor. Largely autonomous Arab municipal mechanisms will be established in sections of east Jerusalem – these municipal frameworks will be connected to the PA in areas of education, infrastructure and health.
- Refugees: With no connection to UN Resolution 194, Israel has acknowledged the principle of family reunification, which could apply to 100,000 persons. Palestinian refugees now living in Lebanon will be divided into different categories – those slated to move to Israel or the PA in accord with the family unification principle,

Fears arise for Barak's safety

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israel has increased security for its prime minister after Jewish settlers warned that Ehud Barak risks assassination if he plans to give more land to the Palestinians.

Government officials warned settlers not to encourage the same kind of atmosphere that preceded the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, when the former prime minister was vilified by right-wing nationalists.

Shlomo Riklin, a leader of the Second Generation group of young settlers, warned that Barak's "days could be numbered" if he uproots Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The group has set up outposts on West Bank hilltops to try to prevent land transfers to the Palestinians.

Barak said at Sunday's Cabinet meeting that while he respects the settlers' movement, no attack could stop the peace process.

Foreign Minister David Levy called on religious figures "to be careful in your remarks because you are spiritual leaders. Declarations which are dangerous could, God forbid, bring upon us another blow we cannot bear," Levy said.

He made the comment at a meeting with Jewish settler leaders, who were quick to denounce any incitement to violence.

"We will not support any development that will lead, God forbid, to any incitement to assassinate the prime minister or any other Israeli leaders," settler leader Pinchas Wallerstein told reporters in Jerusalem.

But, he added, "We unfortunately face a very difficult battle."

The settler leaders had asked to meet with Levy to clarify recent speculation that Barak had agreed to hand over up to 95 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinians.

Barak has denied the speculation.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was scheduled to arrive in the Middle East on Monday to try to advance Israeli-Palestinian talks as well as use her two-day visit to pave the way for a summit before the end of the month involving Barak, President Clinton and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

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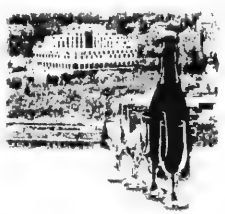

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Legislators counter court ruling

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — A week after the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that women are entitled to read from the Torah and wear prayer shawls at the Western Wall, haredi lawmakers have initiated legislation that would send to prison for seven years any women who do just that.

Last week's ruling is also under attack from the Israeli government, with the state attorney preparing a request that the decision be reconsidered on grounds that alternative sites are available and a change could lead to friction.

The case concerns Women of the Wall, a group that has been fighting for over a decade for the right to gather for prayer services at Judaism's holiest site.

Although the group includes Conservative and Reform women, its services follow Orthodox liturgy and do not recite prayers requiring a minyan, defined by Orthodoxy as 10 men.

Under the May 22 ruling, the government was given six months to arrange for police protection for the women to pray at the Kotel (the Wall).

Currently, the group is not protected, and according to a 1989 law, women worshippers who read from the Torah there are subjected to a six-month prison sentence.

The opposition to the decision, especially from the government of Ehud Barak who needs his Orthodox coalition partners to support his peace efforts, is raising questions about whether the rules for the women will actually change.

While the ruling applies specifically to Women of the Wall, it could also have implications for the Reform and Conservative movements, both of which have petitioned unsuccessfully in the past for the right to hold egalitarian services at the Kotel.

The Conservative movement recently agreed to a compromise proposed by legislator Nahum Langental, a member of the National Religious Party, whereby Women of the Wall will hold services at Robinson's Arch, a site at the southern end of the Western Wall.

In the Knesset, two bills responding to the May 22 ruling passed preliminary hearings.

One, introduced by the United Torah Judaism party and passed by a 29-17 vote, imposes a seven-year prison sentence and monetary fine on women who wear prayer shawls, read from the Torah, blow a shofar or lay tfillin at the Western Wall.

Two bills before Knesset

The other, introduced by Shas and passed by 29-25, declares that one must behave at the Kotel and surrounding plaza as if in a synagogue. It prohibits various activities, such as holding public gatherings without prior permission, wearing immodest clothing, eating, drinking, smoking, sleeping, violating Shabbat or festivals, photographing for a fee and slaughtering animals.

Legislation in the Knesset must pass three readings before it becomes law.

Knesset member Avraham Ravitz of United Torah Judaism said that in introducing the bill, the haredi legislators were trying to convey the deep injury they felt the High Court ruling had inflicted.

He said the jail term was secondary.

In response, Knesset member Naomi Hazan of the left-wing Meretz party, introduced a counterbill to legislate free worship at the Western Wall.

Hazan accused the United Torah Jewish bill of equating Israel with fundamentalist Iran.

"The Western Wall belongs to all Jews, to men and women, to haredi, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and even secular Jews who come to the wall to pray there every once in a while when they feel the need," Hazan told Israel Radio.

Reform and Conservative leaders and Women of the Wall activists in the United States and Canada joined Hazan in condemning the haredi parties' proposed legislation.

Rabbi Dow Marmur, spiritual leader of Holy Blossom Temple said, "It is ironic that Jews are imitating the ayatollahs of the world. Fanaticism makes you ape your worst enemies."

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, said the proposed legislation shows the extent to which the perceived threat of change from within is so powerful.

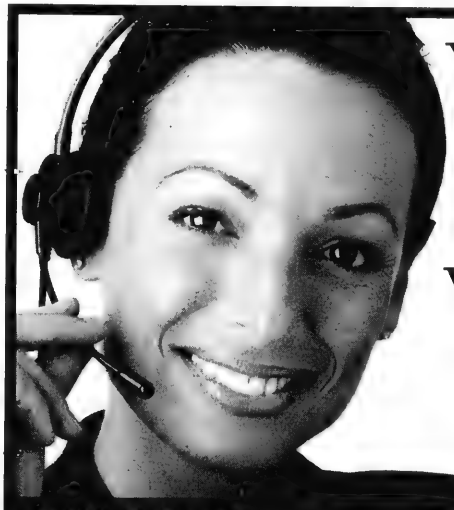
"Here is a group of dedicated committed Jewish women from across the denominational spectrum seeking more Jewish involvement and a deeper Jewish prayer experience, and another group is suggesting they should go to jail," she said.

Rabbi Dovid Schochet, president of Vaad Harabanim, the association of Orthodox rabbis in Southern Ontario said the "facts are, when women enter an Orthodox synagogue and go to where the men are standing, it makes it impossible for men to pray.

"[To make such a change] at the Wall, would make it impossible for Orthodox Jews to pray. The women, however, should not be imprisoned. There should be a mechanism in place to force the women to leave."

In related news, women who gathered at the Western Wall last week took it as a good sign that they were able to hold a prayer service without any major incident. Members of Women of the Wall say they are optimistic that the government will carry out the ruling that allows them to pray at the Wall.

With files from Carolyn Blackman.



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The Week in Israel

May 29

• Israeli media reported that Syria acquired new 700-km range SCUD missiles from North Korea. The missiles are capable of hitting the main population centres in Israel.

• Prime Minister Ehud Barak risks being assassinated if he uproots Jewish communities in the West Bank and Gaza, a leader of one of the communities said. If Barak carries "out this dangerous plan, his days could be numbered," Shlomo Riklin said in a radio interview.

May 30

• Transportation Minister Yitzhak Mordechai resigned from the cabinet, but will continue to serve as a member of the Knesset.

May 31

• IDF troops accompanying a convoy of settlers in the Gaza Strip narrowly avoided a terrorist bombing. The convoy was making its way toward the community of Netzarim when the troops noticed a suspicious object on the road. They turned the convoy around before the bomb exploded. No one was hurt.

• Fifteen factories have found jobs for some 100 members of the former South Lebanese Army, the head of the Israel Manufacturer's Association said. Oded Tira said he expects more Israeli businesses to follow.

• Turkey agreed to a joint Israeli-U.S. request to monitor Iranian planes using Turkish airspace en route to Syria, Israel Radio reported. Israeli and U.S. officials filed their request in an attempt to prevent the transfer of Iranian weapons to Syria.

June 1

• Barak and U.S. President Bill Clinton discussed Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and prospects for reviving talks with Syria during their meeting in Lisbon.

• The government approved construction of another 76 housing units in the Golan Heights town of Katzrin.

June 2

• El Al Airlines announced it will offer airline tickets for sale over the Internet starting July 1.

Files from JTA

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Nominations from across Canada are invited from organizations or individuals, together with a brief profile and biography.

NOMINATION FORM
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Address: _____
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Phone (day): (___) _____ Phone (evening): (___) _____
Fax: (___) _____ E-mail: _____

Attach a short description of nominee's background. Guidelines: a brief description of the nominee which may include biographical information, accomplishments and contribution to Canada.

I Agree to be a Nominee:
Signature: _____

Name of Nominating Organization or Individual: _____
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Nominations should be forwarded to: *BY MAIL*: Zachor Adjudication Committee, c/o Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, 970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211, Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B6; *or BY FAX:* (416) 785-4536.

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Palestinians in Lebanon key issue for peace

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

It was once an article of faith that Lebanon would be the second Arab country to make peace with Israel. Whatever credibility this theory had vanished when Jordan, following Egypt's 1979 lead, signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1995. Five years on, Lebanon is still in no position to decide its own fate, due to the fact that, as a protectorate of Syria, it lacks the freedom to conduct an independent foreign policy.

Yet even if Syria is factored out of the equation, an unlikely scenario in the foreseeable future, Lebanon will probably drive a hard bargain when it is finally ready to deal with Israel on a face-to-face basis.

Apart from Syrian interference, the toughest hurdle confronting the two countries in direct negotiations would be the presence of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Emile Lahoud, Lebanon's president, alluded to this difficulty recently in connection with Israel's withdrawal from its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon. He warned that Lebanon would not guarantee Israel peace along its northern border until Israel seriously addressed the Palestinian refugee problem.

As far as Lebanon is concerned, this is an issue for Israel to solve at its own expense, since the refugees were originally inhabitants of Palestine. But, as Prime Minister Ehud Barak has repeatedly indicated, Israel will not absorb these Palestinians.

Consequently, Lebanon appears stuck with the refugees, as it has been since their displacement during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

By all accounts, 125,000 Palestinian Arabs, mainly from the coastal plain and the Galilee, fled to Lebanon. The Lebanese government has always regarded the Palestinians as temporary residents who should be repatriated to their former homes, the sooner the better.

Lebanon's attitude has not changed. It considers the Palestinians as an "implantation" who should be rooted out of its soil. As Fares Bouez, the foreign minister, put it in a newspaper interview recently: "Lebanon was never before, nor is it now capable of dealing with this large number of Palestinians. It is not right to try to resolve the Palestinian problem by creating a Lebanese one."

There are about 350,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, comprising 10 percent of the population, and living in some 35 squalid camps administered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. All but approximately 60,000 of the Palestinians, mainly Christians, are stateless, bereft of citizenship and basic rights, barred from numerous professions, and required to obtain special permits even as menial labourers. Due to these onerous restrictions, the Palestinian Authority, headed by Yasser Arafat, has accused Lebanon of conducting a "policy of racial discrimination" against Palestinians in Lebanon. Oblivious to such charges, Lebanon has no intention of naturalizing the refugees.

Lebanon's hard line is a function of the delicate sectarian balance which prevails in Lebanon. The vast majority of Palestinians are Sunni Muslims, and if they become citizens, the balance between Lebanese Muslims (58 percent) and Christians (42 percent) would collapse and religious tensions would flare yet again. Mainstream politicians in Lebanon do not want to tinker with this potential political timebomb.

For the Lebanese Christians in particular, the conferral of citizenship on Palestinians would be a betrayal. During the second Lebanese civil war (1975-1991), the Palestinians, much to the Christians' fury, sided with the Muslims. The embattled Christians are not likely to forgive the Palestinians any time soon.

The Palestinians are also perceived as a destabilizing force. The Lebanese have not forgotten that the PLO, from the late 1960s to the early 1980s, provoked endless strife with Israel. Nor have they forgotten the 1985 "war of the camps," which pit the Palestinians against the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal militia.

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Early registration deadline extended to July 7, 2000
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Canadian Friends of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem invite you to a luncheon honouring Aharon Barak, President, Supreme Court of Israel — Thursday, June 15, at 12 noon. For more information call 416-485-8000.

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Simmonds' take on 'starving actors' wins him award

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

TORONTO — It's an old cliche that many actors are starving and desperate for work. Winnipeg-born actor and writer Benson Simmonds' take on this theme recently won him a Leo for best performance in a short drama.

The Leos are Vancouver's biggest film and television awards. Simmonds' film, *Applaud or Die*, a black comedy, was also nominated for best screenplay and best short drama.

"The award was great because acting is my passion," Simmonds said from Vancouver, a few days after winning the award. "Acting is the kind of thing that's in my blood and I can't push it aside, but I do tend to write as well."

In *Applaud or Die*, Simmonds plays a struggling actor determined to prove he can act. He accosts a woman on the street and forces her at gunpoint to watch him act. The many twists-and-turns in this 11-minute movie eventually lead to tragic consequences.

Simmonds, who wrote the screenplay, was in New York a few years ago when the idea came to him. "I remember thinking that if I don't get some acting work soon I'm going to mug someone and force them to watch me act," he said.

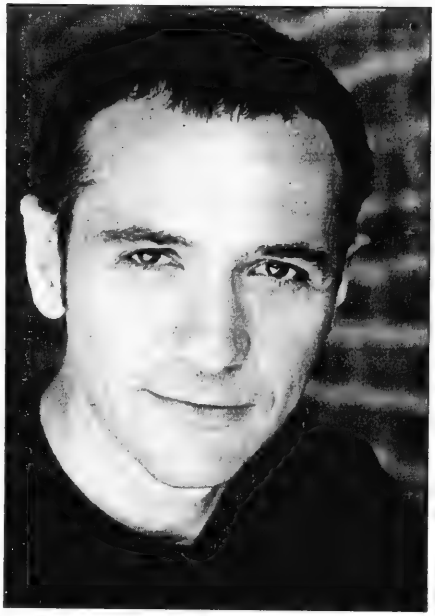
"I thought it was a funny idea and used it as a comic monologue in theatre before developing it as a screenplay."

Simmonds raised money for this film from his shul in Vancouver, Beth Hamidrash, donating 10 percent of the funds back to the shul's charity.

"Any profits, should we make any, would go back to the synagogue," he said. Simmonds also received financial backing from Toronto businessman Gerald Schwartz.

Simmonds, 40, has acted in many low-budget independent films, plus some TV films and movies. Although he enjoys starring in independent films, he would love to make it big.

"My goal with this film was to make a good film that would allow me to show my talent. I would really love to work with great directors like Martin Scorcese."



Benson Simmonds

He admits he's in a tough profession. Many great actors, he said, fall through the cracks waiting to be discovered.

"I think it's difficult for any actor to break through. The difficulty in this business is getting people to see your work. It's a wonderful business but it can be a very superficial one."

Until he achieves his breakthrough, which he's confident he will, Simmonds will continue to work on his own projects. His current one goes under the working title *The Adventures of a Neurotic, Jewish Intellectual Action Hero.*

"What I'm proud of is that if I can't find work, I'm going to make work for myself and others.

"If you have a vision, then with determination you can make it happen."

Applaud or Die will air on CBC's *Canadian Reflections* June 18 at 11:30 p.m.

Chazzanim delight audience with rich, varied repertoire

BY MORDECHAI BEN-DAT

TORONTO — After Lag b'Omer, the music and celebratory public performances return to the community's calendar like a burst of sun after many days of prolonged cloud.

Last week, the warm musical rays of sun shone very brightly as the post-Lag b'Omer season of song was inaugurated with the presentation by the Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation in Toronto of the ninth annual Yom Yerushalayim Festive Concert of Song and Joy.

The main performers were a trio of talented chazzanim: Aaron Bensoussan of the Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue, Louis Danto, recently retired from Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue, and Yehuda Rottner of the hosting synagogue.

With distinctively contrasting voices and styles, the three chazzanim entertained the attentive and appreciative audience with a rich, varied repertoire of liturgy, ballad and popular song.

The much revered, "elder" and mentor of the trio, Louis Danto, sang in sure, steady tones in the bel canto voice that has been his longtime signature trademark.

His presentation was the most traditional. The mini-medley of *Me'al Pisgat Har Hatsofim* and *Im Eshcecheich* was particularly powerful, and the interplay with the choir in *Retzei* was an evocative, solid chanting of a familiar prayer from the Shmoneh Esrai.

The smooth and affable Rottner flexed his cantorial "muscle" with an inspiring rendition of *Mipnei Chataeinu,* of which the concluding crescendo stirred the audience to rousing chants of bravo. He also offered up a poignant pleading in the popular song *Bring Him Home* from the musical *Les Miserables.*

Bensoussan, was a virtual dynamo of physical and musical energy. Exhorting the audience with movements, gestures and musical flourishes to join in the emotions of the songs, he dared to cross more boldly into the non-traditional territory between chazzan and balladeer. And the audience responded with enthusiasm and favour.

The program featured three of his own compositions: *D'ror Yikra, Shalom Aleichem* and *Ani Ma'amin,* each an effusive, lively statement, capturing the almost sensuous joy of the Sephardi tradition.

The evening began with the joining of the three men's voices in a moving chassidic nigun entitled *Yizkor.* Introduced with the single, aching strain of a solo violin, the chazzanim then picked up the uncomplicated but haunting melody and worked it to a striking lament, and then joined by the choir and the keyboard, they transformed it into a rallying cry of harmony and inspiration.

In addition to the musical talents of the three chazzanim, the audience was treated to the mesmerizing basso profundo performance of Nicolai Tcherkasov who sang Gremin's aria from *Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky, and to the controlled soprano singing of Ravel's unique version of Kaddish by Ramona Carmelly.

The performers were significantly aided during the evening by the accompaniment of The Muskat Symphony under the direction of Lyle Muskat.

The Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Choir lent its considerable musical weight to the concert as well. It was a musically rewarding evening.

***

The Toronto Heschel School, the arts-based, multi-sensory Jewish Day School, that has quickly established an international renown for its innovative, all-encompassing approach to Jewish education, last week presented An Evening of Sholom Aleichem.

Murray Horwitz, the gifted writer/actor/playwright performed marvelously. Culled from Aleichem's writings, the "storyline" touched upon the bittersweet experiences of the poor Kasrilevke Jew, whether engaged in the "ordinary" life of his village, visiting one of Rothschild bankers in Paris, or travelling in third-class car on the Russian railroad.

Perhaps the most poignant moment in the play was its finale, as Horwitz read from Aleichem's last will and testament.

The single person monologue was a demanding role. Yet Horwitz delivered a tender, moving portraiture of the life, times and works of the legendary Aleichem.

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What could happen? How will amalgamation affect your taxes, your services, your accessability to City Hall ...?

Tell us what you think! Attend one of these public meetings:

- **Ward 1, Thursday, May 25, 7:30 p.m., Maple Community Centre, 10190 Keele St.**
- **Ward 2, Monday, May 29, 7:30 p.m., Woodbridge Memorial Arena, 5020 Highway 7, at Islington**
- **Ward 3, Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m., Chancellor Community Centre, 350 Ansley Grove Rd.**
- **Ward 4, Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m., Dufferin Clark Community Centre, 1441 Clark Ave. W.**
- **Ward 5, Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m., Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 501 Clark Ave. W.**
- **Full Council Public Meeting, Thursday, June 22, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Vaughan Civic Centre**

Written submissions are also encouraged and should be addressed to the City Clerk no later than June 15, 2000.

For more information visit the City Web Site: www.city.vaughan.on.ca under "Top Stories", or contact the City Clerk's Department.

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Arts & Travel

Film editor's documentary pays tribute to her mother

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Toronto film editor Valerie Weiss has ventured to the other side of the camera to write, produce, direct and edit her first independent documentary, *Timepiece*. Her protean talents have paid off handsomely, except for one irony: The film could have stood some more judicious editing.

Timepiece, which premiered June 3 at the National Film Board (150 John St.) is a dreamy, daring little film, barely an hour long, that is a study in juxtapositions. Weiss has recorded the oral Holocaust reminiscences of her mother, who includes the fate of her own parents. But instead of scripting all that over standard stock war-era footage, Weiss shows a collage of scratchy, 8-mm colour home movies taken by her vacationing parents and stark, black-and-white shots of her own modern-day Toronto.

It's a departure from what one might expect from a film whose script, at least, could have come straight out of an interview for Stephen Spielberg's *Survivors of the Shoah Visual History* project, which recorded thousands of survivor testimonies around the world.

In using visuals that stand in contrast to what we hear from her mother Susan Weiss, 35-year-old Valerie Weiss has created a disorienting atmosphere. The horrors of war-time Budapest we hear jar with grainy shots of happy people on a beach and shaky images of kids in a Toronto schoolyard. Past and present blur as the horror stories reach a crescendo. The incongruity is furthered by some truly spooky music composed by Donald Quan.

Susan Balkany Weiss was a young girl when the Nazis invaded Hungary in the spring of 1944. Jews were quickly stripped of their rights. That she escaped deportation to Auschwitz was a miracle.

Because she was hidden in a Budapest apartment building, sound became important to her; the slightest stir could have aroused suspicions; heavy footsteps were cause for panic. Her daughter plays on that; each mention of a slamming door or discomfiting noise is accompanied by well-timed visuals that limn the sounds.

The film is also a daughter's tribute to her mother, an attempt to understand her mother's experiences. According to Valerie Weiss, it's also supposed to show how the Holocaust continues to affect her own life, although that's not readily apparent.

And after about 40 minutes, we get the message. The film could have been much tighter. It was, however, "the toughest editing job I've ever done," Weiss says. "But it also taught me a lot. The whole experience really humbled me."

Running as a motif throughout *Timepiece* is the filmmaker's grandfather's pocket watch, which she has inherited. Like the timepiece, the Holocaust too is an inheritance, something that can be passed down to future generations.

Weiss has regarded her birthright from a different angle, but with deference.

Medina Ensemble presents three plays

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When scenes from three famous plays are presented at Earl Bales Park Community Centre on June 15 at 7:30 p.m., it will bring special satisfaction to director Roselle Stone, a co-founder of Medina Theatre Ensemble.

In addition to viewing the performance on a pay what you can basis, the public is invited to the banquet hall of the centre to see the fruits of a workshop run by the veteran actor for the past three years.

This year Stone is directing scenes from *Brighton Beach Memoirs* by Neil Simon, *The Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen and *Second Time Around* by Henry Denker.

This third annual presentation of Scenecraft Presents is a high-water mark for Stone who performed as an eight-year-old for Maurice Schwartz at the old Jewish Theatre on Spadina Avenue. Her parents took her to The Standard often and Stone, who sat in the front row, cried so lustily at Schwartz's histrionics that he cast her in a play later.

This began a career that saw her appear in several stage hits, in TV commercials and in movies with Sylvia Sydney and Shirley Maclaine.

The other Medina founders in 1982 were the late Ben Lennick and his wife Sylvia, Carol and Sid Libman, Fran Biderman Elliot, and Irving Hoffman. Medina has presented programs of full productions and dramatic readings for many organizations since then.

Some of the city's best known theatre personalities have been Medina's directors, speakers and teachers.

This time, the following members of Medina will take part in the June 15 presentation: Varda Shomromy, Joe Starr, Julie Clark, Marty Koven, Oscar Goodman, Susan Harssar, Trudi Deacon, Morris Jacobs, Eric Walton, Esther Rine, Lois Linett, Morris Nusyna, Mirabel Haneford, Fran Elliot, Charlene Zacks and Kay Sandy.

"Though these will be dramatic readings, the actors should deliver their lines in a way that the audience will think they are seeing a full production," Stone said.

One of the highlights of her long career, she said was writing a prize-winning short story awarded $200 and published by the *Toronto Star* to celebrate Toronto's sesquicentennial in 1983. It was based on her true experience of being sent to Kensington market by her mother to get Passover pickles.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

JEWISH FILM SOCIETY SCREENS *UNCLE MOSES*

The Toronto Jewish Film Society screens the Yiddish film classic *Uncle Moses* June 11 at the Art Gallery of Ontario's Jackman Hall.

Rich sweatshop owner "Uncle" Moses is the opposite of his biblical counterpart. He brings his Polish landsmen from relative freedom in the shtetl to a life of hard work in his clothing factory in New York's Lower East Side. But when the workers form a union and his wife rebels, Moses discovers that "his people" need freedom.

Shlomo Schwartzberg of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival is scheduled to introduce the film, which stars Yiddish theatre great **Maurice Schwartz**. The short film *Needle 'n Tread* (1999) is also on the programme, which is being co-presented with Friends of Yiddish.

Screenings are at 5:15 and 7:45 p.m. Single tickets ($8) may be purchased at the door, 15 minutes before each screening. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Temple Sinai Concert: As part of the Our Musical Legacy series, Temple Sinai Congregation presents violist **Rebecca Gitter**, winner of the Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award for 2000. Gitter, accompanied by **Susan Archibald**, performs works from the classical repertoire and by Jewish composers. Free admission, all welcome. June 14, 8 p.m. 210 Wilson Ave. 416-487-4161.

* * *

Yiddish Reggae on Bloor: A street festival featuring live music, street performers, children's entertainment, arts and crafts and more is set to close Bloor Street West to traffic from Spadina to Bathurst, June 11, noon to 6 p.m.

Talent includes rockabilly sensations **The Royal Crowns**, Jerusalem/Jamaica fusion **Kedushah** playing "Yiddish reggae," and **Billy Blastoff**. 416-538-2683.

* * *

Music In the Park: The Choralairs perform a variety of Broadway, pop and folksongs at their 38th closing concert. June 11, 2 to 4 p.m. Social Hall, Earl Bales Park Community Centre, Bathurst and Sheppard area.

The proceeds of raffle tickets, available for $1, enable the group to continue operating. It has performed in nursing homes and seniors' residences for 38 years. New members welcome. Fay Cohen, 416-633-7233, or Judy Gordon, 416-221-3161.

* * *

Literary Evening: Israel's Bookstore presents a reading with author **Nora Gold**. June 11, 8 p.m. Admission free; refreshments. 897 Eglinton Ave. W. (west of Bathurst). 416-256-1010.

* * *

Roselle Stone

Dramatic Scenes: Medina Theatre Ensemble's fourth annual Evening of Scenes presents scenes from **Neil Simon's** *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and **Henrik Ibsen's** *A Doll's House*, directed by **Roselle Stone**. June 15, 7:30 p.m. Admission, pay what you can. Earl Bales Park, Community Centre.

* * *

Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance: The Cranbrooke Friendship Club presents An Afternoon of Singing & Dancing, featuring **Shelley Gordon**, a specialist in recreational dance, music, games and dramatics. Included are Yiddish, Hebrew and Russian folksongs, and gentle dancing.

The Club is a seniors' organization affiliated with the Winchevsky Centre and the United Jewish People's Order. June 12, 12:30 p.m. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $5 admission includes lunch. 416-789-5502.

* * *

Mount Sinai Gala: Singer **Donna Summer** performs at the National Trade Centre as the Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary presents Gala 2000, sponsored by CIBC World Markets. Proceeds from this black-tie event go to support the new Centre for Mothers' and Infants' Health at Mount Sinai. The evening includes dinner, a live and silent auction, and a raffle for a 2000 Oldsmobile Alero donated by General Motors. June 15. 416-586-8290.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Sandra Ainsley Gallery is exhibiting new work by Canadian glass artist **Ronald Labelle**, and new work by American glass artist **Jon Kuhn**. Exchange Tower, Lobby Level, 130 King St. W. 416-362-4480.

• Odon Wagner Gallery present a collection of 31 rare etchings by **Rembrandt**, June 9 to July 5. 196 Davenport Rd. 416-962-0438.

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Arts & Travel

NYC museums document Jewish history and tradition

By MYRIAM SHECHTER
Special to The CJN

NEW YORK — It has been said that you can find everything in New York.

Indeed, New York City has not only one, but two museums with Jewish content, which complement each other in appearance, exhibits and even location, giving the visitor a well-rounded look into Jewish life, history, traditions, art and culture.

The Jewish Museum, located on Fifth Avenue along Central Park, houses exhibits of painting and sculpture by Jewish artists, as well as various art objects from ancient and more recent Jewish history.

This exquisite chateau-style former residence of Felix M. Warburg, financier and leader of the Jewish community, has one of the world's largest collections of Jewish fine and ceremonial art.

The museum's permanent exhibition, Culture and Continuity: The Jewish Journey – reflecting Jewish culture and history through art, archeology, ceremonial objects, audio, video and interactive media – occupies the third and fourth floors, sharing them with a Resource Centre, the Children's Gallery and the Bronfman Education Centre.

I was especially intrigued by an interactive Talmud, where visitors enter debates with rabbis and scholars on various Jewish topics. I joined a lively computerized discussion on the Beginning of Life, which led to a debate on whether and when a fetus is "life."

The Jewish Museum in New York. [Robert Shechter photo]

The Museum of Jewish Heritage. [Robert Shechter photo]

The second floor houses a number of culturally significant temporary exhibits.

At the time of my visit, these were: Paris in New York – Jewish artists' work owned by private New York art collectors, featuring painting and sculpture by predominantly Eastern European Jews who were working in Paris, such as Chagall, Delaunay, Lipschitz, Modigliani, and others (through June 25); Anni Albers – the pre-eminent textile designer of the 20th century (through Aug. 20); Pickles and Pomegranates: Jewish Homes Near and Far – an interactive exhibition for children and families (through October 2000).

I concluded my visit with George Segal's powerful 1982 sculpture *The Holocaust*: an inmate stands behind barbed wire, the floor behind him strewn with corpses.

A chilly reminder of our recent history, it was a preparation for The Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. This museum occupies a modern structure at the southern tip of Manhattan, in full view of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. It focuses on the history of the Jewish people from about 1880 until present times.

The six-sided structure is organized in three sections: On the first floor, Jewish Life a Century Ago evokes the vitality and richness of the Jewish world from 1880 to about 1930. On the second floor, The War Against the Jews looks at the period of the Holocaust. Communities regrouping after the war and reviving their heritage and traditions are the focus of the third-floor exhibit Jewish Renewal.

Well-documented with images, artifacts and original films – mostly personal testimonies from Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation – the museum touches on universal themes, such as tradition, tragedy, joy, horror and the quest for human dignity.

At times, I could not look at the poignant exhibits, as I was trying to comprehend the incomprehensible (actually, the guide advises not to take children to some areas of the museum). However, it all came together when I looked through the guest book, where visitors from all around the world shared their impressions in English, Spanish, Russian, Hebrew and even Japanese.

Before leaving, I read the words engraved in the lobby of the museum, words which are at the heart of this living memorial to the Holocaust: "Remember… never forget," and just below that: "There is hope for your future." And I remembered the quote that I read in the uptown Jewish Museum: "Tell your children about it, and let your children tell theirs, and their children the next generations."

The Jewish Museum: 1109 Fifth Ave at 92nd St. New York, N.Y. 10128, tel: 212-423-3200. Web site: www.thejewish museum.org. Museum of Jewish Heritage: 18 First Place, Battery Park City, New York, N.Y. 10280, tel: 212-968-1800. Web site: www.mjhnyc.org.

CORRECTION

The phone number for The Show of Hands Gallery in the article "Judaica 2000 looks ahead to the art of the millennium" (CJN May 18, page 37) was incorrect. The number is 416-782-1696. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Actor glad audience can't throw tomatoes

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Actor Paul Braunstein relishes his role as a villain in the musical *The Crimson Veil*, but he's glad the theatre's rules don't allow the audience to throw rotten tomatoes at him.

"I do my best to prevent the hero from getting his true love, but in the end they succeed," he said.

The Crimson Veil, the last production of the Factory Theatre season runs from June 8 to July 9. It is directed by Leah Cherniak of Theatre Columbus.

Inspired by Italian folk tales, the musical by Canadian Allen Cole, may well remind its viewers of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

The Crimson Veil is a romantic story of love in an enchanted forest filled with the magic of myth and the passion of mortals. It features four musicians.

Braunstein, 27, who plays the evil fairy Tick, is the son of Jeff Braunstein, 54, former actor and now president of Astirex Productions, and Maja Ardal, artistic director of Young People's Theatre for seven years, who now writes and acts.

A professional performer since the age of 18, Braunstein said, "This is the first time I've done a true musical and I find the role a great challenge."

Since he sings and plays the drums, he is well suited for a musical.

He played leading roles last year in *Kilt* at the Tarragon in Toronto and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* in Victoria and Calgary.

Director identifies with his film's characters

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Almost a decade ago, when Paul Morrison was researching *A Sense of Belonging*, his documentary series about British Jews, he found himself at an exhibit at Cardiff's Welsh Folk Museum about now-defunct synagogues in the coal mining valleys of Wales.

"I loved the picture it conjured up for me, of these black-coated and bearded Lithuanian Jewish immigrants juxtaposed against the also hard-working, God-fearing chapel mining community," he said in an interview. "It seemed a juxtaposition pregnant with possibility."

And so the idea for *Solomon and Gaenor*, a film which opened in Toronto last week, was born.

Last year's Oscar nominee for best foreign film, *Solomon and Gaenor* concerns a doomed love affair in one of those isolated valleys. It is set in 1911 against the backdrop of the anti-Semitic Tredegar riots.

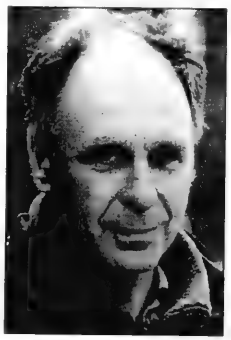
"Right from the beginning I intended it as a love story," explained Morrison, who wrote and directed the film. "I am married to someone non-Jewish, and this theme of cross-cultural love is close to my heart and experience. I never thought it would turn out quite as romantic as it did. Stories have their own way of taking us over as writers and directors."

Morrison, 55, filmed two versions of *Solomon and Gaenor*, one mainly in Welsh and one mostly in English, on an extremely tight budget.

Recalling the shoot, he said, "It rained a lot during the filming. Every shot lost through rain would be a shot I wouldn't be able to recoup elsewhere. There just wasn't the give in the schedule. But I had a great cast and crew, and there was a great spirit on the shoot, and all these problems were somehow overcome."

Asked about the Tredegar riots, Morrison said that, while they claimed no lives, they resulted in property damage.

"They were serious enough for Winston Churchill, then a young home secretary, to send in the troops. Nobody really knows what caused the riots, other than, as the film shows, the hardships of a long mining strike, and possible and untrue rumours of Jewish landlords raising rents. In fact, there were very few Jewish landlords. The main ones were the mine owners."



Paul Morrison

By his estimate, Wales was home to some 30,000 Jews, 3,000 in the valleys, in 1911.

"Today, there are scarcely any Jews left in the valleys. There is still a substantial community in Cardiff, but numbers are declining in the other towns."

As a result, synagogues have been sold and put to different uses. "The synagogue in Merthyr Tydfill is now a gym. The one in Pontypridd has been converted to flats. Sad."

Raised in London, Morrison can identify with the Jewish characters in *Solomon and Gaenor*, notably Issac and Rezl, who vehemently oppose their son Solomon's romance with a Welsh Baptist woman named Gaenor.

In Russia, Morrison's grandfathers on both sides were sign-writers. They immigrated to Britain in the early 20th century and owned photography businesses for awhile.

When business slacked off, Morrison's mother's father tried the fur trade, and when he went bankrupt, his wife set up what became a successful haberdashery shop in London's Camden Town district.

"That was most like Rezl and Isaac's shop in the movie. I always felt I knew what the Jewish side of the story was like. The challenge for me was to imagine the Welsh side."

Morrison, whose father was an architect and whose mother was a lecturer in art history, grew up in the shadow of anti-Semitism.

"My private school had a Jewish quota when I first went there. And there was quite a lot of more or less overt anti-Semitism. Looking back, though, what hurt most wasn't the swastikas on the walls or the fact that the Jewish kids got bullied, but the school's disinterest and unwillingness to acknowledge our Jewishness.

"It was as though being Jewish was somehow shameful and you didn't talk about it. This was the days before multiculturalism. It would be very different now."

Apart from being a filmmaker, Morrison is a practising psychotherapist. "The film world can be a pretty crazy one, and psychotherapy keeps me grounded and humble."

Morrison, who started as a documentary filmmaker, is working on several new projects: "One is about a Jewish kid growing up in south London in the 1950s who loves cricket, but isn't good at it. The first West Indian family moves in next door, throwing the family into turmoil. You have to guess what happens next."

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ROMANTIC AT HEART
Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people Seeks female similar qualities and interests. AD#1388

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography. Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with. AD#1038

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family. AD#1370

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WANTS FAMILY LIFE
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LYTTON PARK – $899,000.
Inviting centre hall w/gorgeous panelling; leaded windows; 5+ bdrms. Main floor powder rm. + den w/walk-out to deck. Updated kitchen. Fin. lower level. CAC. Double garage. *Ruth Kerbel.

• • •

FOREST HILL TUDOR – $899,000.
Lovely 5 bdrm. home w/traditional wood & leaded glass. Large kitchen & brkfst rm. Main floor family rm. & powder rm. Multi fireplaces. Skylight. CAC. Private drive & garage. *Donna Taylor.

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TWO FAMILY HOME – $898,000.
Stunning residence. Each level features 2 bdrms., eat-in kitchen, den, gas fireplace, central air conditioning. Finished lower level. Private drive & double garage. *Susan Copeland.

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ROSEHILL PENTHOUSE – $895,000.
Extraordinary suite. Approx. 3,000 sq. ft. Master suite w/sitting area & huge walk-in closet. Built-ins galore. Fireplace. Skylight. Elevator into suite. 2 parking spots. *Ruth Kerbel.

• • •

FOREST HILL BUNGALOW – $419,000.
Stone front Tudor on 40 ft. front. 3 bdrms. Reno'd kitchen. Central air. Private drive, attached garage. Perfect for move-in, top-up or build new. Call **Don Wagman.

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YONGE/ST. CLAIR - $398,000.
Wonderful corner suite w/balcony. 2 bdrms. CAC. Parking. 24 hr. conc. Walk to shops, park & subway. *Linda Rose.

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BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS - $368,800.
Desirable 3 bdrm. Townhouse offers soaring ceiling in living rm. Fireplace. CAC. Backs on quiet parkette. Private drive & garage. *Dominique Fuseau.

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FOREST HILL TUDOR - $598,000.
Handsome 4+ bdrm. Modern kitchen & breakfast rm. Updated baths. Leaded windows, wainscotting, fireplace. Private drive & built-in garage. *Carol Cotton. SOLD

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BATHURST/LAWRENCE – $589,000.
Exquisite (1 yr.) new home. 4+ bdrms. Maple kitchen w/walk-out to deck. Main floor family rm. Crown mouldings, fireplace, central air. Private drive & garage. *Ruth Kerbel. SOLD

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* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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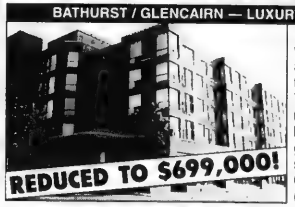
BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — LUXURY CONDO



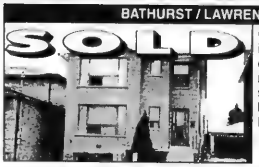
Penthouse suite with 10 ft. ceilings, approx. 2,200 sq. ft., 2 bdrms. + den, 70 oz. broadloom, marble foyer, loaded with upgrades. Priced to sell at $699,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

UPPER FOREST HILL VILLAGE — NEW LISTING!
Majestic & elegant! 4 + 2 bdrms., family-size modern kitchen, family room, large principal rooms. Ideal for entertaining, custom features throughout, floating spiral staircase, 2 central air zones +++. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!
Spacious 3 + 1 bdrm. ranch bungalow, modern family-size kitchen, w/o to deck from family room, huge rec. room in basement, asking $399,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Custom-built 4 bdrm., family room, hardwood floors on 2 levels, finished basement, fireplaces, family-size kitchen, prime central location. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712. SOLD

AVENUE ROAD / BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!
Brand new custom-built luxury home to be built, pre-construction price. Prestigious Bedford Park! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN
Brand new custom home, luxurious 4 + 2 bdrms., dramatic open concept, family room, maple hardwood floors, dream maple kitchen. **A MUST SEE!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

CLANTON PARK — HOME RENTAL
Spacious 5 + 1 bedroom back-split, renovated & decorated, new appliances, sep. entry to in-law suite, prime central location. Asking $2,050 / month. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

ALAN NEWTON
REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

OLDE THORNHILL CUL-DE-SAC $650,000
Gorgeous property off Thornridge! Build or renovate. Motivated Vendors. *Saryl Spector

• • •

BATHURST-ATKINSON - VALUE++
Large 4 bdrm., double garage, white kitchen with walk-out, appliances, all large rms. Built by "Windemere". *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-ATKINSON - PREMIUM LOT
Fab. 4 bdrm., main flr. library & fam. rm., fin. bsmnt., gourmet kit, extras galore, on demand crescent. Must see! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK - OVER 4,000 SQ. FT.
2 Kosher kitchens, finished basement apartment, 5+1 bedrooms, walk to synagogue. Stunning home! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK "SPRING FARM" HOME
Beautiful decor! 4 bdrms., fin. basement, new windows, new kitchen, inground swimming pool & more! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK - 1ST AD!
Lovely 4 bdrm., parquet flrs. throughout, liv. & din. room combo, interlock walkway & patio, great house! *Carey Rosenzweig

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BATHURST-STEELES $365,000
4 level backsplit with inground concrete pool! Reno. kit., ensuite bath, lrge. family room. with walk-out to garden! *Helen Gould

• • •

"ROSEDALE NORTH" BATHURST & CENTRE
Stunning 3 bdrm., strip hrdwd. flrs., walk-out bsmnt. Located on desirable street! Just reduced - must see! *Carey Rosenzweig

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BATHURST-CLARK $319,900
Gorgeous 4 bedroom, finished basement, kosher kitchen, new addition at rear. *Larry Wronzberg

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BATHURST-STEELES - REDUCED TO $244,900!
Motivated Vendors - must sell!! Beautiful, bright 3 bedroom home, wood floors, Close to TTC & Parks. *Larry Wronzberg

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-CENTRE $189,000
Fabulous 2 bedroom, 2 car parking, large walk-in laundry room, built-in's, west exposure, great decor! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-WILSON - ONLY $139,900!
2 bedroom condo, 2 baths, close to TTC & everything! Why rent? *Mary Fenyes

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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1ST AD! GOVERNOR'S HILL $299,000
Elegant condo - approx. 1,200 sq. ft., marble foyer and baths, jacuzzi, california shutters. Call Natalie Kopman* ext. 521

1ST AD! BATHURST/GLENCAIRN
Superb family home, 3 bdrms., 4 baths, skylight, fin. low. lev., modern kit. Great lot. $349,000. Natalie Kopman* ext. 521

NEW LISTING! ALEXANDRA WOOD!
Superb 5 bdrm., centre hall on sought Otter block! 3rd flr. pot., dble. gar., updated C.A.C. +++. $1,150K. M. Rosen* ext. 294

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - BRAND NEW!
Fantastic value for this 5 bdrm., 5 bath hm. on a lrg. lot. Exceptional finishings, hrdwd., granite etc. J. Solomon* ext. 305

A LOVELY HOME FOR YOUR FAMILY
Bathurst/Lawrence, 2 stry., 3 bdrms., lrge. DR & LR, fin. bsmnt., sep. ent., cac, 45'x120', exc. street! Diane Litchen* ext. 249

$499,000 BANBURY/YORK MILLS
Cathedral clng., LR/DR, kitchen overlooks family room, 4+1 bedrooms, wood flrs., quiet street. Cheryl Graff* ext. 272

ST. ANDREWS/YORK MILLS $585,000
Spacious, updated 4 bdrms. backsplit, lofted clng. & ensuite in mbr., great space & ready to move in. Cheryl Graff* ext. 272

STRATHALLAN WOOD $929,000
4 bdrms., mstr. bdrm., LR, DR & fam. rm. on main flr., spacious & bright, ideal for mn flr. liv. w/rm. for all. Cheryl Graff* ext. 272

$459,000 YORK MILLS/LESLIE
New to market! 2 stry., 3 bdrms., mn. flr. fam. rm., total update, 2 f/p's., deep & priv. 160' lot., quiet str. Cheryl Graff* ext. 272

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Rare 6 bedrooms. Walking distance to shuls, subway and parks. Huge open concept living/dining rooms. Main floor den with fireplace. Finished basement.

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HANDSOME GEORGIAN 4+1 BDRMS., LWR. VIL.
Super family home, near U.C.C. & B.S.S. Good flow, spacious rooms. Finished basement! Maurice Gherson* 488-2875

1ST AD! 110 MCGILLIVRAY AVENUE!
$279,900! Reno. 3+2 bdrm., 2 bath bungalow w/legal bsmnt. apt.! Fab. 40x115'! Move right in! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

60 HOUNSLOW AVE. SOLD! 32 X 132' LOT!
$249,900! Prime Yonge S./A Spot. Live in/add on/build new! Walk to subway/shops! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

BRIDLE PATH SUPERB 2.6 ACRES
Build your dream home or master builder will create it for you. For details Maurice Gherson* 488-2875

15 BERKINDALE CRESCENT! 5+2 BDRMS., 8 BATHS!
$1,548K! Motivated Vendor! Main family+library+laundry+2 pce.! 3 car garage! Unbelievable! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS TOTAL RENO.
In great locale, 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, treed lot. Excellent value. Patti A. Pollock* 226-1987

NORTH PROPERTIES

PRIME THORNHILL LOCATION
Steps to Shul and shopping. 3 bedrooms, prof. finished basement. Immaculate house. To view call Georgina Koltai* 226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

FABULOUS NEW CONDO BAYVIEW/EGLINTON
Approx. 2,200', 3 bdrms., 4 baths, 2 balcs., 2 car parking. Registered. Immediate occupancy. Won't last. Marty Roth* 488-2875

"SKYMARK – "THE EXCELLENCE"*
$422,000. Upgraded, 2 bedrooms, family room & den, fireplace, 9' ceilings, extras! Marty Wagman** 226-1987

BATHURST/LAWRENCE CONDO
2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, with eat-in kitchen, open balcony. Mint condition! Call Marilyn Feldman* 226-1987

FABULOUS FOREST HILL CONDO!
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors. South east view! Atrium indoor pool. Steps to shops/restaurants! Lynne Elkind* 488-2875

BATHURST & STEELES - 1ST AD! $179,900
2 bedrooms, 2 parking & balcony, locker & 5 appliances. 24 hr. security, luxury building, pool & tennis! Hedda Zaionz* 226-1987

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*For legal fees - full disclosure provided

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An enclave of 6 beautiful wooded lots on the exclusive south shore of Kempenfelt Bay, Lake Simcoe. Lot sizes range from 2.7 to 3.1 acres, with water frontages from 216 to 227 feet. Each lot has a waterlot extending into the bay. Located on a newly constructed cul de sac, with underground hydro. Priced from $399,000. Brokers protected.
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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Bath/Glencairn - 40x132 lot. 2 bdrm. bung. $299K. 416-785-5740, eves. or 416-447-9819.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Jackson Point - Lakefront. 4 bdrm., 2 bth. Call 905-764-8334, or 905-722-6221.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Belle Ewart - near Synagogue. Not on the lake. 4 bdrm. Avail. until Aug. 15. 905-731-3575.

Clear Lake - first lake north of Lake Rosseau, 20 mins. south of Parry Sound. Min. one month, seas. pref. Cozy (850 sq. ft. on 2 floors), 3 bdr. cottage. 300 ft. of shoreline on approx. 1 acre of land. Up-dated, fully furn., fireplace, screened-in porch. Avail. for season July & Aug. (min 1 mo.) at $1000/wk. June & Sept. nego. Call Jack, 905-793-7083 ext. 265 (any time) & leave message.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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SKYMARK
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Skymark I: a Guggenheim for your collection. A masterpiece of customizing. 2 apts. together. Approx. 3,300 s.f.
Skymark II. Well upgraded. S.W. corner. 2 b.r. + fam. + balc., 2½ baths. For my updated inventory, colour brochures & virtual tour, call
SANTEE LEUNG, E.R.I., SKYMARK SPECIALIST

BATHURST / CLARK — THE CONSERVATORY. Prestigious building, 2 bdrms., 2 full baths, eat-in kitchen, garden view. MUST SELL! $199,000. Call **Suzy Goldstein**, Sutton Group Admiral Realty, **416-739-7200.**

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

West Palm Beach
LANDS OF THE PRESIDENT
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Luxury Condos
Available from $50,000 and up.
* Garden Court Villas
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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath/Lawrence - avail. July 1. 2 bdrm., spacious liv. room., 2 bth., Sec., Shabbos elevator. Pkg. Near schools/Shuls. All amen. incl. Call 416-462-9952.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET

Bath/Steeles - avail. Jun. 15-Aug. 30. 1 bdrm. 416-733-3436.

Pembroke Pines - deluxe condo. Fully furn., 2 bdrm., 1 1/2 bath. 3rd floor. 416-663-9932.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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CLARK/CHARLES RENTAL
4 bdrm., 2 storey, fin. bsmnt., 2 car garage, immediate poss.

JUST LISTED
$299,900. Willowbrook-Holm. Super 4 bdrms., 3 baths, huge family room, 2 car garage, house completely reno. 44 x 137 lot.
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633-7373

ANTIBES BATHURST
4 bdrm. T.H., liv & din comb., mod. kit, 5 appls, rec rm, gar, Steps to all!

CLARK ATKINSON
Custom 4 bdrm, 5 bths, up-to-date kit, built-in appls, den, fam. rm., w/outs, fin bsmnt, quiet cres, Don't miss!

BATHURST SHEPPARD
Estate sale, ideal for professional use, across from plaza, 2 bdrms, fin bsmnt, lge lot.

AVENUE RD WILSON
Mod. store + 2 apts, Great buy & location!

A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

STEELES / NEW WESTMINSTER Beautiful 3 + 1 bdrm., 3 1/2 baths, entrance from dbl. gar., floor to ceiling frplc., kit. overlooks fam. rm., walk-out to deck, $269,900. **Rebecca Moscoe**, Sutton Group Admiral Realty, 739-7200.

155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Located in very nice surroundings on Mount C'naan near Safed. 4 brand new cottages for sale, 5 rooms, 3 bath., 2 bal. Cellar storage and parking. Private land. About 1500 sq. ft. plus 2000 sq. ft. attached to each cottage. **Call Micha at 011-972-4-8254587 or email: rodica@tx.technion.ac.il**

190 VACATION PROPERTIES AVAILABLE

Bed & Breakfast in Warsaw, Poland. Pickup from airport. Extremely personable guide. For info call: 416-932-1328, eves.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED: College and University students to deliver and set up rental equipment and other amusement items for special events. Driver's license required to drive vans to sites. This is a great summer job. Fax resume att: Human Resources (416) 762-8180 or e-mail: info@hartentertainment.com
Part Time and Full Timers Wanted.

Full or part time sales person for inside/outside sales. Car required. Jiffy Self-Storage. 400/Wilson. 416-745-4339.

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PRIME CORNER LOCATION
Ideal For Synagogue
Located on Bathurst with approx. 125' frontage! Excellent potential for redevelopment! Possibilities include up to 6 storey residential/commercial building with underground parking.
Offered at $1,250,000 with an additional 33x132' lot directly behind for $240,000.
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Renovated. Commercial/ Residential Bldg.
*Store + 2 apartments
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Good income
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Secretary Wanted
by an observant Jewish school in Thornhill. Must be able to type English, Hebrew (and Yiddish) comfortably, and have good communication & office management skills. Good pay. **Fax resume to: 905-764-3130, by June 30, 2000.**

INNOVATIVE DOWNTOWN KETUBAH company seeks dynamic, articulate, quick learner to train for management role within one year. Excellent English communication, Mac/Windows, Hebrew reading/writing required. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. **Fax resume to: 416-963-9129.**

The Board of Jewish Education on behalf of our supplementary schools, is seeking candidates for part time teaching positions. Knowledge of Hebrew an asset. **Fax your resume to: Charl Schwartz at 416-633-7535.** No candidate will be considered without a resume.

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J.K. TEACHER
ECE, warm, prof., good people skills, Jewish knowledge req'd. **Fax Resume to: 905-886-0421**

TEACHERS WANTED for permanent afternoon positions in English & Math, grades 6-8, in an observant Jewish school. Only experienced, certified teachers will be considered. Excellent salary. Fax resume with references by June 27, 2000 to 905-764-3130.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS
Caregivers in Israel, the Philippines, & Caribbean available for sponsorship. **398-5803**

Avail. now! Live-in/out nannies & caregivers. **416-281-9943** or www.nannycarecanada.com Overseas nannies & caregivers seek employers. No Fee!

Exp. caregiver for children or elderly. Own car. 416-630-6250

Filipino workers available to clean homes & babysit. Live in or out. Call 905-669-0793.

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
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High quality house cleaning. Call Dora or Sasha, 416-736-1179, or pager: 416-390-7349.

Mature woman, would like to care for an elderly person. Live-out. Call 416-250-6618.

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Nannies, live-in/out, cleaning. F/T & P/T. **In-home elderly care** by RN's, HCA's. Bonded, refs. **416-224-9907** Servicing Toronto since1985. *NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.*

Nice, hardworking lady seeks cleaning jobs. Many years of exp. in Orthodox Jewish homes. Please Call Danuta 431-5020.

Solid, exp. Polish cleaning person for houses. 416-699-3265.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Bathurst & Eglinton area. Part time housekeeper, liveout, required for capable senior. Car req'd. Call 416-616-1474.

Full time domestic needed immed. No children. Prestige Etobicoke home. Ref's & transportation req'd. 416-231-9530.

Single, elderly man, looking for health care aide w/ cert. & exp. P/T Nights & Sundays. Call not later than 5pm. 416-630-6853.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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SOULMATES WORLDWIDE JEWISH MATCHMAKERS
Matches are made in heaven...
We just assist!
Call now! 905-709-3868.
www.soulmates.net

Bringing People Together. It only takes one match to light a fire. Call Ruth **905-731-5204.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kahane/Spilberg - Rachel & Yehuda Kahane, and Rae & Mike Spilberg are delighted to announce the engagement of their children, **Tamar and Jason.** Proud grandparents are Reina & Max Spilberg of Montreal.

265 PEOPLE SEARCH

Camp Alumni - Researcher seeks interview w/ any who attended Ont. Jewish summer camps, **1920-55** only. 537-9635

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Romantic male, sensitive, caring, kind and honest. Looking for lady, any age, with the same qualities, for committed relationship. CJN Box #7283.

Very shy, 33 year old man, would like to meet male or female to socialize. Please reply to CJN Box #7281.

Are there any Jewish farmers or country gentleman out there? A Jewish professional, late 40's, attractive, fit, worldly woman wishes to meet you. **Please reply to CJN Box 7282.**

FULL TIME LOVE AUDIT JUST FOR YOU: Attractive, SJM, 6 FT., 39.75 years on the 3rd projectile from the sun, requests the attention of a sensitive, attractive, and adventurous SJF, 27+, who enjoys humour as well as the curves and bumps that life throws at all of us. If you're interested in fun and "Playdium" games, followed by a "Panoramic" view of T.O. from on high, eventually leading to snuggling on the couch late into the night while laughing at "Looney Tunes" cartoons and if this verbal and soulful "Tune" catches your fancy for the long term and beyond, you can write me at **CJN Box 7285.** The setting is set and all that's missing from the portrait of d'amour is vous!

Nice lady, many good qualities, seeks a *mensch* for serious relationship. Age 50+. 488-8689.

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue raffle winners: 1st prize - D. Anisman, ticket # 0557. 2nd prize - P. Krystal, ticket #1137. 3rd prize - J. Lerman, ticket #0269.

290 LOST & FOUND

LOST - Tuesday morn., May 30th, about 8:30am. Tallis and Tefillin near Beth Tzedec. Call 782-9989 or return to Beth Tzedec office. Thank you.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Ladies Cocktail Ring, 14kt, 3 sapphires, 4 diamonds, $620. Women's White Opal ring, 14kt, $470. 416-447-2246

315 CARS

Turn your old car into renewed hope. Donate your used car to benefit Jewish special education and receive maximum tax credit. As an example of the incredible tax credit you may receive, consider this: An '90 Buick Le Sabre may be worth as much as $3,200. Free towing. 416-787-1101.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK I. BROWN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 18th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
(Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie)
Community Section EEE
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
TOMMY CASH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 18th, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
KATE PRICE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 11th, 12:00 noon
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Lagover Society Section
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
AYOUCH (GUS) AZULAY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 11th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Blue Star Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARA BER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 18th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Cheryl Holly Levine Wasserman ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 11th at 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
T.I.B.A. Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVE KIRSH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 11th, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ROSE SHINER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 11th, 10:15 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
First Narayever Congregation
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LOUISE LANGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 11th, 10:15 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shomer Shabos Section
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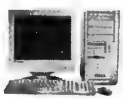

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Player of the year in U.S. college hockey league

Goaltender gets shot with NHL expansion team

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Someday in the distant future, when hockey fans gather over their favourite cold beverages to discuss the great game of hockey, Greg Gardner is likely to be the subject of a mind-bending trivia question.

As in, name the first player ever signed by the Columbus Blue Jackets.

By that time, the expansion Blue Jackets may well be as successful as the Edmonton Oilers, or as middling as the Carolina Hurricanes, but either way, Gardner's name in the club's history will be established.

On May 4, the Blue Jackets announced they had signed Gardner, "one of the most sought after college hockey players in North America."

They made Gardner, 24, their first ever selection after determining "he was the best college free agent goaltender available," said Doug MacLean, the club's general manager.

"Our scouts liked what they saw," MacLean told *The CJN*. "We are looking for depth and we think he can play in the NHL."

In four seasons with the Niagara University Purple Eagles, Gardner led the school from Division 2 and 3 competition into the NCAA Division 1, and to a first round victory in the 1999-00 NCAA Tournament.

In the season just ended, he won 29 of 41 games and registered a 1.53 goals against average – tops in the league – to go with a .936 save percentage. He also had 16 shutouts, shattering the 35-year record of eight set by Boston University's Jack Ferreira. He was named Player of the Year in College Hockey America (CHA), which is one of six NCAA Division 1 hockey conferences.

There's more. Gardner, a native of Mississauga, earned First Team All-CHA honours and won the league's Goaltender of the Year Award. He captured conference Player of the Week honours a league-high seven times. He was also named to the Team USA roster for the North American College Hockey Championships.

"Greg has all the physical skills to be a top-rank NHL goalie," said Niagara assistant coach Dave Burkholder. "He's really, really quick. He's a butterfly goaltender with unbelievable reflexes. He's a good game manager in the zone who knows when to freeze the puck to relieve pressure or to allow for a line change," Burkholder said. "I think his biggest strength is his maturity."

Greg Gardner shows the classic goaltending form that got him a contract with the Columbus Blue Jackets.

MacLean's scouting report on Gardner is that "he's quick. His focus is really strong, he's determined and we think he has a chance to play in the NHL."

The Blue Jackets will draft at least a couple of NHL veterans at season's end and "we anticipate Gardner starting in the minor leagues. We want him to play a lot and probably that will be in Syracuse (the team's minor league affiliate)," MacLean said.

For Gardner, who had nibbles from two other teams, playing in the NHL "is something every kid dreams about. I've now kind of moved from being a fan of the NHL to being a player in the NHL."

He's hired a personal trainer to get him in shape for training camp and he plans to hit the ice in August to scrimmage with local NHLers. He knows he's got to get his focus right to avoid being intimidated by the league's big shooters.

"As a rookie, you have to pretend they're just hockey players. They're more highly skilled but you can't be in awe of a Jaromir Jagr or a Steve Yzerman or a Mats Sundin. If you're in awe, you're in trouble," he said.

Gardner, who received a $500,000 U.S. signing bonus and a two-way contract, knows he may have to apprentice in Syracuse for a year before he gets a chance to start in the NHL. Nevertheless, it's a far cry from his situation of four years ago.

At that time he'd just finished an undistinguished minor league career in the Toronto area. He played for the Marlies for four years and suited up for the Mississauga Reps as a bantam and midget. At 17, he played for the Caledon Canadians Metro Junior A team until he was traded to the Thornhill Islanders. He was scouted by a number of U.S. colleges and chose to go to Niagara, which was launching its hockey program, where he was offered a full scholarship.

The move was key to his long term development. When he got to Niagara, "I was more of a puck stopper, using my instincts to prevent goals. I developed into more of a goaltender in Niagara, using better positioning, not letting out as many rebounds and calming myself down," he said.

Midway through his career with the Purple Eagles, he backstopped the gold medal-winning Canadian team at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. "That team could probably be a decent American Hockey League team," Gardner said. "We were really good."

Gardner, whose family are members of Solel Congregation in Mississauga, loved the experience in Israel. "It was unbelievable to be in Israel, to see Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, to see the Western Wall and to see where your roots come from."

His heritage is known; his future is yet to be written. Will he be no more than a trivia factoid or will he be one of the goaltenders long remembered for his exploits in the NHL?

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מאת: יעל זליגר

משחקי בדידות; נורית זרחי
(הוצאת ידיעות אחרונות)

נורית זרחי, בתו של הסופר ישראל זרחי, ידועה בעיקר כסופרת לילדים. לאחרונה יצא לאור ספר למבוגרים שאינו אלא סיפור אוטוביוגרפי של המחברת. זהו סיפור על ילדות ישראלית, על ילדות בכלל, על התבגרות ועל התעתיד הצפוי. הילדה שהייתה והאישה הבוגרת היום בוחנת את החברה הישראלית הן במבט אינטימי והן מנקודת ראות סוציולוגית.

שם הספר, מעיד על מהות זכרונותיה של זרחי: בדידות. בגיל חמש, נפטר אביה של נורית. היא זוכרת את האב: "האיש היושב ליד שולחן העבודה... והוא מתרגם מפולנית את הספר של יאנוש קורצ'קי". במותו, והוא רק בן שלושים וחמש, השאיר אחריו שלושה עשר ספרים אך הוא גם הותיר ילדה "שדומה במידת-מה לאדם שלעולם לא אדע מי הוא. במובן זה גם קשה יהיה לי להבין את עצמי." הילדה/אישה מנסה "לסלוח" לאב שנטש בטרם עת; "כנראה שניטל עלינו ללמוד לאהוב את המתים ללא כעס על שעזבו אותנו. מזמן גיליתי שמי שלא מסוגל לאהוב את מתיו קשה לו לאהוב את אלו החיים." האם, מורה במקצועה, נאלצת לאחר מות בעלה, לעבור לקיבוץ כדי להעניק מחיה וחינוך לשתי בנותיה.

באותן שנים הקיבוץ עדיין דבק בלהט אידיאולוגי בעקרונות העמל, שוויון ושיתופיות; ה"אני" על מזבח ה"אנחנו". מסגרת נוקשה זו הייתה למתעקה גם על כמה מייסדים ועל אחת כמה וכמה על משפחתה של נורית זרחי, שבחרה בקיבוץ כמקום מפלט.

בוודאי שהיו גם דברים טובים בקבוצת נבע שבעמק יזרעאל אלא שהיו גם דברים מלחיצים. "ארץ-הכחשת-האני", כך מגדירה זרחי את הקיבוץ. "אם אינך קיים אינך כואב, זו הסיסמה החרוטה ללא מילים על האופק." החברה הקיבוצית מכריזה על עצמה כשוויונית, אך היא מעמדית מובהקת, טוענת זרחי; "...כחברה ההודית, בה ברור בדיוק שאין שום מקום לחציית המעמדות, ומיהו בחזקת טמא." כולם פוחדים ממה יגידו האחרים, והיא, הילדה שחשה עצמה כחריגה חיה מדי יום בחרדה מתמדת.

למזלנו, קוראיה האוהבים של נורית זרחי, מצאה הילדה מפלט בקריאה. וכן (מסתבר שלא הכל היה נורא בקיבוץ) המורה דוד מלץ "מעלה" את הילדה ואף מנבא שנורית תהיה לסופרת. הוא משחרר אותה מלימוד כמה מקצועות על מנת שתתפנה לקריאה. יום אחד פוגשת נורית בילדה שאף היא הגיעה לקיבוץ נבע לאחר שהתייתמה מאביה. נורית הצעירה סבורה שחברתה עתידה להיות משוררת ידועה. (אכן, "הילדה ההיא" אינה אלא דליה רביקוביץ.)

עם נשואיו האם לבעלה השני, עוזבת המשפחה את הקיבוץ אך לאחר שהבעל פושט את הרגל, המשפחה חוזרת. נורית לא כועסת על החיים, לא על האם, לא על האב החורג, לא על הקיבוץ; "אני מבינה, כמו שהחיות של דרווין הבינו את האבולוציה, שאלו הן אותיות המציאות." יתרה מזו, ילדים מתמודדים עם מציאות זו או אחרת בדרכם שלהם. יש בילדים משהו סטואי, אומרת זרחי. "יש להם מושג מעורפל מה מתרחש בחייהם, אפילו מכת גורל, יש בו לגביהם משום עניין שבהפתעה."

מתוך תחושת הבדידות והניכור, נורית זרחי מחליטה למצוא מקום ששם תחוש באמת שייכת. היא מצאה. נורית זרחי הפכה לסופרת עברית ידועה בישראל.

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BOURBON PECAN ROAST CHICKEN

1 3lb. chicken	freshly ground pepper	3-4 cloves garlic	1/2 cup broken pecans
1/2 fresh lemon	handful of dry tarragon	2-3 small peeled onions	1/2 cup bourbon
salt	1 tsp. rosemary	paprika	

Wash the inside cavity and outside of chicken and pat dry. Rub cavity with cut side of half a lemon and sprinkle it with salt and pepper. Fill cavity with tarragon, rosemary, garlic cloves and onions. Truss and tie chicken. Pull up skin, press pecan bits into chicken breast and pull skin back into place. Pour 1/4 cup of bourbon over chicken and place it on its side in oven.

Roast for 20 minutes at 375-400°F, turn to other side, add remaining bourbon, baste and roast another 20 minutes. Turn again, baste and roast for a final 20 minutes., check to see if done. Servings: 6.

About Food

Dear Norene

By NORENE GILLETZ

Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai and is also the Festival of the First Fruits (Chag Habikurim). The synagogue and home are decorated with flowers, plants and fruits. Dairy foods such as cheesecake and blintzes (which represent the shape of the Torah) are traditionally served.

Smaller individual cheesecakes baked in cupcake pans take less time to bake. You can also vary the fillings – e.g., chocolate, vanilla.

Substitute different liqueurs (orange, coffee, hazelnut, almond) for the vanilla. You can swirl melted semi-sweet chocolate into the batter.

Fresh berries make terrific toppings. For praline cheesecakes, use brown sugar instead of white; garnish with toasted pecan halves.

Short & Sweet (Sophisticated Desserts in No Time at All), Houghton Mifflin, contains 150 irresistible desserts. Each uses seven ingredients or less, and can be made in 30 minutes or less. The author, Melanie Barnard, streamlines preparations and simplifies techniques, cutting corners without sacrificing quality. You'll never have to go without dessert again!

Double this recipe and double your pleasure. Enjoy!

LITTLE CHEESECAKES

12 chocolate wafer cookies
8 ounces cream cheese, cut into 8 pieces, at room temperature
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 large egg
1/2 cup (3 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips, melted (optional)

Preheat oven to 350. Line 6 to 8 (depending on depth) standard-sized cupcake cups with paper liners. Set a chocolate wafer in each cup. Crush remaining cookies in food processor, then remove from bowl and set aside. (No need to wash the bowl.)

Place cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and egg in processor; process just until smooth and fluffy, about 20 seconds. For chocolate cheesecakes, add melted chocolate and process just until blended.

Divide batter among the cups. For marble cheesecakes, pour some of the chocolate on top of each cheesecake, then use a table knife to swirl chocolate into batter.

Sprinkle cheesecakes with cookie crumbs. Bake until set and lightly coloured on top, about 20 minutes. Cool on a rack 5 minutes, then gently transfer cups to a baking sheet and set in the freezer at least 10 minutes before serving.

Cheesecakes can be refrigerated for up to 1 day. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Norene Gilletz, a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at* gourmana@total.net

The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

"If I Were A Rich Man"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

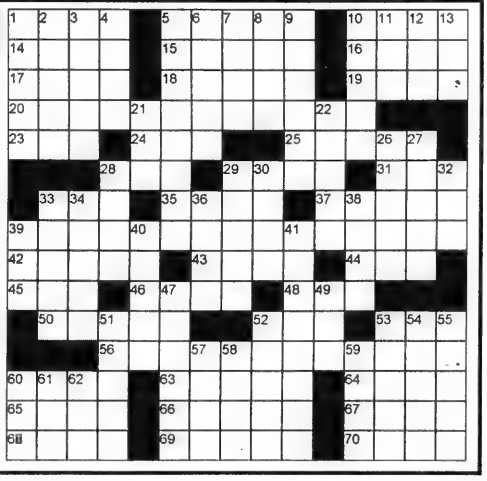
Across

1 ___ Director (William Friedkin, in 1971)
5 Magazine founded by Ronnie Shushan
10 Mickey's creator
14 Ibuprofen target
15 Oil of the Middle East
16 Steinem's birthplace
17 Fly like an eagle
18 Traditional Jews don't mix it with wool
19 Like a schnorrer
20 Eponymous book publishing magnate
23 Allow
24 Situp muscles
25 Whitewater vessels
28 Before Wed.
29 October birthstone
31 "Make ___ double!"
33 That girl
35 Like Jews in North Dakota
37 Speck of land
39 Noted art philanthropist
42 "Judgment at Nuremberg" character Hoffman
43 Org. headed by Dan Goldin
44 Midshipman's insignia
45 Fourteenth letter
46 Letter letters
48 The S in RSVP
50 Igneous rock, before cooling
52 Westchester and Nassau: abbr.
53 Hollywood big shot Roth
56 Macy's owner who died on the Titanic
60 Literally, "human being"
63 One of Hawaii's seven main islands
64 Neil Simon pieces
65 ___ of Settlement
66 Upright
67 Schlepp
68 Medicine Nobelist Kocher
69 Look again
70 "Life is like ___ of chocolates"

Down

1 ___ metabolism
2 School, to Henri
3 Elevator's home
4 Yukon, e.g.
5 Cartoonist Rube
6 Ba'al Shem Tov, for example
7 Politically incorrect coat material
8 Like 1948 and 1956
9 Sephardi woman
10 Chess Grandmaster Patrick
11 "Gotcha!"
12 Convert to Judaism Taylor
13 Dreidel, for example
21 Water, in Bordeaux
22 One of Kline's "A Fish Called Wanda" costars
26 Bathroom floor stuff
27 *Win Ben ___'s Money*
28 High schooler
29 ___ donor
30 Cribbage need
32 Money dispenser
33 Antitoxin
34 Laughing animal
36 Leah, to Joseph
38 Synagogue
39 Not max.
40 Paper amounts
41 Lower ___
47 Motel's job in "Fiddler"
49 Ending for Marx
51 It follows a bet
52 Graceful bird
53 Israel, alternatively
54 ___ lunch (gone)
55 New Jersey county
57 Victor Borge, for example
58 Mind ___ manners (behave)
59 Pro ___ (in proportion)
60 Mimic
61 Hoover or Grand Coulee
62 Boxing great

(Answers are on page 48.)



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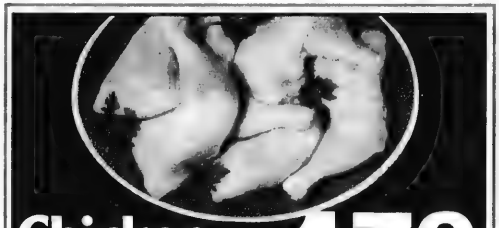

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3.95/kg

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Fresh, Boneless
9.88 lb
2.17/100 g

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Cross Rib Boneless Shoulder Steak or Roast
Glatt Kosher Beef
7.49 lb
16.51/kg

Chicken Breast Quarters
Chai Kosher, Fresh
2.99 lb
6.59/kg

Rainbow Trout Fillets
Fresh Boneless
6.88 lb
1.51/100 g

Keebler Graham Crackers
Honey or Cinnamon
2.49
396-425 g pkg

Aaron's Beef Salami
Kosher
3.69
375 g

Sole Fillets
Frozen
3.88 lb
.85/100 g

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2.99

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12 oz or 340 g pkg
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Mother's Spinach Puff Pastry
Mushroom, Potato & Onion or Cheese
14 oz pkg
3.99

Beef Stew
Glatt Kosher
6.49 lb
14.31/kg

Smoked Whitefish Chunks
5.88 lb
1.29/100 g

Tampree Grape Juice
Concord or Muscat
650 mL btl
2.39

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2.69

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This Week

National

The changing nature of philanthropy. *Special Feature.* ***Page 3***

Israeli education centre unites Jewish and Arab kids. ***Page 26***

International

Passion Play tries to reform itself. ***Page 32***

Arts & Travel

Film explores changing nature of Israeli society. ***Page 34***

Director's film debut wins major award. ***Page 37***

Sports

Alon Eizenman gets U.S. hockey honours. ***Page 42***

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Envoy's term comes to an end

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

David Sultan

OTTAWA — Ambassador David Sultan and his wife Adina will soon be returning to their home in Jerusalem, as their four-year assignment in Canada comes to an end.

The Sultans arrived in Ottawa following a four-year posting in Egypt, Sultan's birthplace. The two assignments were vastly different, both politically and culturally, Sultan said.

"I knew that Canada is a friendly nation and that relations with Canada are important for us," Sultan said. "Other than that, I knew very little. In fact, when I arrived here, it was my first visit to Canada."

One thing that did not phase him was the weather. "I love the cold weather," he said. "I find it invigorating."

Continued on page 28

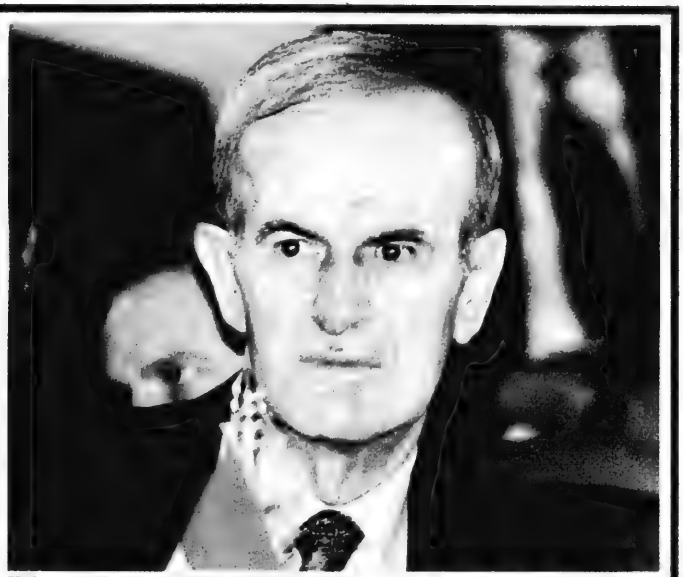
Nurses and doctors wanted

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) is seeking volunteer doctors and nurses for its third "mercy" mission to Ethiopia. The first mission arrived in Addis Ababa on May 24, and the second was due to leave from Israel in mid-June.

Each group stays in Ethiopia for three weeks, and the JAFI provides orientation,

Continued on page 28



Hafez Assad in this 1991 file photo at the multilateral peace conference in Madrid, Spain. For related stories on Assad's death please see pages 8, 9, 29 and 30. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Assad dead at 69

Quick takeover by son Bashar

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Hafez Assad, Syria's autocratic president who dreamed of Arab unity against Israel but watched his neighbours, one after the other, sign deals with the sworn enemy, died last Saturday.

The president, who was 69, had been suffering from heart trouble for some time and was also fighting lymphoma and kidney failure, according to a Lebanese heart surgeon close to the family. The surgeon said Assad died of heart failure.

In the first move to clear the ascension of Assad's 34-year-old son Bashar to the presidency, Parliament voted overwhelmingly to amend a constitutional article which requires the nation's head of state to be at least 40 years old. The legislators voted to lower the age to 34.

Assad, who took power in a bloodless coup in 1970, had been grooming Bashar for future leadership, but the British-educated ophthalmologist has held no major political office. Bashar had recently been taking a more prominent role in his father's regime, representing the nation abroad on official visits. At home, he has been waging an anti-corruption campaign. He was expected to be brought into the ruling Ba'ath party leadership at a congress to open June 17.

Continued on page 30

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Naso
Candlelighting: 8:43
Havdallah: 9:48

Assad's death inaugurates new era — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

CJC on Museum Bill

OTTAWA — In its current form, a federal government bill whose aim is to build a free-standing museum dedicated to the Holocaust and human rights is "too broad and diffuse," Canadian Jewish Congress last week told a Commons standing committee on Canadian heritage. As it stands, Bill C-224 "would not lead to the end result we seek, which is the promotion of research and education about the importance of human rights as illustrated by the most documented and most extreme form of genocide of the 20th century," said Nate Leipciger, chair of CJC's Holocaust remembrance committee.

Petersons Honoured

LONDON — Former Ontario Premier David Peterson and his wife Shelley were honoured last week at the annual Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner, held at Or Shalom Synagogue.

Degree for Bronfman

TORONTO — Charles Bronfman, one of Canada's pre-eminent Jewish philanthropists, received an honorary doctor of laws degree at the University of Toronto's spring convocation held last week.

ISRAEL

Kidnapped Jews

JERUSALEM — Israel has presented Russian authorities with the names of eight Jews believed to have been kidnapped by Chechen gangs. The move followed the recent return to Israel of Adi Sharon, a 12-year-old boy held for 10 months before a Russian anti-terror unit rescued him.

Symbol Offer Rejected

JERUSALEM — Israel has rejected an offer from the International Committee of the Red Cross to include the Magen David Adom organization, provided it drop its Star of David emblem and adopt a neutral diamond symbol.

WORLD

Aussie Eruv

SYDNEY — Observant Jews here will soon be able to carry items and push strollers on the Sabbath after a local council approved the building of an eruv, or ritual boundary. The eruv is slated to be built in an area where 10 of Sydney's 18 Orthodox synagogues are located.

Jews Prefer Clinton

NEW YORK — Hillary Rodham Clinton would receive 49 percent of the Jewish vote in New York's Senate race if the election were held now, according to a new poll. Rep. Rick Lazio received 31 percent of respondents' support in the *New York Daily News*/New York Channel One poll. Overall, Clinton led Lazio by 46 to 42 percent in the survey of 1,001 voters.

Lawsuit Against Arafat

NEW YORK — Two American citizens have filed a lawsuit against Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat for their suffering during the 1985 hijacking of the cruise ship *Achille Lauro*. Sophie Chasser, 84, of Hollywood, Fla., and Ann Schneider, 87, of Great Neck, N.Y., seek $5 million in damages from Arafat and Mohammed Abu Abbas, who masterminded the hijacking.

Homes Defaced

JOHANNESBURG — Twelve houses in a predominantly Jewish suburb here were spray-painted with swastikas and other Nazi symbols. The homes of non-Jewish residents in the area were also targeted.

Queen Opens Exhibit

LONDON — Britain's first permanent memorial to the Holocaust was opened last week by Queen Elizabeth. The exhibit, which includes Holocaust-era artifacts as well as a deportation rail car and a model of a death camp, is housed in a $25.5-million extension of London's Imperial War Museum.

Day Sympathetic to Funding Burden

TORONTO — Canadian Alliance leadership hopeful Stockwell Day has assured parents that he is sympathetic to their quest for government funding of private and religious-based schools.

At a recent forum at Beth Jacob High School for Girls, Day told members of Ontario Parents for Equality in Education Funding (OPEEF), a multi-faith coalition, that tax dollars for private and independent schools "is not a political question. It's the right thing to do."

Despite the fact that education is within provincial jurisdictions, Day said fair funding could be accommodated by Canada's Constitution. It's an issue "the federal government has a proper role in addressing."

His solution is not direct funding but a tax credit for parents, one that would raise the basic tax exemption to $10,000 and increase the spousal exemption.

Day also noted last February's decision by the United Nations, which found Ontario discriminates against non-Catholics in education funding. "The UN has ruled that this is an area of religious discrimination," he said.

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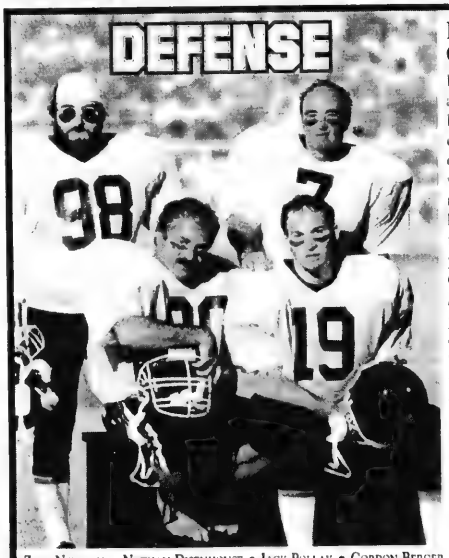

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URGENT APPEAL TO HELP A FELLOW JEW BLINDED FOLLOWING A VICIOUS ATTACK

Mr. Vizel, father of 17 children, was the victim of a vicious, senseless, anti-semitic attack in New York, that left him with severe head injuries and totally blind. As a result of the attack, Mr. Vizel is no longer able to provide for his family who now have the daunting responsibility of caring for their **permanently** disabled father.

No one should ever know the tragedy and suffering the Vizel family has endured and continues to endure. This once self-sufficient family has been reduced to relying on the generosity of their Jewish brethren for a meagre existence.

We ask everyone to help them in whatever way possible. There can hardly be a greater or more worthy Charitable donation.

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Toronto Rabbis: Amrom Assayag, Yeshua Fuhrer, Yitzchok Kirzner, Moshe M. Lowy, Shlome E. Miller, Duvid Pam, Baruch Taub & Dr. Allan Seidenfeld (campaign chairman) and Moshe Zolty.

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Is the old UJA system in trouble?

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish philanthropy used to be much less complicated than it is today.

With trends like increased involvement on the part of donors in the way their money is spent and a growth in endowment gifts earmarked for specific projects, not to mention the tendency of some Jews to feel less connected than their parents to traditional Jewish charities, is the old United Jewish Appeal (UJA) system in trouble?

Special Feature
The Changing Nature of Philanthropy

In Toronto, UJA FEDERATION's annual campaign, which funds Jewish community needs locally and overseas, hasn't suffered. Last year it raised $41.5 million from a population base of about 175,000, but there is "a lot less blind faith than before," said Ted Sokolsky, vice-president of fund-raising for UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto, on a quiet Friday afternoon in his Lipa Green Building office.

Chad Wolfond

"When the issues [like the founding of the State of Israel] were life and death, people did sacrifice some of their own self-interest and felt that for the greater good, they would be more willing to throw their hat into the general pot. As these global Jewish issues become less self-evident, donors become more of a 'show-me' generation," Sokolsky said.

Sokolsky embraces the new challenges. "Every endowment director has a dream of raising millions and millions in unrestricted endowments. It just isn't happening any more, and that's okay. Actually I think it's better," he said.

"It keeps us on our toes. It helps us be more efficient and entrepreneurial. It forces us to be proactive and aware of community needs. If people were just dumping unrestricted dollars in our laps all the time, we could become lazy," he laughed.

Given the recent launch of Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) – a multi-faceted, ten-year plan designed to meet current and projected needs of the Toronto area's Jewish community – it's unlikely Sokolsky and his team of professionals and lay leaders will be accused of laziness. Earlier this year, in fact, he received the top fund-raising award given by United Jewish Communities, the umbrella for federations in North America.

Michael Steinhardt

Within the JTT umbrella, specific community projects are being "showcased," and people will choose what they want to support, Sokolsky said.

He believes that JTT will offer philanthropists the type of "visionary strategic projects" they may not have found thus far in the Jewish world.

In that respect, the project is an attempt to address issues that are more of a concern in the United States than here. "I think those trends – for example the incorporation of entrepreneurial strategies in a not-for profit world – are coming to Canada, but they haven't quite hit us yet," Sokolsky said.

Ted Sokolsky

Endowment gifts are a case in point. "It's only in the last two years that our government has given a break to donations of stock, and it's only a 50 percent break. But even with that, our endowment has quadrupled in the last two years, from $25 million to $100 million."

Still, Canadian philanthropies are "way behind" their American counterparts, he said. "They have much more supportive and proactive tax laws. In the States, if you give a gift of appreciated stock to charity, there's no capital gains. With the boom market over the last ten years, their public foundations have grown incredibly. There's been a long history of tax incentives to create foundations and endowments in the States."

Zac Kaye

Leslie Gales, 45, has recently taken a prominent role in the philanthropic world as co-chair of JTT's steering committee, notwithstanding a demanding career as an investment banker and a busy home life with two school-age children. "I really believe in what Jewish Toronto Tomorrow is all about," she said in a recent phone interview.

"I think all of us have the ability to give time and money. Giving, no matter at what level, is critical. I think if you're lucky enough to be exposed to the right match for who you are as a person, you get turned on. Just like life."

Leslie Gales

And from a purely financial view, Gales is equally enthusiastic. "You can create an endowment fund for $1,000. If you don't do it while you're alive, you can do it in your will. It's something forever. And $1,000 today – can you imagine what that will be worth 20 years from now? Or in 30 years? I think it will be amazing."

JTT offers donors the flexibility to "direct their gift in a manner compatible with the way they see the world," said Gales. "Before, we didn't have that flexibility."

The project reflects a desire on the part of donors for increased involvement, as well as the fact that the federation's role vis-à-vis fund-raising is changing.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

"The ends are still the same, but the means to the end are different," Sokolsky said.

He disagrees with people who accuse the federation of being too 'big, bureaucratic and overly centralized.' "We can turn that [criticism] around," he said.

"We have tremendous resources, a great knowledge base and we can provide

Continued on page 21

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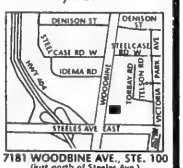

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We have been writing ever since.

From the editor's desk

The CJN is therefore delighted to publish – as we have for the past few years – a sampling of some of the winning entries in the UJA FEDERATION Board of Jewish Education Creative Writing Contest.

Dancing with Miriam
by Miriam Gofine
Grade 5, Associated Hebrew Schools

I still remember that night…
The wind was blowing and the smell of sea water
still clung to everybody's clothes.
A few hours ago we had finished crossing the Red Sea.

We were rejoicing, singing, dancing, praising the God who had led us out of slavery, opened up the waters of the sea, and had showed us so many miracles that before we had thought were impossible.

People were singing
I shall sing to Hashem for He has exalted above the arrogant,
having hurled horse with its rider into the sea
over and over again with all their hearts and souls.

Others were dancing with anybody they saw. I was dancing with *her* though.

She was the sister of our leader, Moses,
and she was a Prophetess.

Everyone loved and cherished her.

She was also beautiful.

She had olive coloured skin and long wavy hair
and eyes so dark they were almost black.

Then, I was so small and light that when my feet started to hurt she would pick me up and dance with me in the air and my feet dangling.

I was dancing with Miriam...

Israel in 2050
by Michael Glowinsky
Grade 4, Leo Baeck Day School

In the future
Somebody will make peace
Religions will live together in harmony
And all people will unite
End the wars, so that the
Land of Israel is stable

I will probably be sixty, but our
Nation will have grown too

2000 is here so no more weapons
0r wars with people on this planet
52 years old, Israel is now
0h would we love to see peace.

My Family's Jewish Treasure
What Stories A Menorah Can Tell
by Claire Tobias
Grade 6, Bialik Hebrew Day School

My family's Jewish treasure
Swaying back and forth
Back and forth the boat was swaying
Crying, all around children were crying
Waiting, all around people were waiting
Waiting to hear what fate had been decided
Silence, dead silence as the speaker came on
Cheering, loud cheering from all around
Walking, walking off the boat
To a new world, a better world, a kinder world
Filled with hope and love
What stories a menorah can tell…

Out of the sack the menorah came
Lighting the room with all its splendour
Filling Jews all around with hope

Hope that one day the war would end
And peace would cover the earth once more
What stories a menorah can tell

Passed on from generation to generation
Waiting...for that one special holiday
The holiday of light and happiness and hope…
Lighting the room with glee and splendour…
What stories a menorah can tell
My family's Jewish treasure.

My Bubbie Speaks Yiddish
by Tiki Yeres
Grade 1, Eitz Chaim Day Schools

My bubbie
Loves me very much.
She says she loves me
A gans leiben.
She calls me a shane maidel.
She pats my bekalach
And she holds my hentee.
Before I go to bed
My bubbie kisses me on my kepee
And tells me to shloof gezint a hite.
I am her youngest ainekel.
Bubbie, I think YOU are very special
And I love you
A gans leiben too.

* * *

To our young readers: keep on writing!

SEE JN

MEETING WITH A HOCKEY HERO: Associated Hebrew Schools students (from left) Andy Kolenberg, David Simor and Ben Barth recently met Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Curtis Joseph.

Rabbis, priests discuss marriage, intermarriage

By FRANCE KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There were as many rabbis as there were priests at a recent meeting at the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

The half-day event that brought together 18 Conservative, Orthodox and Reform spiritual leaders with their Catholic counterparts was a meeting to discuss theology and practice related to marriage.

To the best of organizers' knowledge, it was the first formal event of its kind in Canada. It was the sixth in North America, following five in the United States that were facilitated, like this one, by Gunther Lawrence, executive director of the Interreligious Information Centre in New York.

"As a pastor and as a caring person, I need to be aware of the pain that intermarriage causes in the Jewish community," said Rev. Paul McGill of Holy Rosary Church, at a press conference following the event. "For me to blithely participate in interfaith marriages, I don't know that in conscience I can do that any more."

Currently, Catholics are permitted to marry non-Catholics under two conditions — that the union not jeopardize the faith and practice of the Catholic, and that all children be born and raised as Catholics, Rev. McGill explained.

Previous generations' attempts to discourage or forbid interfaith or interdenominational marriage often backfired, said Rev. McGill. "It left humongous chips on people's shoulders."

For Rev. Brian Clough, who has a Mississauga parish, the meeting brought home issues like children and "what was phrased as the December [Christmas-Chanukah] dilemma. In talking with a couple beforehand I can attempt to articulate these things."

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Congregation left with a greater awareness of Catholic theology in relation to marriage, as well as an appreciation of the affinities between some of the issues Catholics and Jews face.

But many interfaith couples bypass both church and synagogue, said the rabbi.

"The rates of interfaith marriages recorded by the diocese are exceptionally low, and no Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist or Orthodox rabbi in this community officiates at intermarriages," he noted. "How do we find a way to speak to that group that doesn't come into our doors?"

Intermarriage is an issue for the Jewish community, in part, because the Jewish covenant with God is a "covenant in the flesh...as a consequence, we have to make sure that we have enough Jews for the future," explained Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. Rabbis also believe that a single-faith family has a better chance for stability, he added.

Often, said the rabbi, Jewish clergy deal with intermarriage after the fact. His synagogue recently inaugurated a group for parents of interfaith couples, but some intermarried couples also seek rabbinic counsel, he noted.

"We want to leave the door open for them to come back to us after they marry if there are things they need to talk through."

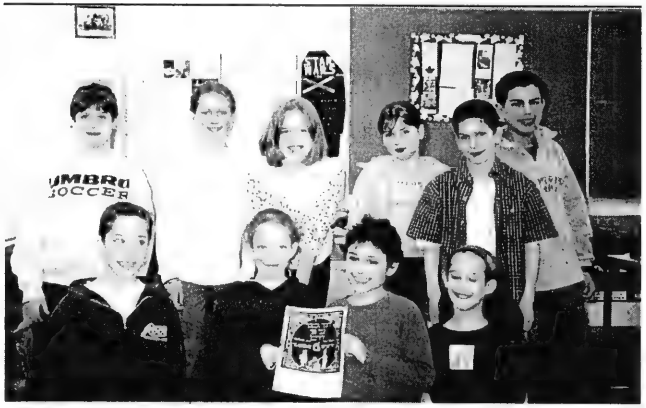
Couples are grateful when issues that may arise later are raised in premarital courses, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl has found.

Suzanne Scorsone, communications director of the Catholic Pastoral Centre, said engaged couples are very open to learning about themselves and each other in marriage preparation classes — despite being in love and having paid for the wedding flowers in advance.

"He thinks she's going to do all the housework, and she says, 'Excuse me?' There are couples who get these things worked out, and couples who bail," she said. "Interfaith really is an extension of something we're already doing."

The impending birth of a child, when families start asking about naming ceremonies, baptism or circumcision, often sparks an issue for an intermarried couple, who may have "inchoate" feelings about their own respective religions, said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl.

"We're not just concerned about preventing intermarriage because it's good for the Catholics or it's good for the Jews," said the rabbi. "We're concerned about the person in front of us."



TORAH-THON: Students at Ahavat Yisrael Hebrew School raised over $2,800 for Zareinu Educational Centre. They held a Torah-Thon, in which family and friends sponsored them to master facts in the Torah. The goal was to encourage both Torah study and community involvement. The Grade 5 class shown here raised the most money – $471. [Top row, from left,] Aubrey Cohen, Gillian Liebovitz, Sara Schwartz, Rebecca Rudson, Justin Rosen, Jason Bitton. [Bottom row, from left] Elliot Minz, Alexa Marr, Sarah Kamrad, Michelle Brykman.

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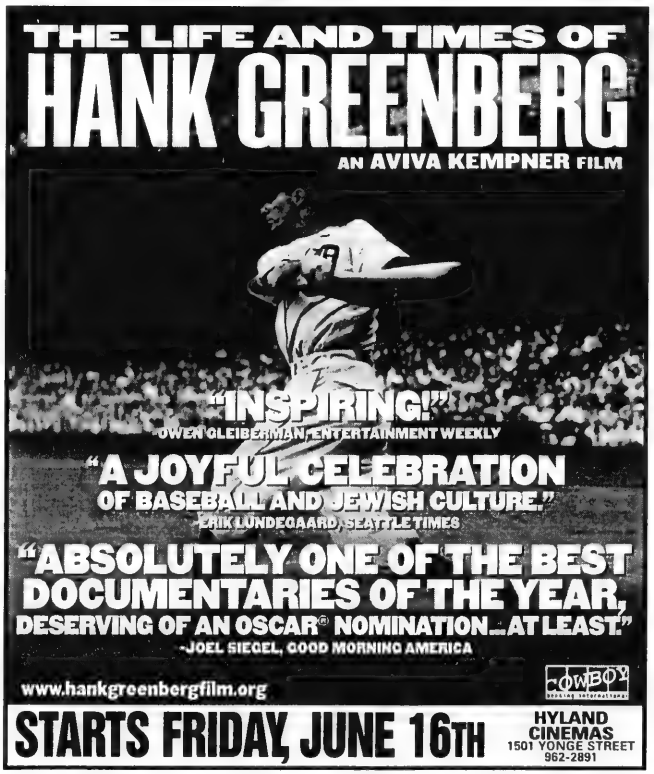
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UJA FEDERATION downsizes board of governors

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Judy Engel

TORONTO — UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto's board of governors was downsized from 120 members to 40, under a constitutional bylaw change passed at the organization's recent annual meeting.

Previously, the board – whose mandate was to approve allocations and advise the board of directors – was composed of 40 directors, 40 individual representatives to the Federation Council and 40 group representatives, explained federation president Alan Sandler.

Under the bylaw amendment, the board of governors will include specifically designated lay leaders including three young fund-raising leaders and one representative each from among the schools, agencies and synagogues. Its mandate will focus on making and integrating fund-raising policy.

In response to a question about the acceptability of having one representative for Reform, Conservative and Orthodox synagogues, Sandler said the only way to deal with the issue is "on a rotation basis." He also noted that issues can be addressed through the federation executive.

The number of governors must be kept down to "make it workable," said Sandler. The previous number "was just too large."

At the annual meeting, held at the Lipa Green building and attended by over 200 people, 13 volunteer recognition awards were presented:

• Judy Engel received the Phil Granovsky Award for Campaign Excellence, one of the community's most prestigious awards;

• David Beron and Miriam Rosenberg received Leadership Development awards;

• Shem Tov awards went to Bert Cohen of the Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa; Alex Gorlick of Circle of Care; Mark Jadd, Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto; Harvey Kotler, Bloor JCC; Tom Lebel, Bathurst Jewish Centre; Keith Ray, Kehilla Residential Program; Michael Rosenberg, UJA FEDERATION; Nancy Ruth; Board of Jewish Education; Jeff Wagman, B'nai Brith Youth Organization; and the late Ralph Snow, UJA FEDERATION.

Among the highlights of the year mentioned at the meeting was the launch of Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, which has received over $100 million in pledges.

This year's UJA FEDERATION campaign is aiming for $45 million, announced David Engel, Campaign 2000 co-chair and vice-chair for financial resource development. "The additional $4 million that we're asking the community to donate [beyond the $41.5 million raised last year] is based on the needs of children here, in Israel and in the former Soviet Union."

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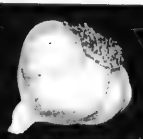

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SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS: Associated Hebrew Schools recently held a gala appreciation breakfast for parent volunteers at the Kamin campus.
[Adina Abramov photo]

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And in the end, what did he achieve?

After nearly three decades as ruler of Syria, although his title was president, Hafez al-Assad was removed from government by the only method his despot's mind understood and his despotic ways would allow: death. He was 69. Reports say he died of a heart attack, although he suffered from multiple ailments in the last days of his life.

In a masterful display of understatement, the *New York Times* obituary stated: "Mr. Assad's longevity in office rested on *a rigid intolerance of dissent*." (Our emphasis.) Assad's intolerance of dissent was so rigid in fact, that it snapped at the slightest swaying of any breeze of independent thinking or expression of individual rights on the part of Syrian citizenry.

Although the news services last weekend were filled with statements by world leaders who dutifully recalled Assad with terms of respect and mild praise, it is neither impertinent nor inappropriate to ask, truly, what did he achieve?

Some observers commended him for having brought political stability to a post-French colonial country wracked by countless military coups. But this is just a euphemism meaning he was the most ruthless of all. Some observers commended him for having built modern roads, schools and hospitals. But isn't this the very least that a government, even a despotic one, is expected to do?

In truth, the Assad record is a blood-soaked dossier of brutality and terror. From virtually the first moment he assumed power, he plotted against his neighbours. During the PLO-driven mayhem of 1970 he attempted to take over Jordan, but was prevented from doing so by Israel. His scheming against Iraq was constant, against Egypt only occasional but against the Palestinians, deadly. Lebanon is now nothing less than a Syrian protectorate. And against Israel, of course, hatred was the key determinant of his foreign policy. Syria still appears on the U.S. government list as one of the countries that sponsors terrorism.

But it was the plotting against his own people that inscribes the truest detail into the record. Assad's iron-fisted, "rigidly intolerant" rule has led Syria into the dark ages. Syria is an economic backwater. More interested in ensuring his family's rule than his people's progress, he spent the country's resources on the instruments of oppression rather than on the instruments of technology and self-sufficiency. He brutalized his own people: recall the tens of thousands he slaughtered in Hama and the Jews of Damascus, Aleppo and Kamishli whose lives he toyed with because they meant nothing to him.

Hafez Assad died as he lived, a tyrant, his life a testament to the deportment and destiny of all tyrants: paranoid, murderous, pitiless and ultimately, wasted.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Teffilin, Omed Teffilin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

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Editorials and Letters

Dry Bones
THE MACCABIAH OFFICIALS HAVE DRIVEN A WEDGE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND AUSTRALIAN JEWRY...
AND IT'S ALMOST AS IF WE DON'T CARE ENOUGH TO EVEN PAY ATTENTION!
EXCUSE ME, DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

Editorial Advisory Board
Irving Abella, Donald Carr, Q.C., Sydney Eisen, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Jack Kahn, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Guidy Mamann, Lou Ronson, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Joseph Steiner

Open discussion is vital

In your editorial of May 25, you record the vote of 56-48 in the Knesset to return the village of Abu Dis on the outskirts of Jerusalem, to be designated as the future capital of the nascent Palestinian state.

Even though in the days prior to the vote, a poll conducted on this very question yielded a 74 percent rejection by the Israeli public of this accommodation, the Knesset, made up of members unaccountable to their constituents, voted to transfer to a potential enemy this piece of territory that is within an artillery shell's range of the Knesset. Isn't it disgraceful that out of 120 members of the Knesset, 16 were absent on a day when a vote absolutely vital to the future security of the Jewish state was being taken?

As I write this, Israel has just completed its withdrawal from Lebanon, a tactical retreat the ramifications of which are yet to be felt. The country may be entering the most dangerous phase of its modern history. As we know all too well, the edge of the abyss is never far from the Jewish experience. Therefore, we should not muffle the truth in the cotton batten of polite wishful thinking. Engaging in an open discussion of Israel's options is our sacred duty.

Nathan Shuster
Toronto

* * *

Debating number of refugees

I was very surprised to read E.R. Drucker's letter (*CJN*, June 1), regarding the number of Arab Refugees from Palestine.

Most Israeli historians are in agreement by now as to the numbers involved. The first relevant information regarding the population in Palestine was given by the King-Crane commission in 1919. It stated the Arab population in Palestine was 555,000 (not including Palestinian Christians). Given the fact that this population grows at a rate which doubles the population every 20 years, the number of Arabs in Palestine in 1948 was around 1.25 million (which agrees with the British mandate estimates). After the 1948 war, there were fewer than 200,000 Arab Muslims under Israeli rule, which, when calculating the permanent residents of the Arab territories under Jordan and Egypt, shows the refugees numbered between 750,000 and 800,000.

Given the growth rate of their population, Drucker will easily find that the numbers do agree with more than 3.5 million Palestinian Arab refugees. As a former Israeli, I am offended by the tone of the writer, suggesting Israelis do not know the facts. We know them well, but we disagree as to what to do with them.

A. Idan
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Explaining IDF draft policy

In his article titled "Israel's divisive draft policy" (*CJN*, May 25), Robert Sarner states: "More difficult is to figure out why the country's non-haredi majority has tolerated such a patently unjust situation."

The answer might be found in two areas.

First, the draft of the haredim is an emotional political issue, but in view of several statements made in the past by senior IDF officers, it does not seem to be a practical one. There are indications that the IDF is not really interested in drafting the haredim. In fact, it took some pressure to have the IDF accept the Hesder yeshiva system, which involves but an insignificant segment of the haredi youth.

Second, there is a growing tendency within the non-haredi, secular public to avoid military service. That issue has been the subject of numerous articles, discussions and investigations, under the heading of motivation to serve. The tendency to avoid service effects both the reserve and the draft.

The latest article about the subject appeared in the *Ha'aretz* magazine, May 26, titled "To serve or not to serve," by Uriya Shavit. It indicates that the IDF is fairly lenient in granting the wishes of those youngsters who do not want to be drafted.

Michael Salamon
Toronto

* * *

Joseph Klinghofer — remarkable man

Since *The CJN* regrettably omitted an obituary story on the passing in late March of Dr. Joseph Klinghofer at the age of 97, I felt that his fascinating life and achievements should be provided for your readers.

Born in Radautz in Bukovina, he was not only immersed in shtetl life and Yiddish culture, but he was at home in at least half a dozen languages including Hebrew, Polish, Ukrainian, German, English, French, Italian and Romanian, as well as Greek and Latin. He worked for the Polish state school system and rose to be an inspector of high schools in language instruction.

In 1939, when the war threatened, he was in England attending an educational conference, and chose to return to Poland to be with his wife and rejoin his Polish regiment. He continued his teaching and was visited regularly by the KGB to test his political correctness.

When the Nazis struck, he went underground where he had two false identities and two names. As a teacher in an illegal underground Polish high school, he transcribed the nightly BBC broadcasts into Polish and covertly passed them to couriers of the Polish Resistance for distribution.

After the war, he was in a DP camp in Austria and eventually came to Canada, where his first job was as director of a Jewish Congress orphans' home at Harbord and Markham streets. His job for the next 22 years was educational director for the Canadian Jewish Congress, which involved inspecting Talmud Torahs in the communities of Ontario. He visited cities from Sarnia to Cornwall, in order to improve the level of Hebrew education there. Also, as director of research for the CJC, he produced a masterful study of 10 small Jewish communities as they were in the 1950s.

On his retirement in 1972, he maintained an unflagging interest in Jewish community affairs, attending all meetings of Congress, and was a faithful reader of *Aufbau* and *Der Spiegel*, as well as a large assortment of Hebrew papers. He was very actively involved in a myriad of activities, participating in mountain climbing and skiing until he was his 80s.

He leaves his wife, Gisela, and a son, Dr. Israel Irwin, named in honour of the State of Israel proclaimed in the year of his birth.

Truly a remarkable man, the late Dr. Joseph Klinghofer!

Jack Jacobson
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

First go for power; then, peace

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

It doesn't matter whether the power struggle in Damascus culminates with Hafez al-Assad's son Bashar or someone else in control – the peace process between Israel and Syria will be frozen now for an indefinite period of time.

Whoever Assad's successor may be, he will have to focus his efforts at the start on consolidating his rule and ousting domestic opponents; and, under the circumstances, it is doubtful that he will take chances by pursuing a compromise agreement with Israel. He's sure to fear that such a move would be highly dangerous for him right now.

As reports circulated recently about Assad's poor health, the question of what comes next in Damascus engaged officials in Israel's security establishment. These officials pondered whether it was better to seek peace with an ailing Assad or to wait until a successor took up his mantle.

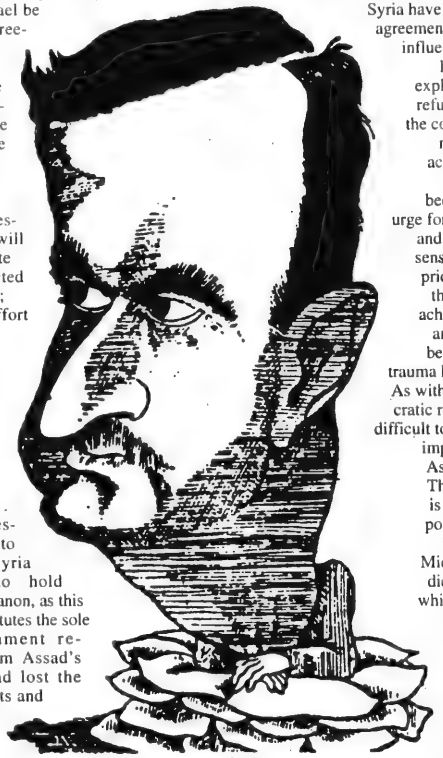
The assessment was that time will pass before Assad's replacement is able to free himself for peace negotiations – and it is possible that when he does so, he will have to adopt inflexible positions in order to display a tough nationalist approach befitting a new man in power. Thus, the prevailing view among Israel intelligence officials has been that it was better to seek peace with Assad and allow his successor to carry out what the infirm ruler agreed to.

The problem was that Assad adopted positions sufficiently rigid to scuttle attempts made by Ehud Barak (and Benjamin Netanyahu, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin before him) to reach an agreement, notwithstanding Israel's readiness to undertake major concessions. Assad made a first step, choosing peace with Israel as a strategic option; but he was inflexible when it came to the details of an agreement. Even if an Israeli prime minister had consented to Assad's demands, an agreement was liable to lose in a referendum. There is no assurance that Assad's son Bashar will be ready to make concessions about these details in a negotiation process.

Under present conditions, Israel must wait and refrain from intervening in events in Damascus. There is a chance that its manoeuvring space for contacts with the Syrians will improve. In any case, future developments in Syria are sure to influence affairs in Lebanon, and they will have an impact on Iran's role in the region, and perhaps also on Iraq's. This is a sweeping development, and Israel should respond by co-ordinating strategic steps with Washington.

The question of peace with Israel is not the cardinal issue facing Assad's successor. He will have to move to guarantee continued rule in Syria by the Alawite regime. This will be the top priority of any successor who shares Assad's ethnic ties. In this respect, the key problem is that some persons ousted recently by Bashar are also members of the Alawite community. Intelligence leaders and army commanders were among those deposed. This shake-up process has not been concluded; and therefore Bashar faces some very powerful enemies in the Damascus leadership.

Alawite commanders in Syria's army fear that their status will be further undermined should a peace agreement with Israel be forged. An agreement would mean slashes in the defence budget and reductions in the army; so these commanders have opposed peace. An Alawite successor to Assad will have to placate these disaffected army officers; and, in this effort to quell their dissent, he might find it important to reach an acceptable accommodation with the United States.



The successor will have to ensure that Syria continues to hold power in Lebanon, as this control constitutes the sole accomplishment remaining from Assad's tenure. Assad lost the Golan Heights and proved unable to restore it to his country. Nor was he able to swim in the Sea of Galilee, as he expected. In contrast, he managed to attain complete control in Lebanon, and have his rule there recognized in the Arab world and by some other countries around the globe.

Assad adopted tough positions and took steps with great caution. He generally refrained from directly provoking Israel via actions which left footprints that could be tracked directly to Damascus. His successor might prove to be less cautious while setting policy, and, as a result of inexperience, might make mistakes on the ground.

Question marks hang over Damascus

By UZI BENZIMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The death of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad takes from the stage the last of the leaders who were personally involved in the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War, experienced the results of those wars, and shaped their attitudes toward Israel accordingly.

People considered experts on Syria have not been in agreement as to what influence this has had. Does it explain Assad's refusal to make the compromises necessary to achieve peace with Israel because of the urge for vengeance and a persistent sense of injured pride, or was it the key to the achievement of an agreement because of the trauma he suffered? As with other autocratic regimes, it is difficult to predict the implications of Assad's death. This difficulty is vastly compounded when it involves a Middle Eastern dictatorship in which the death of a leader, whether from natural causes or as a result of violence, is liable to change the face of reality entirely. Nonetheless, it would not appear too wrong to state, a short time after Assad's death has been made public, that the Middle East is now at a crossroads and that Israel is now facing uncertainty in its attempts to establish relations with Syria.

Only a month ago, the savants were quibbling over the question of the meaning of Assad's behaviour at his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva. Some attributed the failure of the talks to incorrect preparation, some pinned the blame on the American ambassador in Damascus, some made Foreign Minister Farouk Shara the scapegoat for the debacle and some found medical explanations for the reversal that occurred, ostensibly, in Assad's position during the course of the talks he held with Clinton. Today, it turns out that he was definitely on the wane.

Though Assad's death was expected, his departure leaves Syria and its neighbours in a state of acute uncertainty. "The Middle East is not the Middle West," Likud MK Moshe Arens used to say when he was defence minister, using this to justify his tendency to maintain the status quo in the relations between Israel and its neighbours. And indeed, presumably the departure of the Syrian ruler will blow wind into the sails of the Israeli right, which warned against making any agreements with him on the grounds that an autocratic regime given to sudden changes cannot be trusted.

This approach, although it sounds convincing right now, such a short time after the signing of a peace agreement between Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Assad looked as if it were within reach, is not necessarily valid in every situation and in every Middle Eastern context.

'There may be cause for optimism'

In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak followed Anwar Sadat, and Mubarak is honouring the peace agreement his predecessor signed with Menachem Begin. King Hussein of Jordan was followed by King Abdullah (contrary to the predictions that the heir would be Crown Prince Hassan), and he too is honouring the peace agreement his father signed with Israel. Thus it is best not to scorn the attempt Barak made to reach an agreement with Assad, despite the assessments regarding his poor health, or to hasten to criticize Israel's chances of reaching an agreement with Syria, no matter who the next ruler in Damascus may be.

Indeed, there may even be cause for optimism in this context. The new generation of leaders in the Middle East should be free of the ideological chains and psychological inhibitions of the previous generation.

This generation has grown up in the computer era, has been exposed to the modern conceptual world (some of the new leaders have even been educated in the west). There is the possibility, therefore, that this generation's basic approach in pursuing the welfare of its people will be different from the approach of its predecessors. And perhaps this is just naive musing that ignores the basic forces that are operative in autocratic Arab regimes. In any case, there is a big question mark hovering over Damascus, and it is keeping the eyes of Syria's neighbours wide open.

Opinions

Are we licensed to kill?

Since many readers of this column did not have a chance to see my recent article in the *Globe and Mail*, I have chosen to republish it here, albeit in a somewhat shortened version.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The moment I read of the tragic accident that caused a woman to be dragged to her death by a driver unaware of what had happened, I knew that I and others like me were in for trouble. The headline in the *Globe and Mail* made sure its readers learned that the hapless driver of the car was 84 years old. No one else's age had been headlined in this fashion for as long as I can remember. Since then – and another tragedy involving an 82-year-old driver – catchy headlines and articles with carefully selected statistics have told us that older drivers in general are a menace.

I might have kept my peace in this growing atmosphere of fear-mongering, but a headline on April 18 was too much: "Aging Drivers — Licensed to Kill?" The caption was clearly inflammatory, even though it in no way reflected the tenor of the article by Emile Therien which, in contrast to its predecessors, was distinguished by its reasonable approach.

The latest campaign to stigmatize older drivers as people who are likely to lose their capacity to drive safely (or have lost it already) was another proof that ageism is alive and well in our society. Too bad that a respected newspaper joins the parade and makes it tougher for us to keep our self-respect.

Our critics think they know everything about us, and select statistics to beef up their "knowledge." How about the people whose statistics are likely to be the most thorough and sophisticated, the insurance companies? If older drivers were an insurance risk, insurance companies would be the first to raise our premiums, as they do for males under 25 years of age. Yet the companies seem to be unconcerned, even though their money is at stake. If we were as unsafe on the road as our critics assert, our premiums would have risen long ago.

I do not oppose driving tests for me or my contemporaries, as long as everyone else is also tested at regular intervals. I want to be judged by my personal ability or inability to perform, and not by my chronological age.

I want the greatest safety for all people on the road, and I shall be happy to comply with a measured program that is fair and treats me as an individual and not as a member of that part of the population that already suffers too much distrust, dislike and discrimination.

After Lebanon

The "new Middle East" emerging after Lebanon may seem like a harsh version of the utopia promised by Shimon Peres several years ago – but it *is* new. The unilateral withdrawal of Israeli troops has redrawn the map of the Middle East and has sharpened the debate inside Israel over the limitations of power and the nature of security in the 21st century.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Three aspects of this new reality are worth noting:

Events in Lebanon and Syria: For the last two decades, Lebanon's indigenous instability was seen internationally as a product of Israel's presence in the south. With Israel out, and with its challenge to the United Nations to ensure stability there, Lebanon's real problems are thrown into sharp relief. Hezbollah will now be tested, as will its Syrian patron.

Syria's interest in a heated Lebanese-Israeli border will be the new variable in the Israeli-Syrian equation. Hafez al-Assad hopes to pressure Israel back to the negotiating table through Hezbollah's actions. With a quiet border with Lebanon as well as on the Golan, Israel has no immediate need to talk to Assad given his unacceptable conditions on the water issue. It will take time for all sides to set the new rules of the game and until then, skirmishes and appropriate reactions can be expected.

The psychology of withdrawal: Israelis' grimaces at the sight of their soldiers retreating, with jubilant Lebanese and Hezbollah literally chasing them out, quickly gave way to a palpable, national sigh of relief. Ironically, the one war over which there was never a consensus resulted 20 years later in a unilateral withdrawal over which there was a consensus. An action that would have been unheard of in a past marked by attachment to myth and heroism (even if occasionally misplaced) was now undertaken with little dissent. This is a seminal moment in Israel's history and psychology. Like the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the 1982 Lebanon War itself, and the Palestinian intifadah of 1986, the withdrawal from Lebanon is yet another acknowledgement of the limitations of military power and the new definitions of security that are required.

All of this has an impact on the second, critical element of the "new Middle East" that is emerging. In negotiations with the Palestinians, Israelis will have to draw the appropriate lines around borders, settlements and Jerusalem. And in spite of what Hezbollah and other Arab parties may want to believe, Lebanon is not really a precedent. The issues, the territorial aspect, and the psychology of the conflict and the Israeli internal debate – are all different. Those negotiations will succeed or fail because of inherent difficulties that can or cannot be resolved, and not because Israel has lost its nerve.

Ehud Barak's leadership: For the first time in months, Barak seems not only self-confident, but in charge. He has delivered on a critical election promise that was a key element in his victory one year ago. He has always seen his task as guiding his state and people through a national transition comparable only to the challenge that faced Israel's founding prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. Barak has a keen sense of history, destiny and responsibility. He is conscious of the challenge of Jewish sovereignty in what is still a new national experiment, and he is concerned about the recurring theme of fractiousness and militant divisiveness throughout Jewish history.

In interviews on the first anniversary of his victory, Barak spoke realistically about peace with Israel's neighbours. He believes that the combination of Israel's massive power and the strategic window of opportunity created in the aftermath of the Soviet collapse still militate towards peace treaties in the region. But he is acutely conscious of the difficulties of coexisting in a region marked by atavistic conflicts that have nothing in common with the modern world. Reconciliation with Israel, Barak says, is more likely to be the result of treaties than a precursor to them.

A month before he ordered his troops out of Lebanon, Barak said: "If we build the state of Israel on the assumption that without a security zone in a neighbouring state we have no security, then we have created a formula of reliance on the sword forever. The decision is ultimately mine, and if there will be problems, I will be held responsible."

Venturing out of the ivory tower

Professors and researchers in the areas of Jewish studies have long had to wrestle with the tension between objective scholarship and subjective commitments.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

Early on, Jewish studies sought to wrest the study of Judaica from departments of religion or divinity. The scientific study of religion has a long and distinguished pedigree. It takes pains to differentiate its enterprise from that of clerics who see scripture as the Divine word of God. The early scholars of Judaica in Europe and North America tried to distance their work from apparent Orthodox interpretations. Some were in fact resolutely secular. There has been a creative tension between the scientific and more traditional approaches to the study of Bible, Talmud, and Jewish thought.

Over the years, the field of Jewish studies broadened to include all of Jewish history, languages and literature, philosophy and social studies of Jewish life. More recently there have been increases in specialty areas, such as the Holocaust or Israel studies. Many of the topics studied in these areas are controversial, some tinged with ideology.

As Jewish philanthropists have endowed numerous Chairs, departments and programs of Jewish studies in universities, one can wonder whether there are any intellectual or communal strings attached. Should professors of Jewish studies be role models for Jewish students? Do they have to be cheerleaders for the Jewish community or the Jewish experience? How critical can they be of aspects of Jewish life or community? And what is the role of non-Jews in the field?

My theoretical position is that professors of Jewish studies do not have to be Jewish, or even personally committed to Jewish life, the Jewish community, or Jewish continuity, or to a specific vision in those areas. But that is theory.

In the real world, the fact is that the vast majority of scholars and students in these areas are Jewish, most with an extensive personal Jewish background and with strong Jewish commitments. I periodically attend meetings of the Association of Jewish Studies in Boston, and the annual meetings of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies. This year the ACJS met in Edmonton, where other Canadian scientific meetings were held.

These Jewish meetings are not strictly academic; they have a warm, intimate, communal feel to them that is not purely professional or scientific. The ACJS makes a habit of linking its academic program to the local Jewish community, often holding one day sessions at a synagogue, where feasible. Some might feel this violates strict academic canons of objectivity. Perhaps it does. But there is more than one model of the academic mission.

Why must academics remain in their ivory tower, cut off from the community? Too often, contemporary academics hide behind the latest jargon and faddish ideological posturing, presenting papers and research that are incomprehensible to interested lay people (and to many other scholars) and out of touch with their concerns.

The regular interaction between the researchers involved in the ACJS and members of the local community enriches both. And there is no shortage of critical analyses that are presented. The ACJS is open to anyone seeking to join. It is to be commended for blurring the artificial boundaries between the professional and amateur scholars of contemporary Jewish life.

What amateurs may lack in professional training they can make up in passion for the subject and in original insight unfetted by academic conventional wisdom. Certainly, the growing field of Canadian Jewish studies has benefited from these annual contacts with Jewish communities from coast to

The Kirshner File

A cornucopia of books...

As Rene Descartes, the 17th-century French philosopher and mathematician, put it, "The reading of good books is like a conversation with the best men of past centuries..." In this spirit, I'll review some of the newly-published books which have crossed my desk lately.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Under the category of Diaspora Jewry, let's start with *The Jews of Modern France* (University of California Press) by Paula Hyman and with *The Jews of France* (Princeton University Press) by Esther Benbassa. These are important and impressive works of scholarship, as are *Jews in the Mediterranean Diaspora* (California) by John Barclay and *The Jews of Egypt: From Ramses II to Emperor Hadrian* (Princeton) by Joseph Modrzejewski.

Hagar Salamon's *The Hyena People: Ethiopian Jews in Christian Ethiopia* (California) is a fascinating anthropological study, while Stan Mack's *The Story of the Jews* (Random House) is a pictorial journey across 4,000 years of Jewish history. *Crisis and Creativity in the Sephardi World, 1391-1648* (Columbia University Press), edited by Benjamin Gampel, consists of 15 scholarly essays on topics ranging from Marrano ethnicity to Hebrew manuscripts after the expulsion of Jews from Spain.

In *Anne Frank* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), Melissa Muller has written a nuanced biography of this vivacious Dutch diarist. And in *The Visible Wall* (Southern Illinois University Press), Rochelle Wright presents an illuminating analysis of how Jews, among other "ethnic outsiders," have been portrayed in Swedish cinema. Anthony Julius' penetrating book, *T.S. Eliot and Anti-Semitism* (Cambridge University Press), is well worth reading.

T. S. Eliot

The last volume in Stephen Birmingham's trilogy, *The Rest of Us* (Syracuse University Press) charts the rise of East European Jews in American society. *American Jewish Desk Reference* (Random House) is a first-rate account of the Jewish experience in the United States, with emphasis on biographies. The perfect companion volume is *American Chronicle* (Yale University Press), a beautifully-researched compilation of the 20th century.

In *Jacob Adler: A Life on the Stage* (Alfred A. Knopf), Lulla Rosenfeld has produced a fine biography of a great actor. *Isaac Stern, My First 79 Years* (Random House), is a mix of reminiscence and commentary written in cooperation with novelist Chaim Potok. *The Journey Home* (Schocken), by Joyce Antler, recounts the lives of accomplished American Jewish women, from Emma Goldman to Gertrude Stein, who have made a difference. In *Pray Ball* (Gefen), a mosaic of morally-uplifting essays, Rabbi James Gordon argues that sports can reinforce virtues like fairness and respect.

A Concise Companion to the Jewish Religion (Oxford), by Louis Jacobs, is reasonably comprehensive. Jonathan Kirsch separates fact from fiction in *Moses: A Life* (Random House). Paula Fredriksen, in *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews* (Random House), draws on many sources to flesh out a portrait of a seminal biblical figure. *The Bible As It Was* (Harvard University Press) illuminates the Old Testament. Hershel Shanks' *The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Random House) is a reflective meditation of their historical significance.

Paul Mendes-Flohr, in *German Jews: A Dual Identity* (Yale), contends that Jews assimilated German cultural values without necessarily assimilating into German society. Masterfully blending history with biography, the historian Fritz Stern explores a similar theme in *Einstein's German World* (Princeton). And in *The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany* (Yale), Michael Brenner also looks at this intriguing subject.

The first volume of Saul Friedlander's *Nazi Germany and the Jews* (HarperCollins) is a skillful amalgam of scholarship and popular history. Marion Kaplan's *Between Dignity and Despair* (Oxford University Press) skillfully focuses on the fate of Jewish women in the Third Reich.

In Denmark It Could Not Happen (Gefen), Herbert Pundik writes of the miraculous rescue of Danish Jewry during the Nazi occupation.

And in *Man of Ashes* (University of Nebraska Press), Salomon Isacovici, a Romanian Jew uprooted from his home by the Nazis, recounts his harrowing experiences. Ruth Karp, a Jewish girl from France, lived through the Holocaust thanks to the help she received from ordinary French citizens. Stacy Cretzmeyer, in *Your Name is Renee* (Oxford), tells her tale of survival. Irene Gut, a Polish Catholic, hid 12 Jews in the basement of a German officer's home. *In My Hands* (Random House), a gripping work, she tells an amazing story.

Anne Frank

Emile Schindler, the widow of Oskar Schindler, is an unsung heroine, and in *Where Light and Shadow Meet* (W.W. Norton), she recalls her war years and her tumultuous marriage to this ethically ambiguous man.

Kate Cohen, in *The Neppi Modona Diaries* (University Press of New England), painstakingly reconstructs the lives of a pro-fascist Jewish family in Mussolini's Italy. And in *Hannah Arendt Martin Heidegger* (Yale), Elzbieta Ettinger tells of the strange affair between the Jewish philosopher and her pro-Nazi lover.

The concentration camp was a laboratory of cruelty resting on a foundation of violence. In *The Order of Terror* (Princeton), German sociologist Wolfgang Sofsky dissects this diabolical system.

Walter Laqueur's book, *The Terrible Secret* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), a brilliant account of how information about the Holocaust was leaked to the world, was originally published in 1980. In the paperback edition, he adds a new introduction. Among those outraged by Germany's genocidal policies were members of the ineffectual German resistance movement, the topic of Theodore Hamerow's thoroughly documented study, *On The Road To The Wolf's Lair* (Harvard). If this topic interests you, I would recommend *American Intelligence and the German Resistance to Hitler* (Westview Press), edited by Jurgen Heidking and Christof Mauch. The most fanatical Nazis belonged to the Werewolfs, a group dedicated to stopping the advance of the Allies in 1945. Perry Biddiscombe deftly analyzes this malevolent movement in *Werewolf!* (University of Toronto Press).

After all is said and done, how can one make sense of the Nazi era? The following books will certainly help: *Where Ghosts Walked* (W.W. Norton), David Clay Larges' knowing narrative of the cultural roots of Nazism; *Life Unworthy of Life* (HarperCollins), James Glass' trenchant examination of why ordinary Germans participated in the Final Solution; *Germans Into Nazis* (Harvard), Peter Fritzsche's extended essay on the Nazis' popularity; *Hitler's Professors* (Yale), Max Weinreich's erudite examination of the role leading scholars played in his rise to power; *Death of Medicine In Nazi Germany* (Madison Books), Wolfgang Weyers' disturbing account of the breakdown of medical ethics in a supposedly civilized country; *Sonderstab Musik* (University of Michigan Press), Willem de Vries' perceptive history of the Nazis' music policy.

Nazi Germany had a secret nuclear weapons program, and in *Vengeance* (Oxford) and *Blood and Water* (Henry Holt), Philip Henshall and Dan Kurzman respectively shed considerable light on this project. Sol Littman's book, *War Criminal on Trial* (Key Porter), is the definitive work on the Helmut Rauca case in Canada. Originally published in 1983, the softcover edition has been enlarged and revised.

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Jewish Life

Judaism and strands of our hair

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Midrashic Moments

In the Torah readings this month we learn of the laws of the Nazirite. If someone takes a vow to dedicate themselves to their spirituality and to God in an exclusive way, this person is termed a Nazirite.

According to the Torah, the vow must be bound by time, it must have a beginning and an end date. In other words, it cannot extend indefinitely but must be understood at the outset as a temporary status.

During this time, the person must abstain from drinking any fermented drinks and must guard against encountering any circumstance of death. Among the restrictions enforced on a Nazirite is the restriction to not cut the hair. A Nazirite must not have a haircut for the duration of the vow period. But how is hair symbolic of a Jewish spiritual journey?

In several instances a prohibition concerning the cutting of hair appears in the Jewish life cycle. Some cases are halachic in nature while others are traditional. When Jews mourn a close family relative, they are forbidden to cut their hair or shave.

While this prohibition speaks of encountering death, there is likewise a tradition connected to hair that speaks of new life.

When a Jewish child is born it is traditional not to cut the child's hair for the first three years. There are several traditional reasons for this prohibition. Some of the reasons have to do with the notion of "first fruits." When a tree first bears fruit we must not harvest the fruit for three years.

There is another tradition that speaks of *d'mut Yehudi*, the image of a Jew. The child must be allowed to establish itself as a new being and grow strong before we impose an external image upon it. Although born a Jew, the child must mature into that Jewish identity in stages.

Cutting the hair is a ritual imposed on us by our society and we comply in order to publicly state that we belong to our society. As children, our first three years of life are spent in the close quarters of our families and God. We are not yet ready to enter the Jewish community as contributing individuals.

For three years our hair grows wild and our souls grow freely, both untethered by societal obligations. After three years our hair is cut and the image of a Jew begins to manifest itself upon us. From that moment on, our parents help us mature into Jewish adults. At bar and bat mitzvah we are presented to the community as contributing adults ready to engage in Jewish communal issues.

When we refrain from cutting our hair we symbolically pull away from the community. Jewish children are sheltered at home for three years. The mourner and the Nazirite both pull away. They all allow their hair to grow unkempt.

The Jewish soul permeates our being, filling every heartbeat even to the strands of our hair. It is yet another reminder that Judaism is not just what we do, it is what we are.

Beyond stereotype images

By FRANCI WILLIAMS

Guest Voice

Lately, I have been reminded of the two most common Jewish female stereotypes: Jewish mothers (*Yiddishe mamas*) and Jewish daughters, the Jewish American princess or JAP.

References to the Jewish American princess appeared in Michael Posner's interview with Naomi Klein. (the *Globe and Mail's* book section, Jan. 15), where he writes: "Naomi Klein insists that...she was a socially apathetic teenager and a classic Jewish American princess."

I wonder if this implies that Klein evolved from a JAP to her present status as a socially aware person? What does JAP mean in this context and how does this term preclude any representation of the Jewish woman as a textured, multifaceted human being?

In Michaella Etienne's article in *Afterword*, Canada's National Jewish Student Newspaper (Spring 2000 Issue 7), she spots Jerry Seinfeld and his new bride in a cinema in New York. Having never met the woman, she writes: "His bride was a respectful looking JAP who caressed him in a way that showed other females her prized possession."

How many assumptions went into this opinion? This tells us more about the view of the author than it does about Mrs. Seinfeld.

It seems that it has become so acceptable to mock young Jewish women that such mockery is even considered politically correct. Doesn't this tell us how thoroughly internalized the image is?

However, the damage and disrespect inflicted on Jewish women by this stereotyping are very serious indeed. Furthermore, it would seem that such a one-dimensional caricature has such a negative influence on Jewish men: Some hold very negative attitudes towards Jewish women and avoid dating them.

The stereotyping also influences women who may view other Jewish women as objects of ridicule.

More importantly, the use of the term JAP may prevent us, as a community, from appreciating the accomplishments of Jewish female leaders and heroes, among them, scholars, artists, activists and innovators of social change. Further, the term JAP may block our awareness of the suffering of Jewish women in need – the elderly, the poor, the battered and the alcoholic.

Similar to the potentially destructive impact of the term JAP is the stereotype image of the Jewish mother – the self-sacrificing woman who totally denies her own needs while intrusively involving herself in the lives of her children, meeting their real or unreal needs.

Meanwhile, the Jewish princess, as daughter, is selfish, demanding, and materialistic, and too self-absorbed to be sympathetic to others and to fulfil the needs of her husband. The irony of this juxtaposition is that the princess turns into the Jewish mother as soon as she marries and has children.

This impossibility is similar to another anti-Semitic contradiction – all Jews are capitalists and/or all Jews are communists, either or both are used as needed.

As Jewish women, we must look beyond these stereotype images to strong and positive representations of our diversity. A standard for every Jewish community is the desire to look after each other, as well as to fight for social justice for all societies.

Franci Williams lives in Toronto.

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Jewish Life

Jewish genetic research

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

One of the areas in which the Internet excels is its ability to allow people with relatively specialized needs to exchange information and even forge virtual communities around the world. One example is the field of Jewish genetic disorders. Despite the fact that most of these disorders are relatively rare, the Internet can help you find information, advice and even empathy from others who are facing similar challenges. Today, genetics and breast cancer research and the ethical and halachic repercussions of genetic testing.

I must emphasize very strongly that although you can find a wealth of information out there, the Internet must *not* be considered a substitute for trusted medical or rabbinic experts who are familiar with your particular circumstances. Also, pay close attention to the credentials of the authors of anything you read on the Web. Not every one is a reliable or accurate source of information.

Some of the most famous studies about Jews and genetic diseases looked at the occurrence of mutations of breast cancer genes among Ashkenazi women and found higher rates among Jewish women. There are many articles on the Internet about these findings aimed at lay audiences, including the Jewish Communication Network **[http://www.jcn18.com/newstand/wahrman/cancer.htm]** and *USA Today* **[http://www.usatoday.com/life/health/cancer/breast/lhcbr006.htm]**.

Scientists are constantly refining their research, and the National Cancer Institute released a report that said although the breast cancer risk is higher among Ashkenazi women, it is lower than was found in previous studies **[http://rex.nci.nih.gov/massmedia/pressreleases/jewishgene.html]**.

If you suspect that you may be a carrier of a genetic disorder, would you get screened? Rita Rubin writes in *U.S. News and World Report* that despite the fact that two family members were both treated for breast cancer, she has decided not to be tested **[http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/geneb2.htm]**. She feels that even if she tested positive, she wouldn't change her health strategy of regular self-examinations and mammograms.

For the decisions other women have made, take a look at To Know or Not to Know from Ohio State University's Cancer Programs **[http://www.osu.edu/units/cancer/wn99frnt/know.htm]**.

Dr. Mary-Claire King is the researcher who first discovered the existence of the BRCA-1 gene. In a feature article in *Newsday* on genetics and the breast cancer gene, King emphasized that there are no easy answers to the medical, ethical and legal issues posed by her findings **[http://www.newsday.com/features/health/breast/bresmain.htm]**. "We're in a purgatorial period now... It's better than hell, but we're not in heaven."

The controversial question of genetic screening and its ethical and halachic implications is dealt with at length in several areas on the Internet. In his essay on Genetic Screening, North Dakota State University student Mike Wetzstein gives an overview of this issue and explains some of Judaism's concerns with genetic screening **[http://www.cc.ndsu.nodak.edu/instruct/mcclean/plsc431/students/mike.htm]**. "The obligation with regard to procreation is not suspended simply because of the statistical probability that some children of the union may be deformed or abnormal."

Dr. Fred Rosner is a professor of Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. In Judaism, Genetic Screening and Genetic Therapy **[http://www.ijme.org/Content/Transcripts/Rosner/genetics.htm]**, he concludes genetic screening and therapy "are permissible in Judaism when used for the treatment, cure, or prevention of disease. Such genetic manipulation is not considered to be a violation of God's natural law but a legitimate implementation of the biblical mandate to heal."

One of the greatest fears about genetic testing is the stigma that could occur if someone is known to be a carrier of a disease. I recommend a fascinating article in the *Jewish Homemaker* magazine, which looks at a Brooklyn-based organization called Dor Yeshorim **[http://ok.org/homemaker/chanukah99/health.html]**.

Dor Yeshorim tests young men and women before they begin to date. Their results are kept anonymously and are only available to rabbis who compare the charts when couples seriously contemplate marriage. If a couple are both carriers for a certain disorder, they are told their prospective union is "not advisable." No one is told if he or she is a carrier, only that both people must look for another match. The Dor Yeshorim method has apparently gained wide acceptance through Brooklyn's Orthodox community.

Next week, I continue to look at Jewish genetic resources on the Internet and focus on the creative ways people are sharing information and raising awareness.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home.com.

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Rabbi Marmur prepares to say goodbye . . .

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Rabbi Dow Marmur, set to retire at the end of the month, knows he is leaving Holy Blossom Temple in good hands.

"Holy Blossom's great strength lies with its lay leaders. Since I have been with the congregation, there have been no silly shul politics – no underhanded dealings. I was closer to each president at the end of the term, than I was before the term began," says Rabbi Marmur.

As well, Rabbi Marmur is comfortable knowing Rabbi John Moscowitz, assistant rabbi for 13 years, is taking over as senior rabbi. "He is known personally in the congregation [and] that will ensure continuity," Rabbi Mamur said.

Rabbi Marmur was born in Poland in 1935 and spent the war years in the Soviet Union before returning to Poland in 1946. He later emigrated to Sweden, and then attended Leo Baeck College in London, where he graduated as a rabbi in 1962.

He came to Holy Blossom after serving congregations in London for more than 20 years. "It was difficult coming to a different culture and leaving two of our three children, but professionally, it was very exciting. From the outset, I saw that Holy Blossom is a tremendous institution."

Rabbi Dow Marmur

The temple is now a mainstream congregation, he says. "We no longer represent members of one background. We come from all walks of life, and everyone feels at home.

"There is a long history of social involvement. We've become a hands-on congregation, whose members deal with problems as they see them."

The temple has been in the forefront dealing with issues regarding Jews who have or are affected by AIDS, he says, as well as general issues regarding gays and lesbians.

It has also been instrumental in building Plaut Manor, a 97-unit affordable housing unit at Keele Street and Eglinton Avenue W., and it was the first temple to co-sponsor an Out of the Cold program, he says.

"These are only some of the things our volunteers have tried to do in the community. It is part of our understanding of how mitzvot should be performed.

"The division between being involved in Jewish life and being a social activist does not exist any more. We are as much concerned with mitzvot between ourselves and God, as we are with mitzvot between one another. That is part of the widening scope of Jewish life."

In order to attract young families, the temple offers family services, and a new initiative allows members to pay what dues they can in the first year of membership. "This gives them the opportunity to try us out, and there has been a good response. Our task is to do what we can to promote synagogue affiliation.

"Life tends to centre on synagogue affiliation and day school education. To work out at [a health club] is a great thing to do, but it is not rewarding Jewishly," he said.

The synagogue is the obvious grassroots organization for Jews, he says. "It can foster a community that looks across generations.

"Young people cannot be Jewish vicariously. More and more young families want to do things together, and they can do that in synagogue. Merely attending the annual walk-a-thon is not enough."

Rabbi Marmur, author of four books, says he plans to do more writing, and will "continue to react to issues as I see them. I'm also looking forward to seeing the world. In the immediate future, I will be officiating at High Holy Day services in South Africa."

Retirement will definitely be an adjustment, he says, "but one to which I am looking forward, he said. For 38 years, I have been out most evenings."

He and his wife Fredzia, plan on visiting their son and daughter-in-law and their three children in Israel, and their two daughters and one son-in-law in London. "I'm happy to spend more time with my family."

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Three Canadian teens to take part in Bronfman Fellowship program

Yakov Frydman-Kohl

TORONTO — Three Canadian teens are among the 26 North American students to take part in this summer's Bronfman Fellowship program, designed to develop future community leaders committed to Jewish unity.

Yakov Frydman-Kohl and Giselle Revah, who are from Toronto and Thornhill respectively, and Catherine Strauss of Ottawa will spend five weeks of intensive study in Israel this summer on the program of the Samuel Bronfman Foundation.

Participants – 13 boys and 13 girls entering Grade 12, who represent a spectrum of Jewish backgrounds from Orthodox to unaffiliated — were chosen from over 300 applicants.

Catherine Strauss

The all-expenses-paid program, which is in its 14th year, includes seminars and dialogue with political and literary figures, representing a broad spectrum of views on political, social and religious issues facing world Jewry.

Giselle Revah

A week of joint programming with their Israeli counterparts will be included.

In explaining the purpose of the fellowships, Edgar Bronfman, chair of the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, said, "... they will discover that there is a common Jewish agenda that transcends the differences among them."

Follow-up programming continues through university.

Greater Toronto Area

. . . as Beth Emeth says hello to Rabbi Morrison

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Rabbi Howard Morrison, a one-time marketing major, changed career direction after realizing as a student at Boston University's School of Management, how fulfilled he felt in summer jobs as a fill-in cantor/Torah reader/spiritual leader.

"I felt very moved and inspired that I was able to grow and help other people grow," he said in a recent interview at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, where he will assume the pulpit Aug. 1.

Rabbi Howard Morrison

A graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary's Rabbinical School, Rabbi Morrison, 40, was ordained in 1987. Since 1991, he has been the spiritual leader of Long Island's Wantagh Jewish Centre, a traditional Con-servative congregation, like Beth Emeth.

"My bent is traditional Conservative," said Rabbi Morrison, who was raised in a modern Orthodox home in Brookline, Mass.

The great-grandson of an ordained rabbi on his late mother's side, Rabbi Morrison has childhood memories of reading aloud to his paternal grandfather – the shammas of a tiny synagogue in the Bronx – from a large-print Chumash just after he learned to read Hebrew. That grandfather and his wife raised Rabbi Morrison's late father and two uncles as their foster children.

Coincidentally, Rabbi Morrison and Beth Emeth's Cantor Aaron Bensoussan studied at JTS at the same time, and went on to serve nearby congregations in Long Island.

Although he wasn't actively seeking a new position, Rabbi Morrison said he and his wife Joanna are very excited about their upcoming move with their two boys, Elie, 5 and Yonah, 2.

"What impressed me," he said of the 1,500-family Toronto congregation, "is that given its size, it's still a heimish congregation. You feel a sense of intimacy and belonging."

Rabbi Morrison believes a synagogue must "speak to" its members on multiple levels. "I enjoy being given the opportunity to inspire people on religious, spiritual, educational, cultural and social levels," he said.

"I am committed to a type of halachic lifestyle that interacts openly and honestly with the modern world in which we live."

The rabbi probably gets furthest away from his familiar synagogue environment in his duties as a reserve chaplain in the U.S. air force. In the entire United States, he said, there are seven active duty Jewish chaplains in the air force, and six of their reserve duty counterparts.

At his New Jersey base, there are approximately 30 Jewish families. He also serves retired Jewish military families off-base, and equally important, he noted, is his interaction with the non-Jewish community, both as an ambassador of the Jewish faith and as a pastoral counsellor to personnel of all faiths.

"One thing the chaplain provides that no one else does is confidentiality," he said. "We're not in the business of proselytizing."

Rabbi Morrison entered the air force as a rabbinical student in 1984, in part to gain experience interacting with spiritual leaders of different backgrounds and to learn to appreciate their similarities and differences.

Likewise within Judaism, he sees unity within diversity, a value he feels is the strength of the Conservative movement.

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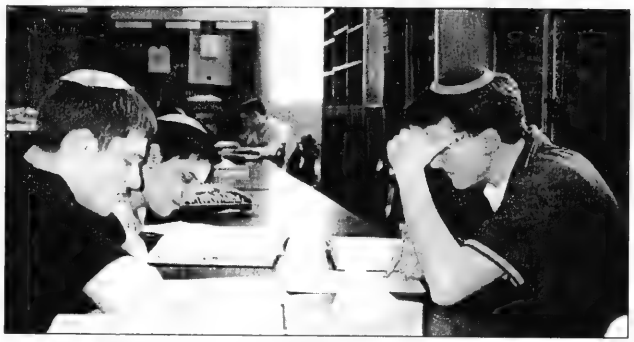

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ייִדישע ווערטלעך און אַנעקדאָטן

פֿון **שלום הערשקאָפֿ** (סאראַנסק)

נאָך דער מלוכה האָב איך געטראַכט, אַז ס'איז אַ שאַד, וואָס עס געפֿינען זיך נישט קיין מענטשן, וועלכע זאָלן באַשרײַבן דאָס טאָג־טעגלעכע לעבן אין ייִדישע שטעטלעך. יעדע שטאָט איז געווען ריך מיט פֿאַרשיידענע טיפּן ייִדן, צעדרײַטע אין האַלב־צעדרײַטע. מען האָט קיין מאָל נישט געווווסט, צי זיי זײַנען באמת משוגע אַדער מאַכן יענעם צום נאַר. אַזוי פיל ייִדישע אין וועלטס חכמה האָט געשטעקט אין זיערע ווערטלעך.

דער לייענער וועט דאָ ווייטער געפֿינען אַ ביסל אַנעקדאָטן, אײַנגעניע אין געלקחנטע בײַ אַנדערע, פֿרײַער נישט געדרוקטע.

געווען בײַ אונדז אין דער שטאָט סטאָשעוו אַ ייִד פֿון די „ווילע" יונגען. ער האָט נישט געהאָט קיין בארד, געטראָגן אַ היטל מיט אַ גלאַנציקן דאַשעק אין געפּאַסטע שטיוועלעך. ערב פּסח, ווען ער איז געקומען פֿון שול אין אָפּגעגעבן אַ בריוטן „גוט יום־טוב", האָט זיין וויב געזאָגט: — „משהלע, זעץ זיך צום טיש אין ריכט אָפּ דעם סדר". האָט ער געענטפֿערט: — „וואָס איז דאָ צו דערצײלן?! . . . די ייִדן זײַנען געווען אין ד'ערד, זיי זײַנען אין ד'ערד אין וועלן זיין אין ד'ערד. גיב אַהער די ייִדן מיט די קנײדלעך".

* * *

געווען אין שטאָט אַ חברהמאַן, וועמען מען האָט גערופֿן „קראַלאַק" גנב. פֿאַרוואָס? . . . אָט אין די סיבה: זיי האָבן גהאַט אַ געוועלב. איין אָוונט איז די עלעקטרײַ אויסגעאַנגען אין ס'איז געוואָרן פּיצטער. אין יענע יאָרן זײַנען נישט געווען קיין „קעשרעדזשיסטערס", דאָס געלט האָט מען גהאַלטן אין אַ שופֿלאָד. האָט דער טאָטע מורא געהאַט, אַז זיין „תכשיט" וועט זיך העלפֿן צום געלט. האָט ער גשעריגן: — „משהלע, פֿאָטש מיט די הענט". אָזוי אַרום וועלן זיינע הענט זיין פֿאַרנומען. האָט משהלע אַנגעהויבן פֿאָטשן, נאָר אָנשטאָט צו פֿאָטשן מיט בײדע הענט, האָט ער מיט איין האַנט זיך גיפֿאָטשט אין דער באָק, אָן מיט דער צוויטער האָט ער זיך גיהאָלפֿן צום געלט. זינט דעמסטמאָל איז אים פֿאַרבליבן דער נאָמען „משה קראַלאַק גנב".

* * *

דער ערשטער די־פּי לאָגער איז דייטשלאַנד איז געשאַפֿן געוואָרן אין פּעלדאָפּינג. מיט אַ קורצער צײַט שפּעטער האָט אַנגעהויבן צו דערשיינען אַ ייִדישע צײַטונג: „דאָס פֿרײַע וואָרט". דער רעדאַקטאָר און אַרויסגעבער איז געווען מאיר גאָווראָנסקי, אַ פֿיינער, אינטעליגענטער יונגערמאַן, וועלכער האָט געשטאַמט פֿון מעמל, לעטלאַנד. קיין ייִדישע שריפֿט איז אין דייטשלאַנד נאָך נישט געווען. איז די צײַטונג דערשינען אין ייִדיש מיט לאָטײַנישע בוכשטאָבן. פֿון אַנהײב האָט עס אויסגעזען קאָמיש: אַ ייִדישע צײַטונג מיט „גוישע" אותיות. עס האָט אַבער געדויערט אַ סך פֿאַזיטיוע רעזולטאַטן. עס זײַנען געווען אין לאָגער ייִדן, ספּעציעל צווישן די אונגאַרישע, וועלכע האָבן נישט געקענט רעדן אַדער לייענען ייִדיש. אַ דאַנק דער שריפֿט האָבן זיי זיך אויסגעלערנט רעדן ייִדיש.

איין מאָל קומט אַ ייִד אין דער רעדאַקציע און וויל אויסנישטעלן אַן אַנאָנס אין דער צײַטונג. וואָס איז געשען? זיין וויב האָט געמאַכט פּיש אויף שבת. אין יענער צײַט, ווי באַקאַנט, זײַנען נישט געווען קיין „פֿרידושידערס", האָט זי אויסגעשטעלט די פּיש אויף דער אַנדערער זײַט פֿון פענצטער אָפּצוקילן. האָט עמעץ זיי געגנבעט. האָט דער ייִד אויסגעשטעלט אַזאַ מעלדונג: „ווער עס האָט גענגבעט די פּיש, זאָלן זיי אים ווויל באַקומען, נאָר גאָט זאָל גענבן, אַז ער זאָל שטענדיק דאַרפֿן גנבענען פּיש אויף שבת".

(מער אַנעקדאָטן אין א קומעדיקן קאָלום)

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Greater Toronto Area

Lt. Col. Eddie Goodman of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada addresses recent dinner at Beth Emeth Synagogue. [Adam Segal photo]

Jewish War Veterans remember D-Day

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — Jewish War Veterans of Canada commemorated the bravery of Canadian Jewish soldiers who fought on the shores of Normandy in World War II, at a recent D-Day dinner.

Held at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue, the annual dinner was host to a number of dignitaries including former premier of Ontario Bill Davis, chair of the Police Services Board Norm Gardner, Hugh Segal and guest of honour Lt.-Col. Eddie Goodman.

Goodman, a lawyer, philanthropist and officer of the Order of Canada, served and was wounded on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He remained in the army, reaching the rank of major before returning to Canada in April 1945.

"Jewish veterans must remind the world of the important part Canadian Jews played in the two large struggles of the 20th century," Goodman said, in front of a packed sanctuary.

Almost 17,000 Jewish men and women – 10 percent of Canadian Jews – served in the Canadian army and air force during World War II, and 421 of them lost their lives.

Goodman called on the federal government to use money from the recent surplus to fund the military, which has experienced drastic cuts in recent years.

"There is no institution that draws Canadians together like the military," he said. "Let us maintain our self-respect … and spend decent wages on the army and militia."

An essay recently published in *The Canadian Military Journal*, suggests cutbacks to training and equipment jeopardized the safety of Canadian pilots involved in the Kosovo air war.

Beth Emeth Rabbi Peretz Weitzman, a holocaust survivor, stressed the need to remember soldiers, whose efforts paved the way for the freedom Canadians enjoy today.

"We will remember those who came and risked their lives for the most precious possession – life," Rabbi Weitzman said

A total of 1.5 million Jews served in the allied armies in World War II. The number of Jewish resistance and partisan fighters is unknown.

LIFE-SAVING DONATION: A Mobile Intensive Care Unit was recently gifted to Magen David Adom in Israel through Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel by Lewis and Ruth Sherman of Burlington, Ont. Seen (from left, front row) Oscar Costin, CMDA board members; Ruth and Lewis Sherman, donors; Norton Segal, vice-president. Back row: Shirley Moscovitch, national executive director; Paul Saxe, board member; Aaron Chazan, treasurer; and Irwin Beutel, ambulance chair.

Greater Toronto Area

Jewish Russian Community Centre reaches out

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Jewish Russian Community Centre reaches out to thousands of Jews who might otherwise not be connected to the community.

For Purim, the centre offered programs for over 1,500 people, and for Pesach they sponsored seders for over 500 – and that's just this year.

The High Holy Days are expected to serve over 7,000 – even if some have to stand.

Executive director Rabbi Yosef Zaltzman and program director Rabbi Shlomo Vorovitch, aim to offer quality programming for Russian Jews in as many convenient locations as possible, at whatever level of religious knowledge they have achieved, and in whatever language – Hebrew, Russian or English – they are most comfortable.

"The younger people are often losing their Russian, and are happier using English," Rabbi Zaltzman told *The CJN*.

The Purim celebrations included megillah readings at six locations – the synagogue at 18 Rockford Road; Leah Posluns Theatre, which included a children's concert; Rockford Public School; the JRCC day care; Toronto Jewish Academy Or Menachem, and a seudah at B'nai Torah Congregation.

Rabbi Vorovitch, who became religious through Lubavitch after serving as a Soviet army officer, organized the seders almost single-handedly ("He had at least 12 hands," laughed Rabbi Zaltzman.)

Seders were conducted at six locations so there would not be too many people at any one place, and the venues were close to the areas where Jewish Russians live so they would not have to walk too far.

The location at 3174 Bathurst St. near Lawrence Avenue, was led by young Lubavitchers Menachem Schechter, Zalman Zaltzman and Shmuel Goldberg; at Magen David Synagogue by Rabbi Jeremy Cohen and his wife Sari; Eitz Chaim Patricia campus, by the Vorovitch family; Eitz Chaim Spring Farm campus, by Rabbi Zaltzman and his family; the JRCC synagogue by Uri Kogan; and on Brickstone Circle in Thornhill by Rabbi Levi Jacobson and his family.

"People felt like they were part of our families," said Rabbi Vorovitch.

Seders were conducted mainly in Russian, with varying amounts of Hebrew, or in English. "We wanted to create an atmosphere where people come, and are interested enough to come for a second and third [year]," Rabbi Zaltzman said.

Some people have come often enough (Rabbi Zaltzman has been holding seders since 1981) that they can make their own seders, either with the rabbis or at their own homes, Rabbi Zaltzman said. "Our goal is to put ourselves out of the Pesach business."

They used a Russian/English Haggadah already in print, but want to eventually prepare their own.

The experience was "priceless," said Rabbi Vorovitch. "I began my seder by reminding them that the story of Pesach was the beginning of history. Their being here [at the seder] is a miracle of our time – and sometimes we don't appreciate miracles."

The rabbis said that they do the entire seder, not a truncated version, with communal readings, the children reading the four questions (often led by the rabbis' children) stories, and the thoughts of previous Lubavitcher rebbes. "Our goal is to make a seder that people will enjoy," said Rabbi Vorovitch.

There are two differences from the usual seder, they noted. Lubavitchers no longer "steal" the afikoman, and don't recite the concluding prayer Chasal Seder Pesach.

Next year, the JRCC hopes to expand to even more locations.

Rabbi Vorovitch confessed that the whole process was "exhausting," but "when people come up and say thanks, it's all worthwhile."

For Shavout, they had ice cream parties for children.

Rabbi Zaltzman noted that Toronto Hebrew Academy Or Menachem is moving to its new location on Bathurst St. in Thornhill at the end of this school year.

VISITING THE ART GALERY: Students at Hamilton's Kehila Jewish Community Day School recently took part in interactive workshops with artists at the Hamilton Art Gallery for four consecutive afternoons. Each one of those days started with an art treasure hunt throughout the gallery. The students made masks, musical instruments, box art and collages.

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Greater Toronto Area

From left: Keith Landy, CJC Ontario region chair; Dr. Itmar Shalit, director of the Shnider Children's American Medical Centre; Prince Firas bin Raad of Jordan, Dr. Arnold Noyek, chair of CISEPO; and Moshe Ronen, CJC national president.

CISEPO program to test Mideast kids for hearing loss

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — From his office in Mount Sinai Hospital in downtown Toronto, Dr. Arnold Noyek can see the future of the Middle East quite clearly.

It involves friendly co-operation, close personal relationships and joint ventures that improve the lot of everyone in the region.

And it involves individuals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) using "soft power" to give life and substance to words on paper.

Project involves friendly co-operation, joint ventures

For the past several years, Noyek and his colleagues at the Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto have worked through the Isabel Silverman Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO) to forge partnerships among Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians. CISEPO does so by funding collaborative medical, scientific, educational, training, service and research programs.

The latest CISEPO-financed program that has Noyek excited is one that will screen 12,000 newborn infants in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories for hearing loss. The program will be managed by the Middle East Association for Managing Hearing Loss (MEHA), which consists of senior medical officials from Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The program kicked off on May 16 and involves the combined efforts of almost 75 hospitals and health clinics.

CISEPO will provide MEHA with $150,000 per year for three years as well as transfer $300,000 worth of hearing aids donated by Unitron Industries Limited.

The project should have tremendous impact in Arab communities, Noyek said. On average 10-12 percent of Middle East residents suffer from hearing loss, compared to one in a 1,000 in Canada. In some Arab-Israeli villages, as many as half the population is deaf.

Heredity is the major factor in those disturbing statistics. "Hearing loss is due to inter-familial marriage," he said.

"We are launching the program not only for the benefit of the children, but to build and grow working relationships and promote regional co-operation between health care and scientific professionals," said Noyek, chief of Mount Sinai's otolaryngology department.

"The problem is there's a peace treaty, but not much happening. There needs to be on-the-ground activities. That's what breathes life into the treaties."

By encouraging co-operation between peace party signatories, the "pressures of professional societies opposed to normalization of relations" can be countered, he suggested. "CISEPO brings them together and opens the door under a Canadian umbrella."

Canadian Jewish Congress has endorsed the program.

"We embrace it as an example of what private enterprise can do to make a difference in Middle Eastern politics," said Keith Landy, chair of Congress' Ontario region.

During Congress' recent Peace and Security Mission to Israel, Landy and other Congress officers met Palestinian and Israeli doctors involved in the project as well as Jordanian Crown Prince Firas bin Raad, the patron of MEHA and secretary to King Abdullah for health affairs.

In Canada, Congress has hosted breakfast meetings and other get-togethers for visiting Palestinian and Israeli doctors, Landy said.

New philanthropy trends: meeting the challenge

Continued from page 3

tremendous services to anyone who wants to partner with us and help Jewish community life. We can create shidduchs. It's like one big giant 'shuk' of people who have money and dream of doing good, and people who have dreams of delivering that good."

Philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt are perhaps the ultimate example of both.

"Here are two guys who stand up for two of the most important things the federations stand for: central community responsibility and Jewish education," Sokolsky said, admitting that the pair's Birthright initiative, a free 10-day trip to Israel offered to young Jewish adults, has presented "a bit of a challenge" to the federation's system.

"It was a challenge to partner with leading philanthropists in the delivery of services over which, traditionally, federations had a monopoly," he said. Traditionally, Sokolsky noted, federations have offered subsidies based on financial need, whereas Birthright had a different strategy.

Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS), a beneficiary of the federation, found that some of his staff's ongoing work had to be put on the back burner when the organization took on the task of co-ordinating Birthright locally. (The Canada Israel Experience Centre, under the direction of Elizabeth Sokolsky, Ted's wife, is the national co-ordinator.)

"A lot of the on-campus stuff suffered," Kaye recalls. Despite his initial skepticism that a 10-day trip could have a major impact, Kaye is now an enthusiastic proponent of Birthright. "The outcome was much more positive than we would have imagined. Despite the difficulties, it was certainly worth it."

But Kaye is critical of the fact that resources, such as funding to hire more staff for the project, were not made available to JCS, and is negotiating with the federation to address that problem for the coming year.

Birthright founder Steinhardt, who spoke to *The CJN* while in Toronto for a Hillel conference earlier this year, remains an annual contributor to UJA, although it is "not the focus" of his philanthropy.

Steinhardt's UJA contribution "might be considered a relatively large one," he admitted. He feels UJA provides "necessary services as the heart and soul of any Jewish community, and therefore like any other tax, it's one a good citizen should pay."

But he criticizes the organization for being "so much a consensus organization that it has fallen behind the curve of a rapidly changing Jewish circumstance."

Where the UJA has failed, according to Steinhardt, is "in anticipating the decline in so many aspects of the community that has largely been associated with – ironically – our great Jewish success, the fact that we've been so well accepted."

The percentage of philanthropic dollars "given by Jews to Jewish causes as opposed to secular causes continues to decline," Steinhardt said, referring to American Jewry.

He himself is a major donor to New York's Metropolitan Museum and in the area of wildlife conservation, among others.

In Canada, too, Jewish philanthropists seeking to fund mega-projects are looking outside the Jewish community to universities, art galleries and symphonies, said Sokolsky, who sees the trend as positive. "It's a natural, healthy evolution. It's part of Jewish leadership taking their rightful place within Canadian society."

Among the emerging leaders in Toronto are the Wolfond brothers – Henry, Greg and Chad – who recently provided the lead donation for a new Jewish student centre at the University of Toronto, to be called the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, in honour of their parents, Mel and Pedie.

UJA is a tax good citizens should pay: Steinhardt

Chad, the youngest at 36, has a passion for the arts and a sense of commitment to his Jewish heritage. Growing up, his parents instilled in him and his brothers that giving back to the community is important.

A gallery owner, Chad believes the arts are "a fundamental component of life." He has focused his Jewish charitable giving on arts-oriented efforts like Ashkenaz, the Jewish Film Festival and Jewish Book Fair. He is also a supporter of Holocaust Education Week.

"I get involved in Jewish and non-Jewish causes because I think they're important."

Regarding his most recent donation, he hopes to become more involved with JTT. "I feel quite passionate about the ideas of JTT," he said.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Congregation says Jewish law mandates giving tzedakah in a concentric circle, so that one gives to the poor of one's household before the poor of the city, and to the poor of the city before the poor of another community.

"We have to balance local, general needs as well as overseas Jewish needs, so determining what's the concentric circle is not always so clear."Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said. "There is certainly an obligation to care for Jews who are not local, but there is an obligation to care for the general community that is local, including non-Jews."

The rabbi also noted philanthropists often don't consider their own synagogues, an issue that was addressed at last winter's General Assembly of Jewish Federations.

"People are yearning for community," said philanthropist and author Lee Meyerhoff Hendler at the GA. "The most authentic vision of community available to us is synagogues," she said.

Synagogues have traditionally been separate from the federation system, although recently there have been joint federation-synagogue initiatives, such as family education projects.

While concern has been expressed by some that UJA campaigns "may represent a smaller portion of the philanthropic purse," said Sokolsky, "the purse itself is getting much bigger."

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On Campus

Thornhill firm makes Birthright Israel documentary

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Leonard Pearl, president of a Jewish film documentary company called 12 Tribes Productions Inc., is staring at a tiny video screen in his Thornhill office, watching footage from February's Birthright Israel trip.

***

Three young Montrealers stand together, tanned and jovial. Their tour bus broke down on the way to a kibbutz in the Golan Heights and they have just finished hiking two miles to their destination. Along the way, they danced the horah on the highway.

Looking into the camera, one of the Montrealers says: "They say God has a reason for everything that happens. I guess our bus broke down for a reason. We saw Israel in a way I guess I never would have seen it."

***

A group from Montreal are sitting around discussing their experience at the Kotel.

"When I was there, I thought I would be more connected to my Judaism, my Jewish spirit," says one participant.

"When I got there, the wall didn't sing to me and say, 'You're a Jew and come and celebrate.' I just saw all these different groups of people who didn't seem to give me that unified Jewish spirit that I thought I was going to get...What is it about the Wall that's such a big deal? To me, it wasn't a big deal."

***

Two friends from Richmond, B.C. are standing on a street in Tel Aviv with their arms around each other.

"I've never experienced Israel like this in my life," says the girl. "I went to the Kotel and Yad Vashem. Being with a group of people around our age and experiencing the educational things we've done [is] the most unreal opportunity."

***

Pearl first thought of filming the documentary about a year ago when an acquaintance told him about Birthright Israel.

"A spark went off and I said to myself, 'This should be our next project.'"

So Pearl approached Birthright Israel and they agreed to allow him to film the trips.

The documentary, which mainly focuses on the experiences of Canadian participants, is a partnership with Birthright Israel, but not in the financial sense. Birthright Israel will have input into the content of the documentary, Pearl said.

In Israel, Pearl's crew followed participants everywhere.

"We had the camera in our hands from seven in the morning to three in the morning. It was exhausting for us," he says.

They had to lug several pieces of heavy equipment, including cameras, back-up cameras, a microphone, battery cases, lights and tripods.

Of course, there were a few hitches along the way. In the Judean desert, one camera got so hot that it stopped working. After filming a closing concert, the crew almost missed their flight back to Canada.

But Pearl says what was most frustrating about filming the trips was trying to be everywhere at once.

"They [participants] would run up to us and say, 'You missed the best part of the trip — we did this, we did that.'"

Pearl says his consolation came when he viewed the footage and saw the special moments the crew captured.

While most participants and organizers made positive comments about Birthright Israel, Pearl admits he did encounter criticism of the trips while filming the documentary.

In a pre-trip interview, a Birthright Israel organizer in Montreal was skeptical of Birthright and thought participants would merely view the trips as a free ride.

This organizer also questioned the need to fly young Jews all the way to Israel to make them feel Jewish or connected to Israel, rather than developing Jewish programs here in Canada.

Pearl spoke to him again about two weeks ago and said there was a total change in his attitude.

"He thought it was one of the most wonderful experiences for them [participants]," Pearl says.

Pearl also heard an Israeli participant criticize the program. He thought the money would have been better spent invested in Israel or flying Israelis to Canada.

12 Tribes Productions Inc. now has 125 tapes with about 100 hours of footage of interviews with trip funders Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, as well as with Birthright Israel organizers, volunteers, guest speakers, Israeli educators and participants.

Pearl's staff have to compress the footage into a 45-minute documentary by September. A Canadian station has committed to airing the documentary, Pearl said, but he could not yet say which station would be airing it.

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KEEP THIS PAGE WITH THE PARTY PLANNER

In the June 1, 2000 Party Planner there were a number of incorrect telephone numbers printed with our Bands pictorial (page B36-37) and our Interactive Entertainers pictorial (pages B14-15). The correct phone numbers are printed below. Please tear this page out and keep it with the Party Planner.

The CJN **apologizes for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.**

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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NEWS FLASH ... NEWS FLASH

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 19, is deadline for June 29 issue and Monday, June 26, is deadline for July 6. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, June 15

ABOUT LIBRARIES

The Association of Jewish Libraries – Ontario meets 8 p.m. at the Jewish Public Library, 4600 Bathurst St. **Zina** 781-3514, ext. 25.

Saturday, June 17

A HISTORY OF SOTAH

At Congregation Darchei Noam rabbinical student **Lisa Grushcow** leads an evening of study on the topic Adultery and Authority: A History of Sotah, a woman suspected of adultery. 7:30 p.m., 15 Hove St. Havdalah follows. 638-4783.

Sunday, June 18

YUJJIES LECTURE

YUJJIES (Young Urban Jews 20 and 30 something) lecture, A Leap of Action: Jewish Life That Matters with **Rabbi Yael Splansky**, 7:30 p.m., Indigo Café, 2300 Yonge St. Sponsored by Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, the action committee for Jewish continuity of UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto and the Les & Minda Feldman Family Foundation. 485-7007, ext. 222.

VEGETARIAN GROUP

L'Chaim Vegetarian Group Lunch 'N' Learn, noon to2:30 p.m., at Le Commensal vegetarian restaurant, 655 Bay St. **Howard Koch** 663-4076.

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer**. Come listen, come tell. 7:30 p.m., Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave. 699-8914.

Monday, June 19

RIGHT AFTER WORK

Right After Work (RAW), Jewish Women International non-traditional woman's group (ages 45 plus) for True Colours – an interactive workshop to help understand ourselves and those around us, 6 p.m., dinner. Reserve. JWI/C 630-9313.

JEWISH PARENTING

First Narayever Synagogue's Jewish Parenting Today series continues with **Sarah Channa Radcliff** discussing Derech Eretz, 8 p.m., 187 Brunswick Ave. Register **Rona Sherebrin** 781-0282.

Tuesday, June 20

PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation hosts an Estate Planning Seminar 6-8 p.m., Mount Sinai Hospital, 18th floor, Ben Sadowski Auditorium. Speakers include **Diane Francis, Elena Hoffstein, Melvin Gilbert. Lloyd Fogler**, Foundation chair, **Dr. Zane Cohen**. RSVP **Andrea** 586-8527.

SISTERHOOD MEETING

Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood luncheon meeting, entertainment by **Sheryl Saperia**, 12:30 p.m. Reserve. **Ruth Fruitman** 905-731-6660.

Wednesday, June 21

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Bayview Support Network, a group of cancer survivors and caregivers helping cancer patients and their families, presents Coping – How a Dash of Humour Helps, with **Dr. Robert Buckman,** 7 p.m., Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre. 480-6898.

LUNCH & LEARN

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch & Learn in Retirement Group outing to see *Hello Dolly* at Stage West. Be at temple by 10 a.m. and return approximately at 4 p.m. Book your spot. **Shelly Berenbaum** 789-3291, ext. 233.

Continued on page 25

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BORG IMAGING GROUP

Continued from page 24

Thursday, June 22

LIZZIES OLD TIMERS

The Lizzies Old Timers Association 17th annual dinner at the Bob Abate Community Recreation Centre, 485 Montrose Ave. **William "Bill" Gold** is honouree as Lizzie of the Year. Refreshments 5-6:45 p.m., dinner at 7. For tickets/information, **Harvey Bronstein** 905-886-6580 or **Norm Cornack** 749-6735.

And What Else Is New

HEBREW SCHOOL

Ateret Shalom Hebrew School offers junior kindergarten, senior kindergarten to Grade 7, bar/bat mitzvah program, and remedial and advanced programs. Classes are held once or twice a week in Yorkhill Elementary School at Hilda and Clark in Thornhill. Music, arts and crafts, Israeli folk dancing and more. Affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education. Registration is now open for September. **Joseph Klinger**, principal; **Sadie Domb**, administrator. 905-886-1457.

CAMP REUNION

Calling all former campers and staff of Camp Northland-B'nai Brith. The 90th anniversary reunion is set for Sunday, Nov. 5, for lunch and afternoon of nostalgia at the Hollywood Princess Banquet Hall, Hwy. 7, in Concord. For information or to have your name placed on the mailing list, call Jewish Camp Council at 630-1180.

CONCERT FOR CHILDREN

A concert for children of all ages (and their parents too), consisting of music composed and performed by Russian composer **Vladimir Shainski** on Thursday, June 29, at 8 p.m. at Northview Heights Secondary School, 550 Finch Ave. W. Proceeds to be donated to the Jewish Russian Community Centre Matti Baranovski Youth Program Fund. For tickets 667-9516.

MARITIMERS, TAKE NOTE!

Cape Breton Jewish Club Picnic, Sunday, June 25, 11 a.m., Earl Bales Park. Bring your lunch, your family, your landsmen.

SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for couples who have lost a child is being sponsored by Pride of Israel Synagogue in cooperation with Jewish Family & Child Service. A series of six evening sessions, led by JF&CS professionals, begins Wednesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. Register 226-0111.

SINGLES ONEG SHABBAT

Beth Tikvah Synagogue Progressive Singles, in conjunction with the Intersynagogue Singles Oneg Shabbat (for singles 35 plus), Friday, June 23, 6 p.m. services, dinner following. **Rabbi Eli Garfinkel**, Beth Tikvah associate rabbi, will speak on Why Do We All Not Live in Israel. Register 221-3433, ext. 0.

RESOURCE CENTRE

The Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. To register, **Bernice Friedman** 905-882-8509.

Jewish Discovery Place invites you to make a spice bag for Shabbat, Wednesday, June 21, 10 a.m. to noon at the Resource Centre.

Stepping Stones, an 8-session early childhood development program for ages 22 months-3½, 9:30-11 a.m.; ages 3½-4½, 1:30-3 p.m. Begins June 26.

The Zodiac – Discover the Jewish perspective on the astrological signs and their psychological and spiritual relevance to our lives with **Rabbi Mitch Mandel**, Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Junior Jewish Art Workshop for pre-schoolers combining songs, stories, crafts, Thursdays 1:30-3 p.m.

Jewish Art Workshop for Kids – for school-age children (ages 6-10), Judaic arts and crafts, such as havdalah set, seder plate, Mondays 4:30-6 p.m.

SINGLES EVENT

Classic Events presents Summer Launch for singles 35-55, Sunday, June 25, 7:30 p.m., at Sambuca, 291 King St. W. Dancing, mix and mingle, swing dance lessons from 8-9 p.m. Portion of proceeds to be donated to Zareinu. **Patsi Mandelbaum** 905-886-3301 or **Ferne Kirschner** 493-8338.

EXERCISE PROGRAMS

Personal Exercise Programs (PEP) for Seniors, developed by Baycrest Centre, can help you if you have trouble getting out to exercise. An exercise professional will come to your home and design an exercise program specific to your needs. 785-2500, ext. 2752.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. June 15, bingo; June 22, lecture (Israel politics); June 29, Muskoka. **Menachem Wallach** 905-781-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

LZA Seniors Club Father's Day luncheon Wednesday, June 21, entertainment by **Mikhael Khinkis**. *Fiddler on the Roof* Sept. 13 at Stratford. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. and Cultural Club Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. **Libby** 782-2059 or the office 630-9444.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: *Damn Yankees,* at Drayton Festival Theatre, Aug. 22. **Lena** 785-5773.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday dance June 25; Casino Rama June 21, July 5, 19; Casino Niagara, get back $10 in coin bonus, June 28; Catskills Paramount Hotel July 23-20; Soaring Eagle Casino in Michigan Aug. 20-23. 395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors vacation at kosher Raleigh Hotel July 28-Aug. 6. Accepting deposits now for seat on first come, first served basis. Partners available. **Helen** 635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Art Appreciation: The Impressionists and the Post-Impressionists with **Edith Altschuler**, Mondays, June 19 and 26, 10 a.m.

Healthy Cooking with dietician/nutritionist **Andrea Sturk** Tuesday, June 20, 1:15 p.m.

How to Get a Good Night's Sleep with nurse **Cynthia O'Beirne** Thursday, June 22, 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Strength Training for Men with fitness instructor **Karen Shuster,** Thursdays, 9-10 a.m., June 22-Aug. 3. **Ruth** ext. 105.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. June 20, lunch out; June 27, sing-along with **Miki Levine.** Call **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Grey Owl* Sunday, June 13, 2:30 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. 785-2500.

Wellness lecture, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Greying Guts, with **Dr. Eric E. Hurowitz,** 1:30-2:30 p.m. Register at Service Desk or call ext. 2267.

Fiddler on the Roof performed by students of Forest Hill Public School Thursday, June 22, 1:30 p.m. at the centre. **Marla Kurtz** ext. 2272.

Outing to the Art Gallery of Ontario to view the works of **Charlotte Salomon** Friday, June 23, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Register in person. For information, **Mara Swartz** ext. 2275.

Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, June 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kosher lunch, stimulating lecture. Reserve. at Service Desk. **Mara.**

Soldiers of Israel performance, Friday, June 30, in the morning. Register at Service Desk. **Marla.**

Several outings to Caravan City-Wide Event begin the week of June 26. **Mara.**

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

A cavalcade of stars perform in concert Sunday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the Bloor JCC and to help raise funds for a new 300 seat theatre slated for construction this year.

Summer Programs and Day Camps July 3-Sept. 1:

Preschoolers (2½-4 years) play-based Summer Tots program or the new Junior Art for 4-5 year olds.

Full-day camps: Arts Alive, explore different cultures through storytelling, music, dance, arts and crafts. Cityscope, off-site outings for older children. Blue Chip Basketball Camp. Camps include swimming, sports, special events, games.

A Taste of Sailing, in conjunction with Island Yacht Club, basic sailing skills, tennis, swimming, games, sports.

Mad Science for ages 6-12, hands-on participation, demonstrations.

Summer Swim Lessons, all levels, throughout the summer.

Seniors Calendar: Thursday, June 15, 2 p.m., screening of off-Broadway success, *Too Jewish?* with **Avi Hoffman;** Tuesday, June 20, 2 p.m. visit to Art Gallery of Ontario to see Take Good Care of It, It's My Whole Life, the work of Jewish artist and Holocaust victim **Charlotte Salomon**; Thursday, June 22, 2 p.m. **Janet Trost**, photographer and documentary maker, talks about her work.

ABOUT PEOPLE

BJC APPOINTMENT

The Bathurst Jewish Centre announces the appointment of **Sherry Kulman** as executive director. For more than 10 years she served as executive director of the John Howard Society. Kulman holds a master's degree in social sciences from the University of Ottawa and an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Carleton University. She is married to **John Samuels** and is the mother of three, **Jacob, Max** and **Hannah.**

Sherry Kulman

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

Coast to Coast

Israeli centre unites Jewish, Arab kids

By MARLANE SMITH
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — As Israeli troops and Palestinian police clashed in Ramallah and Nablus, a song for peace – in Hebrew, Arabic and English – echoed half a world away in a Vancouver synagogue.

About 70 people turned out at Temple Sholom recently to learn how the development and growth of the Centre for Jewish-Arab Education is revolutionizing a small portion of the Israeli school system. The multilingual song for peace, led by Myrna Rabinowitz created a peaceful mood in the small audience.

The gathering heard the centre's founders – an Israeli Arab and an American Jew now living in Israel – and an Arab father speak passionately about their project, which brings together Jewish and Arab children in a learning environment. The message was unequivocal: The meeting of Israeli Jews and Arabs must start at an early age if the two cultures are to ever live side-by-side in peace, harmony and mutual understanding.

"The meeting of Jews and Arabs shouldn't start at the university level," said Shafik Masalha, an Israeli Arab psychologist and father of two daughters who attend the Jewish-Arab school.

"By that time it is too late. Ideas and attitudes are already built on attacking the other rather than on an attitude of give and take," he said.

Amin Khalaf, one of the centre's co-founders, admitted he carried about hatred and fear, and had many stereotypes about Israeli Jews before starting his studies at Hebrew University – his first opportunity to attend school with both Arabs and Jews.

According to the other co-founder Lee Gordon, the average Israeli Jew has not had more than a superficial conversation with an Israeli Arab. And most Israeli Arabs have only a shallow knowledge of Jewish life and experience.

Perhaps this is understandable, said Gordon, in a country where there has been only one educational paradigm: separate schools and languages of instruction for Jews and Arabs.

Khalaf and Lee collaborated on their mutual vision of building a new model in the Israeli education system, and in 1998, they opened the centre's first school in Misgav. A second school has since opened in Jerusalem and a third is planned for Jaffa.

"We don't want to bring Arabs out of their communities," Gordon said, "so we're creating schools in cities where both Jews and Arabs live, where they can meet in the middle."

In each classroom, two teachers – one Jewish and one Arab – instruct from a bilingual and bicultural curriculum. While the school is classified as non-religious, teachings include both Jewish and Arab culture and observances.

Khalaf, who is also a parent of a child at the centre, described his hesitation when his young son went to play for the first time at Jewish boy's home.

Questions and doubts preoccupied Khalaf – Would his son understand the Hebrew? How did the Jewish boy's parents feel? He even called his son during the afternoon visit only to hear on the other end, "Everything's fine, Dad. Give me an extra hour."

Khalaf also wondered if Jewish teachings would confuse his son about his own religion. "Not at all," he told the audience. If anything, they've been strengthened, he added. "And now he knows much more than I do about Jewish holidays."

For information on the school, visit the Web site at www.handinhand12.org.

Cemetery vandal sentenced

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — A Winnipeg woman has been sentenced for her role in overturning or uprooting close to 300 headstones at Hebrew Sick Benefit Association Cemetery last August.

Shawna Lehr, 19, was given a nine-month conditional sentence – to be served in the community – and two years of supervised probation by provincial court Associate Judge Bruce Miller, who said he took Lehr's clean record and expressions of remorse into account.

Lehr will be under a curfew for the nine-month period, confined to her home except for work or medical appointments. The judge also ordered her to attend a Holocaust education seminar through the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and pay $17,600 towards the estimated $100,000 restoration cost of the damaged headstones.

Lehr was one of five young people charged in what police described as a senseless crime of convenience rather than an act of anti-Semitism.

Lehr's co-accused are Chris Diamond, also 19, Russel Martens and Clayton Parker, both 22, and a 16-year-old who cannot be identified because of his age. They were having a party at Lehr's home near the north Winnipeg cemetery. Lehr admitted that she and her friends had been drinking.

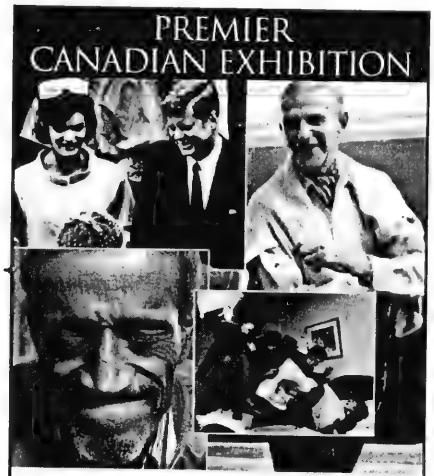
Lehr came forward to admit her guilt at the urging of her father. She also apologized for her actions.

Sharon Bronstone, president of the Beth Israel Synagogue which operates the cemetery, isn't buying Lehr's apology.

"They did it just for the thrill," Bronstone said. "That is what she said in court."

Parker, Martens and Diamond originally pleaded not guilty but changed their pleas at their arraignment. The 16-year-old is still insisting on his innocence.

Bronstone said the three have shown no remorse. Their sentences are still pending.



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- ☐ Bath Sheets

FOOTWEAR
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- ☐ Sandals
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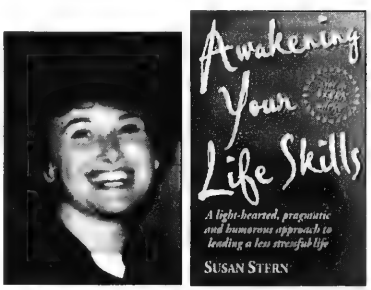
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Observations of a lighter kind

Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

This week, we turn to a couple of items of Jewish interest on a lighter note. Gib Parent, the twice-elected Speaker of the House just returned from an official visit to Israel. Apparently a marvelous time was had by the entire delegation (token members of the other parties joined him on the trip) and the country overwhelmed the Speaker.

It seems that as usual, Canadian and Israeli officials haggled about protocol issues and who should accompany the Speaker on a tour of the Old City. Impatient with both sides, the Speaker was heard to comment, like the prime minister, he wasn't sure where north Jerusalem ended and the south part began, but he did know where to find a cab.

Before the officials could respond, he shepherded the delegation into a taxi, and then armed with a tourist map, led them on his own walking tour of the Old City! Skilled educator that he is, Parent guided the group from sight to sight.

Watching his performance, a first time American visitor to the Old City turned to her husband and nudged him with her elbow. "Ya see," Yossel, she hissed, "I told ya we shoulda hired a guide!" Now, if the Speaker could only navigate through question period as well as he apparently toured the Via Dolorosa!

Closer to home, Jews are accustomed to the usage of Yiddishisms in the vernacular. Lately, one word in particular – kosher – seems to have been cropping up with great frequency; surely a testament to the benefits of Canadian multiculturalism:

- Newly appointed, Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor, Myra Freeman has declared that her official residence will be equipped with a kosher kitchen;
- *Alberta Report* ran an article titled, Is It Kosher, which explored whether there is a hidden Jewish conspiracy and tax behind rabbinical certification on food. Former Reform Party insider, now *National Post* writer, Ezra Levant, claimed it was the article itself that was unkosher and bordered on anti-Semitic. *Alberta Report* publisher, Link Byfield, was pareve to Levant's offer to write a rebuttal piece and dismissed allegations of anti-Semitism.
- Finally, opposition MP's have been heard to lament in the House Lobby that the government's decision to limit debate on the Clarity bill is "just not kosher". In response, a wizened veteran journalist responded, "why should this bill be any different from the other bills?"

Ambassador and wife going home

Continued from page 1

During his stay in Canada, Sultan travelled from coast to coast to coast. "I have been to the extreme north, including Iqaluit and Resolute Bay," in addition to visiting all the provinces. "Canada is a very beautiful country," he said.

Certain events of Sultan's tenure in Canada stand out in his mind. "One of the high points was the marking of Israel's 50th anniversary of statehood. The fact that Israel is important for Canada and the fact that this country wanted to mark the anniversary… was one of the highlights," said Sultan. "For me, it demonstrated how close we are, in spite of the geographic distance that separates us."

Because of Canada's interest in the Middle East and its participation in peacekeeping in the region, it is important that the two countries increase and develop a political dialogue, Sultan said. "We established a periodical consultation between the two governments, which is a very useful tool for exchanges of views. We also established dialogues on a number of subjects, including UN international organizations, arms control and various subjects of interest to both countries."

Sultan was instrumental in co-ordinating Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's recent visit to Israel. "I am glad that the first official visit of a Canadian prime minister to Israel took place during my tenure," he said. "We have also helped to organize visits for the Speaker of Parliament, many federal ministers and parliamentarians and senators. In co-operation with the Canadian Jewish Congress, we sent a study mission of 18 presidents of Canadian universities. All that is to strengthen the ties and make the link between our two countries more tangible."

Shortly after Sultan's arrival in Ottawa, the Israel-Canada free trade agreement was discussed on Parliament Hill. Because of that agreement, he said, "in the last three years, the volume of trade between our two countries has increased by 70 percent." There has also been a sizeable increase in high-tech exchanges and investments, in both directions.

"One goal that I am probably leaving to my successor," said Sultan, "is that we are not happy with the way Canada votes in the UN with regard to the Mideast and the Arab/Israeli relations. We are not asking Canada to support Israeli positions, but only to be neutral. I think friendly countries should leave substantive issues to the parties involved and adopt a neutral position."

Sultan has been impressed by the mark the Jewish community has made on the wider Canadian community.

"Wherever I went, I heard from premiers, politicians and mayors about the valuable contribution of the Jewish community and it was a source of pride to hear that. I personally enjoyed the support and encouragement of the Jewish community; no doubt, it makes the task much easier."

The Sultans leave Canada in early July. They have been warmly received and made many friends but are anxious to see their two daughters and one-year-old granddaughter in Israel. Sultan will return to his position of deputy director general in the Foreign Ministry and await his next posting.

Volunteer medical help sought

Continued from page 1

airfare, medical insurance, food and accommodations.

"We call on medical personnel in the world Jewish community to join us in this humanitarian effort based on our common value of tikkun olam," said Meir Nitzan, director general of JAFI's Israel department, who is directing the mission.

The goal of the missions, known as Operation Abie – for the late Abie Nathan, the Israeli pioneer of humanitarian aid to needy populations worldwide – is to improve the health situation of Ethiopians living in the Welo province, situated in the north-east part of the country, said Nitzan.

"This is a disaster that will not end in three weeks," said Offer Isseroff, director of the Jewish Agency office in Toronto. "We want to create a pool of doctors and nurses who will try to change the destiny of those Ethiopians at risk.This is our opportunity to show that not only do we care, but that we are willing to sacrifice and make a real contribution."

Volunteers will be selected for the program based on their professional skills and experience. They will be briefed on the health situation and harsh living conditions in the region, and will be immunized against infectious diseases, he said.

"It is something very special for volunteers to take part in this mission. We are showing the world that Jews, who are always known to help people in distress, can come together and help in times of need," said Isseroff.

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See Page 35

Barak reassures Bashar on peace

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Barak sent a message of reassurance to Syria on Sunday that Israel has no intention of using the transition period in Damascus to stir up trouble in Lebanon.

The message was sent through Washington, Amman, and Cairo in telephone conversations Barak held with the heads of state in all three capitals.

Barak asked President Bill Clinton, King Abdullah II, and President Hosni Mubarak to pass on the message to Bashar Assad – and to seek reassurances from Syria that it too would not use the period between Hafez Assad's death and the consolidation of power by his son Bashar, as the new president in Syria, to raise regional tension.

Barak asked ministers to refrain from commenting publicly on the transition of power, lest their comments have a disruptive influence on Damascus. Barak said that he and Clinton agreed that it is unlikely that there will be a quick resumption of the Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations, at least until Bashar Assad is well-ensconced in the presidency.

IDF Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz noted that so far the transition of power, which Sunday saw the 34-year-old Bashar Assad promoted from lieutenant-colonel to commander-in-chief of the Syrian army, is proceeding smoothly.

Israel has not taken any military steps in the wake of Hafez Assad's death, but top IDF officers say that they have stepped up intelligence observation of Syria and Lebanon in case of any untoward activity. Northern Front Cmdr. Gabi Ashkenazi said that there were no signs of any unusual military activities in Syria.

Barak told the Cabinet that Assad's death created "a new Middle East that we will have to study." He said that while changes were expected in a number of areas, he expected continued stability and quiet in Lebanon in the immediate future.

Israel's pullout from Lebanon came at a particularly good time, Barak said, because "if it had been delayed, it might have been more difficult to reach stability in south Lebanon after the withdrawal."

Syria's grief inaugurates new era

By DANNY RUBINSTEIN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Palestinian Authority leaders estimate that the death of Hafez al-Assad will help them move forward on the political track in talks with Israel. The peace process between Israel and Syria will be held in abeyance for some time, and the Palestinians will spurt ahead in the race.

Palestinian spokesmen expressed hope that the hostility that has strained relations over the past 35 years between the late president's Ba'ath regime and the Arafat-led Palestine Liberation Organization will now cease, or at least be eased. This acrimony stems partly from personal factors which date from the mid 1960s – or, more precisely, from May 1966, when it became clear to Assad (who was Syria's defence minister at the time) that Arafat was misleading him.

Before this point, an alliance had been forged between the then recently formed Fatah organization and Syria's Ba'ath regime. At the time, Arafat and his comrades went so far as to refer to Syria as a second homeland. The alliance ruptured when Assad discerned that Arafat was using Syria as a base for actions carried out against Israel without obtaining prior consent from Syria, and without co-ordinating his strikes with the Syrian army.

The Syrians planted an army officer who had Palestinian ancestry, Yusef Urabi, in Fatah, to serve as a spy and monitor Arafat and his colleagues' actions from within, and also perhaps try to take control of the organization. Arafat and his comrades, however, identified the spy, and Urabi was murdered.

As far as the Syrians were concerned, this murder represented insufferable treachery. Arafat and other Fatah operatives served time in Syrian prison cells.

Since their release, up to the present day, Syrian-PLO relations have been an endless series of political clashes, unpleasant incidents, hostile actions and even wars. The peak was reached during the war with Lebanon, when Syria stood on the sidelines as the IDF pounded the Palestinians. Syria subsequently initiated a rebellion in the Fatah ranks against Arafat and sent an army to fight against the Palestinian leader in Tripoli.

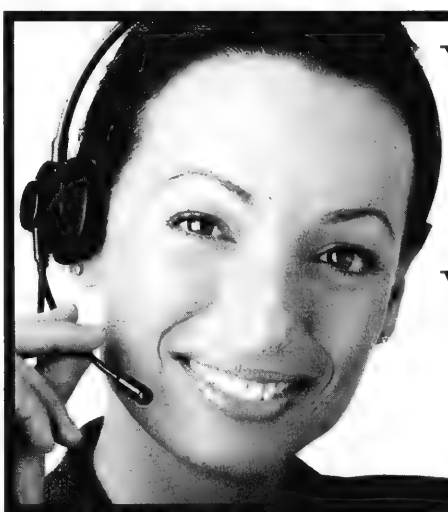
In recent years, Assad adamantly refused to meet Arafat or to proffer assistance to him on any matter. This refusal, however, was not rooted entirely in personal animosity. The Syrians, who view themselves as representing the fulcrum of what Arab tradition calls Greater Syria, demand that they play a role as partners in the resolution of the Palestinian problem. They might not seek to rule directly in Palestine in a manner reminiscent of the hegemony they exercise in Lebanon; yet, at a minimum, they seek a role akin to the one that Egypt has been playing, counselling and directing Arafat.

These Syrian ambitions are the reason why Assad insisted until recently that in his view, the question of Jerusalem (and Palestine generally) should precede discussions about the Golan Heights. But as the PLO gained strength and the peace process picked up steam, Assad relinquished ambitions concerning Palestine.

Reflecting on the Syrian ruler's death, Palestinian spokesmen say that Assad had two weapons in his struggle against Israel. The first was the Palestinian problem; and in this respect, Assad lost his leverage in 1993, when Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat signed the Oslo agreement.

The second weapon in his arsenal was Lebanon; and Assad's ability to use Lebanon as leverage against Israel vanished in recent days, when the IDF pulled out of the country, at a time when the ailing Syrian ruler may not have been able physically to respond to events.

For the Palestinians, and almost certainly not only for them, a new era has begun.



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Israel & the Jewish World

Syrian President Hafez Assad dies at 69

Continued from page 1

In breaking the news to the Syrian public, an announcer on Syria's state-run television station announced, "Death has taken away from Syria a leader." The announcer's voice choked as he began to cry.

"This is a day of sadness and sorrow in every home, school, university, farm, factory and quarry," the announcer continued. "Sadness is in the heart of every man, woman and child ... The legacy of his accomplishments and ideas is a planet that will shine not just on this generation, but also on coming generations."

"This is a very difficult catastrophe," said taxi driver Mohammed Kurdi. "I never thought I would see another leader. I thought he was immortal. His passing spells major political changes in the region."

Prime Minister Ehud Barak received IDF intelligence reports Saturday morning of unusual events in Damascus. A few hours later, well before the official announcement, the prime minister learned from intelligence agents that President Assad had died.

Barak, who also serves as defence minister, instructed the IDF to take necessary followup measures and to be on increased alert "as is necessitated by such a situation." He then wrote Israel's official reaction to the death, released by Jerusalem just a short time after Syria officially announced its president's passing, making Israel the first country to respond to Assad's death.

"The Israeli government understands the sorrow of the Syrian people over the passing of President Hafez Assad," said the statement. "Israel worked in the past to achieve peace and will continue to do so in the future," it continued. "Israel views with importance quiet along the border, and it hopes Syria will also act accordingly."

A political source in Jerusalem added, "As far as we know, Bashar Assad is a serious man, talented, educated, modern and open to the wide world ... It may be that what we could not achieve with Assad senior, we will achieve with the son."

Security sources said Saturday that it is too soon to estimate the event's impact on a renewal of talks and the situation in Lebanon. Intelligence sources say that Assad died of natural causes, according to information they received. They believe that Bashar Assad is in control of the situation; so far, there have been no reports of any extreme measures taken in the wake of Assad's death.

The IDF believes that Bashar Assad's first concern will be to ensure as smooth a transfer of power as possible. Thus, at least initially, there will be no attempts to pressure Israel in any way. It is also possible that Syria will scale down its pressure on Lebanon to take a firm position against Israel and the UN on the issue of the international border. In contrast, however, it is not clear how much attention Syria will give to Hezbollah's activities against Israel.

On hearing the news of the Syrian president's death, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien characterized Assad as "the architect of modern Syria," who had played "a key role in the Middle East."

Canada was to be represented at Assad's funeral in Damascus Tuesday by Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was scheduled to represent the United States at the funeral. President Bill Clinton decided not to attend the funeral in light of Assad's past, his repeated refusal to reach an agreement with Barak and the fact that Syria is included on the U.S. government's list of countries that support terrorism. There is also the fear that the political-military situation in Syria does not allow a visit by the U.S. president.

Clinton himself expressed sorrow at Assad's passing and announced that he expects to continue to work with Syria to reach a broad peace agreement in the Middle East.

"Over the past seven years," the president continued, "I had met him many times and got to know him very well. We had our differences, but I always respected him."

The U.S. government stressed yesterday that Assad's death and the change in leadership will not interrupt, and may perhaps even assist, a Camp David-type peace summit between Clinton, Barak and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat next month in Washington.

Assad's son clears hurdle to leadership

Ha'aretz Daily News Ltd.

BEIRUT — Within hours of President Hafez Assad's death Saturday, the Syrian parliament voted to clear the way for the ascension of the 34-year-old son he has been grooming for power.

Bashar Assad has held no political office, no senior party post and no significant military position – the usual requirements for leadership in authoritarian Syria. But the late president had given Bashar several tasks, both at home and in neighbouring Lebanon, to thrust him into public roles and recognition.

The president died exactly one week before a Ba'ath Party congress that was expected to give Bashar a senior party position and set him on the path to higher office. Instead, less than two hours after the public announcement of the president's death, parliament amended the constitution to lower the age limit for the presidency from 40 to 34.

Technically, the Syrian constitution provides for a vice-president to take over if the presidency falls vacant. But there was little doubt Saturday that the late president's wish was being honoured and that Bashar Assad, a British-educated ophthalmologist, was headed for the presidency.

Upon hearing of Assad's death, a few hundred people gathered in the streets near the presidential palace, chanting "With our souls, with our blood, we will protect you, O Bashar."

In neighbouring Lebanon, where Syria wields enormous influence, some leaders were already referring to Bashar yesterday night as "the next president" of Syria and "the bearer of his father's message."

The late president started preparing Bashar for leadership after the death of his eldest son, Bassil, in a traffic accident in 1994.

Assad had sent Bashar abroad on official visits, giving him a forum for Arab and international exposure. At home, Bashar was proclaimed the leader of a campaign to fight corruption in the government – which also eliminated potential rivals in the older generations of military and civilian officials.

Bashar was promoted to the rank of commander-in-chief of the Syrian army on Sunday. Syria's armed forces and intelligence branches are at the heart of control in this nation of 15 million people.

In recent months, several senior army officers have been retired and powerful intelligence chiefs were sent packing.

The Week in Israel

June 5

• UN officials finished defining the border between Israel and Lebanon, according to UN envoy Terje Roed Larsen. This paves the way for sending peacekeepers into the area. *(Subsequently, UN officials told Israel that the border must be adjusted near kibbutz Misgav Am.)*

June 6

• Prime Minister Ehud Barak accused Syria of planning to use south Lebanon as a launching pad for attacks on Israel. "There is a Syrian attempt to recruit Palestinian activists to send them to act against Israel. If it happens, we'll know what to do," Barak said.

June 7

• The Knesset gave preliminary approval to a bill to hold early elections. Three parties from the coalition – The NRP, Shas, and Yisrael b'Aliyah – supported the opposition bill. The bill must pass three more votes to become law.

June 8

• Hundreds of people opposed to further IDF withdrawal from the territories protested outside the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem and in a neighbourhood of Abu Dis.

• Tourism in northern Israel appeared to have rebounded for the Shavuot holiday. Northern guest houses reported full capacity.

• Russia, France, Israel and Germany are the four main contenders for a bid to modernize Ukraine's Soviet-produced MIG-29 and SU-25 aircraft, according to Ukraine's minister of defence, Alexander Kuzmuk.

June 9

• Shavuot .

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Israel & the Jewish World

Ottawa civil servant gives and gets help in Israel

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Karen Ginsberg, director-general of the Citizens' Participation and Multiculturalism program at Canadian Heritage, was recently in Israel to participate in a conference on multiculturalism.

The conference, organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, brought together heritage ministers and politicians from around the world.

Although it may seem odd that Canada would attend a conference on multiculturalism in Israel and not the other way around, Ginsberg said "there is an enormous amount of activity on co-existence [in Israel]."

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation, she noted, works towards democratic policies and gaining equal rights for women and minorities.

Ginsberg, 52, said that when she first entered politics, she was in the minority for two reasons: one, she is a woman, and two, she is Jewish.

Karen Ginsberg

Born in Winnipeg's North End, Ginsberg's entry into politics was neither encouraged, nor discouraged.

Her father was a travelling salesman, her mother a homemaker. Her grandparents owned a small store.

The aspiration of everyone there, she said, was "the kids will do better. They'll embrace their Jewish values in the New World."

She moved to Toronto, where she obtained a bachelor of arts (honours) in English literature and political science from the University of Toronto.

In 1971, the New Democratic Party (NDP) was being formed and she was offered a job in one of their affirmative action programs.

From 1974 to '76, she worked as an administrator for the community college system in her hometown province, Manitoba.

She pointed to her days with B'nai Brith as her inspiration to enter politics.

"I was a major *macher*," she said. "It taught [me] about citizenship, leadership and responsibility."

In her years in public service, she said she has yet to come across anti-Semitism.

"There's a very high degree of respect" in the work environment.

Ginsberg began working with the federal government in 1976 in the Department of Regional Economics. At the same time, she studied for a master's degree in political science at the University of Manitoba.

She has now been working for the heritage department for 16 months where she manages a broad range of national policies relating to Canadian identity, Canadian studies, youth participation and urban aboriginal peoples.

Before joining the heritage department, Ginsberg was with the Public Service Commission.

During her years in public service she also worked on aboriginal issues as a project director on the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as director of program planning and review.

Canada's multiculturalism program is very important to its citizens, said Ginsberg in an interview at Jerusalem's Dan Panorama hotel. Their goals include social justice and civic participation.

"We want to reach out to every Canadian," she said, referring to the government's aims to ensure that Canada's diversity is an element of national pride for everyone and that equality for all Canadians is a reality.

"To build policies that are felt to be inclusive, one must think about multiculturalism," she said.

Canada, she added, is more than pleased to help Israel in forming such policies.

In fact, a few months ago, Israel sent two people to Canada from Rabbi Michael Melchior's Ministry of Israeli Society and World Jewish Communities to meet with its heritage department officials and learn about their legal and policy framework.

"They came away with the notion that Canada had things to offer," she said.

And while she was here to help, Ginsberg also came to Israel to get help. She came to search for lost family members. Her maternal grandmother was one of 12 children.

"I know there's a large family here," said Ginsberg, who is one of four children and has four children of her own. "I don't expect to find anyone."

Ginsberg said her desire to find these lost relatives is a gift for her mother, who is 80.

Whether or not she finds any relatives, Ginsberg said she loved being "back" in Israel – she was a volunteer on a kibbutz in the North 30 years ago. And she said she is "expecting to come back" again, "and it won't take [another] 30 years."

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Controversial Passion Play tries to reform itself

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

OBERAMMERGAU — Can a world famous passion play stigmatized by the mark of anti-Semitism reform itself?

That was the burning question as this year's play – a stirring pageant that attracts 500,000 visitors from around the globe in its 4½-month run – got under way in this picturesque Bavarian village of 5,000 inhabitants nestled near the foothills of Germany's Alps.

Performed once almost every decade since 1634 as an offering to God for having spared the villagers from a deadly plague, the six-hour play, based on the four Gospels in the Christian Bible, portrays Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the events leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection.

In addition, the play presents stylistic tableaux from the Jewish Bible, including the stories of Abraham and Isaac and of Moses leading the Israelites to the Promised Land.

The text of *A Play of Death and Life*, its official title, has gone through 10 scripts since the 17th century, all of which have been problematic from a Jewish point of view.

Traditionally riddled with anti-Jewish references and stereotypes depicting Jews as the amoral enemies of Jesus, it was effusively praised by Adolf Hitler in 1934 as a "precious tool" in Nazi Germany's concerted campaign against Jews.

Cancelled in 1944, the play roared back to life in 1950 with the permission of the Allied powers occupying western Germany.

Under international pressure, the residents of Oberammergau, south of Munich, gradually began to delete the anti-Semitic content. This year's version has been completely revamped, claimed its co-director, Otto Huber, in an interview about a week after its official opening.

Working in co-operation with the B'nai Brith Anti-Defamation League and Temple University, Huber and his colleague, Christian Stuckl, have made wholesale changes in an effort to root out offensive passages.

"I understand we have to be careful in presenting a passion play," said Huber, a personable, shaggy-haired, 53-year-old intellectual who has been associated with the play since 1986. "I am completely aware of this problem."

Rabbi Leon Klenicki, the Anti-Defamation League's director of interfaith affairs, acknowledges changes in dialogue and staging. But in a recent report, he wrote that the latest script is bedevilled by "serious problems."

It suggests that Jews are collectively guilty for Jesus' death and minimizes the Romans' responsibility for it, he said.

In another report, Rabbi James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee gave the play a mixed review.

While taking note of the rewrite, he concluded that it is still "a troubled text."

Two of his colleagues, Sister Mary Boys of the Union Theological Seminary in New York City and Rev. John Pawlikowski of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, observed that the text remains deeply flawed in terms of its depiction of Judaism.

Huber, a devout Catholic whose grandfather played the role of the Jewish high priest Caiphas in past productions, is hurt by the accusations.

Otto Huber [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

"The play is not anti-Semitic. I can say this 100 percent. It does not inspire ideas of hatred against Jews, really not."

But in a caveat, Huber added, "Maybe it will inspire hatred of historical Jews."

Is the play anti-Judaic? "I would say no, but there are parts in the second half which are not clear, and this is a problem."

Can the current text be adjusted? "It would be quite difficult to make more changes now."

Dismissing the critics as arrogant, Huber appears convinced that "normal" playgoers will not leave the theatre with feelings of hostility toward Jews and Judaism.

"The play reinforces the Jewishness of Jesus, and for Christians, this is a new experience."

Jews are not seen as "God-killers," nor, en masse, as "the bad guys." As he put it: "We make it clear that the Romans crucified Jesus."

Huber, in the off-season a high school teacher in the nearby town of Murnau, ticked off other salient changes in the play.

- Jesus, shown as a rabbi, blesses the wine in Hebrew. And when he prays, he covers his head.
- The Last Supper, with a menorah on the table, is clearly portrayed as a Passover seder.
- Judaism is cast positively in the tableaux.
- A likeable new Jewish character, Gamliel, appears.
- An anti-Jewish phrase from Matthew 27:25, "the blood be upon us," has been excised.
- Judas Iscariot, formerly characterized as a money-grubber, comes across as a kinder, gentler, more complex soul. And no longer does he wear a demeaning yellow costume.
- The word "goy" has been replaced by "Roman" to underline the point that Israel was occupied by the Romans.

Huber, whose late father was a card-carrying member of the Nazi party, argued that theatre can never be crystal clear in terms of the images it conveys. "There is always ambivalence. We can't control the anti-Judaic shit in a spectator's mind."

In his quest to gain Jewish support for the passion play, Huber travelled to the United States and Israel. He met with rabbis, scholars and community leaders and visited synagogues.

The trips, he explained, gave him a much better understanding of Judaism.

Referring to his father, Huber disclosed that he had had "enormous struggles" with him about the Nazi era. "I reproached him, and I suffered in my life because I am the son of a nation of killers. I have experienced this question of the guilt of the fathers."

According to Huber, 56 percent of the residents of Oberammergau – a renowned centre of wood carving that was a hotbed of National Socialism – voted in a 1997 referendum to revamp the play. They also agreed that non-Christian performers and unmarried women could be used. In a cast of 2,000 actors and extras, the play employs eight Muslims, though no Jews.

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Sentences handed down in Maccabiah disaster

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — A Tel Aviv court sentenced four of five defendants to spend up to 21 months in jail for their role in a bridge collapse at the 1997 Maccabiah Games.

A fifth Israeli was given a sentence of community service.

The defendants had already been found guilty of negligence in connection with the collapse, which left four Australian athletes dead and scores of others injured.

"There has never been a case of such negligence at a mass public event, and the punishment must be a deterrent," Tel Aviv Magistrates Court Judge Edna Beckenstein said when handing down the sentences.

But the father of one of the Australian athletes seriously injured in the collapse called the sentences a "disgrace."

Colin Elterman, whose 18-year-old daughter, Sasha, has undergone more than 30 operations since the accident, called on Israelis to boycott the next Maccabiah Games to protest the sentences.

In the summer of 1997, a temporary footbridge over the Yarkon River collapsed during the opening ceremonies of the Maccabiah Games, sending the delegates tumbling into the river's polluted waters.

In its verdict, the three-judge panel found the bridge was built haphazardly, with no proper plan, foundation and supervision.

The greatest responsibility for the disaster was placed on Micha Bar-Ilan, the engineer who designed the bridge. The court sentenced him to 21 months in jail.

Baruch Karagula and Yehoshua Ben-Ezra, the subcontractors who built the bridge, were each sentenced to 15 months in prison.

Adam Mishori, of the Irgunit company, which was responsible for the bridge's construction, was sentenced to nine months in jail.

Yoram Eyal, the head of the organizing committee for the international games, was sentenced to six months of community service.

Frank Stein, the director of the Zionist Federation of Australia in Israel, said the deep pain and anger felt by the families of the bridge collapse victims is understandable, but added that the majority of the Jewish community in Australia believes the trial was fair.

"There is a great deal of faith and belief in the Israeli justice system and the fact that four of the five will be sitting in jail" could "bring to a close another chapter of this tragic story of the Maccabiah," he said.

Despite the sentence, the legal portion of the tragedy has not been closed.

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Support group aids parents of disabled children

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Tehila Bak, president of Ahada, an Israeli support network for parents of children with disabilities in kibbutzim and moshavim, knows firsthand what it's like to have nowhere to turn in a crisis.

"My daughter, who died in 1995, was schizophrenic, and I was desperate because no one seemed to know how to help me. I finally met a woman who put me in touch with Ahada, and its members saw me all the way through her illness," she said on a recent visit to Toronto.

The goal of the grassroots, volunteer-run organization, she said, is to support parents in the day-to-day problems of bringing up a disabled child, and to offer children the possibility of a secure future.

With over 600 parent members across the country, the Ahada network encompasses the needs of children with a range of disabilities, and offers advice on a variety of related subjects. "We are the only organization in the country that absorbs parents of children with both physical and mental disabilities.

"Over 90 percent of our members live on kibbutzim, moshavim or small communities, from Eilat to Metulla. They live in the periphery where there is little services and support," Bak said.

Ahada provides parents of children with similar disabilities with each other's phone numbers, so that they can speak during a crisis. "These are people who are willing to have their phone ring at any hour. Having someone to talk to is more important than anything else," Bak said.

The organization also runs seminars, conventions and lecture groups for parents. "We try to find subjects that suit every parent. They can attend these lectures and exchange ideas with other parents. It is a very strong support network," Bak said.

Bak estimates there may be another 600 families who do not know about the organization's existence. "We have to publicize ourselves. We lecture to social workers, doctors and nurses in hospitals and other institutions so they can inform parents about the organization."

Ahada is represented on the law and rights committee in the Knesset, she said, and its members are kept up to date on legal issues affecting disabled people.

"Ahada is a strong advocate of the handicapped in Israel, and keeps in contact with all relevant organizations in Israel and overseas.

"Israel has many social service benefits which they do not publicize. Without this information, many parents do not know what they are entitled to receive. Benefits do not come automatically; parents need to be aware what is out there."

On her recent tour to Washington, Newark, Toronto and Ottawa, Bak met with representatives of organizations such as Reena, Jewish Family & Child Service, UJA FEDERATION and several self-help organizations.

"I would like to see an exchange program between disabled youth here and in Israel. North American youth could come and stay on a kibbutz with a family familiar with their disability."

While here, Bak visited group homes in order to "take some ideas back to Israel. A general trend is to close down institutions, and we would like to be able to move some residents into group homes. For now, however, that is a dream."

For information on Ahada, e-mail Bak at ahada@amiad.org.il, or write Ahada, c/o Tehila Bak, Kibbutz Amiad, P.M. Galil, Elyon l 12335.

Jewish single moms get help in Vancouver

By MARLANE SMITH
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — When Azima Buell left her husband in the mid-1980s, she questioned how the decision would impact upon her young daughter.

"I wondered if I had completely destroyed her life," she says.

Recently, from her Vancouver office inside the Jewish Community Centre, Buell, a family therapist, talked about the importance of support groups.

Soon after her marriage broke up, Buell joined a single mother's group after a friend urged her to become a member.

"It was tremendously helpful, but it lacked something," she says.

Buell, along with others at Vancouver's Jewish Family Services Agency, now facilitates a support group for single Jewish mothers. It fills the void she felt years ago in her own single mother's network, she says.

The group of about six to eight women meets for two hours each Tuesday evening at the JCC. "We discuss anything the women want to talk about. Sometimes it's what they want to vent about."

They often don't even cover Jewish topics, she says, but by having this connection, the group has really bonded.

The group's mandate is to provide a support network for single mothers, and give them an opportunity to learn about available resources.

"They talk about anything, from how difficult preparing for Shabbat or Pesach can be, to what's happening in their kid's lives. Some of the women want to talk about their ex-partners.

"It's quite a support network for single Jewish moms," Buell said.

Some Jewish women are reluctant to join a group such as this because they don't want to be seen as needy, she says. "Some people believe there is a stigma attached to a person who admits they need some help or support.

"It's not about coming to the group because you're messed up. The women appreciate the extra support. It's quite heartwarming because we have women from different streams of Judaism coming together and discussing the same issues."

The weekly meetings, sponsored by the Counselling Foundation of Canada and the YWCA, are free. Childcare is also available at no cost.

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Arts & Travel

Film explores changing nature of Israeli society

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

One millions Russians have arrived in Israel in the past 30 years, the vast majority since the precipitous breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

As expected, these newcomers have had an enormous impact on Israel in cultural and political terms.

The Russians have influenced the outcome of several national elections, and from a cinematic point of view, their presence is already being widely felt.

Arik Kaplun, one of these Russian immigrants, is the director of *Yana's Friends*, a 90-minute feature, in Hebrew with English subtitles, set during the 1991 Gulf War.

Scheduled to open at Canada Square and Bayview Village on June 23, it dominated the 1999 Israeli academy awards and was seen at more than 30 international film festivals, including Toronto's.

Yana's Friends, which can best be described as a romantic comedy, revolves around the trials and tribulations of newly arrived Russian immigrants in their adopted land.

The focus, however, is on a young childless couple, Yana (Evelyne Kaplun, the director's wife, I assume) and Fima (Israel Demidov), who cannot quite make ends meet.

Nir Levi as Eli and Evlyn Kaplun as Yana in *Yana's Friends*.

Determined to improve his lot in life, Fima returns to Moscow, promising to come back rich. He leaves Yana pregnant and in something of an emotional and financial lurch.

After his departure, Yana meets her neighbour Eli (Nir Levi), an easy-going photographer and voyeur with a casual approach to sex.

As their romance blooms, Kaplun weaves two subplots into the story. The first is about a sleazy Russian who tries to exploit an unfortunate family situation. The second turns on Rosa, Yana's landlady, and an affair she once had with a Russian man.

These diversionary tales are somewhat diverting, but not nearly as interesting as Yana's budding relationship with Eli.

Indeed, one of the most original scenes in this appealing movie unfolds against the backdrop of an Iraqi Scud attack on Tel Aviv.

As the explosion of a falling missile sounds, Eli and Yana make love with their gas masks on. Now that's unusual!

Yana's Friends, though far from being exceptional, is open and unaffected, with competent performances from the lead actors.

It's a film that not only explores personal relations, but the changing nature of Israeli society.

Veteran actor has a double role in new musical

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Veteran actor, singer and dancer Gerry Salsberg, 51, is lending his talents to Toronto's newest musical, *Romancin' The One I Love*.

Inspired by Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, this 1930s big band musical is set in Miami and Manhattan and opens at the Winter Garden Theatre Centre on June 21.

Co-starring with Camilla Scott and Brad Aspel, Salsberg plays two roles in this production – Gremio, the wacky widower mayor of Miami in pursuit of Bianca, and Vencentio, a wealthy businessman from Boston with important political ties, reminiscent of Joe Kennedy.

"*Romancin' The One I Love* is a screwball comedy played for the energy of that time… with a nice kind of swing to it," says Salsberg, who will be making his third appearance at the Elgin/Winter Garden Theatre.

Thanks to his father Sam, Salsberg was exposed to the arts at a very young age. "My dad owned Salsberg's Cigar Store & Ticket Agency. It was the hub of the Jewish Community. People who wanted to get tickets to the Royal Alex or O'Keefe would get them at Salsberg's," he says.

"My dad used to send me to the theatre by myself when I was a little kid, just to get rid of me for the day. The first musical I saw was *West Side Story* – I was smitten by musical theatre from that moment on."

Salsberg learned his craft by acting in school productions at Forest Hill Collegiate and at Ryerson Polytechnic University. While in a show called *Riot* at Ryerson, Salsberg heard about a general call for non-professional performers for Royal Alexandra's production of *Godspell*.

For the audition, he sang *What's it All About Alfie*. To this day, Salsberg can't believe singing that song landed him his first professional role as Judas.

"Opening night in *Godspell* was a moment of feeling an incredible sense of accomplishment," Salsberg says.

"I was an usher at the Royal Alex when I was a teenager in the mid '60s and here I was standing on stage in one of the most beautiful theatres in North America, in one of the most prestigious shows. Ninety percent of the cast, including Gilda Radner, Martin Short, Eugene Levy and Andrea Martin, went on to stardom."

At that time, on a dare from Martin Short, Salsberg auditioned for the first Toronto production of *Second City*. His initial audition didn't go as smoothly as he wanted, but luckily the show's Chicago- based producers, Bernie Salins and Joyce Sloan, caught his portrayal of Judas in *Godspell*. He was hired over Eugene Levy, who joined the cast later in the run.

While many of his contemporaries left Canada to work south of the border, Salsberg has enjoyed steady employment in this country. He has appeared in a number of films and television roles, including *PSI Factor*, *Cagney and Lacey*, *The Anne Jillian Story* and *La Femme Nikita*.

But theatre continues to be his first love. "I've always had a preference for the stage because of the high you get performing for people and the feedback you get from the audience when they are enjoying it," he says.

"Theatre is so spontaneous and that is something you don't experience when you do television or film."

Salsberg has appeared in many theatrical productions, including *Fiddler On The Roof* in Edmonton and Winnipeg, and at Toronto's Leah Posluns Theatre in 1984. He dedicated his performance to his children, Zachary, now 18, and Dania, now 16.

"It's a great part that is very close to my heart. Tevye's kids leave him to do their thing, but he still has deep love for his children. His love can't be destroyed, it is just there. That's what I feel about my kids," he explains.

For tickets to *Romancin' The One I Love* at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, call 416-872-5555. All preview seats cost $35 from June 9 to 20. From June 21, tickets are $25 to $65.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO FILMMAKER SETS CAMERA SIGHTS ON BLACK SEA EXPEDITION

Nearly 800 Romanian and Russian Jewish refugees attempting to reach Palestine died when their ship, the Struma, was torpedoed by a Russian submarine in the Black Sea in 1942.

Greg Buxton, a British computer systems designer whose paternal grandparents were lost in the tragedy, has arranged a 12-person diving expedition in August in search of the vessel, the London-based *Jewish Chronicle* reports.

The Chronicle also reports that Emmy-award-winning filmmaker **Simcha Jacobovici**, the son of a Holocaust survivor, intends to shoot a documentary on the expedition. Jacobovici, a Toronto resident, made *Quest For The Lost Tribes*, an hour-long documentary that aired recently on the A&E and CBC television networks.

The Struma sat in a harbour in Istanbul for 70 days because neither the Turks nor the British authorities in Palestine would allow its passengers to land. After the Turks towed the ship back out to sea, it was struck by the Russian torpedo.

The death toll was 406 men, 269 women, and 103 children. There was only one survivor, **David Stoliar**, who was eventually permitted to settle in Palestine.

"It is part of my family story," said Buxton, in explaining why he wants to salvage artifacts from the wreck and exhibit them in museums in Turkey, Israel and the United States. "My grandparents had bought a plot of land in Palestine before settling. But they didn't get very far."

One-third of the cost of the salvage expedition is being borne by the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Buxton says he is also working closely with Yad Vashem and the Turkish and Romanian Jewish communities.

On a recent trip to Israel, Buxton met the rabbi of Tel Aviv's Romanian synagogue, which is dedicated to victims of the sinking. "I thought an Orthodox rabbi would be disapproving. But I found this loving guy, who could not have been more enthusiastic," Buxton said.

Simcha Jacobovici (above)to shoot new documentary. Theresa Tova (right) stars in Bloor JCC concert.

Even more enthusiastic, Buxton said, is his 83-year-old father, Michael, who left Romania for England in 1936. "This is the best thing I have done for him since the day I was born," he said.

More information about the project is available at the Web site www.struma.net.

* * *

Bloor JCC Concert: A cavalcade of well-known entertainers are gearing up to perform in concert to raise funds for a new 300-seat theatre slated for construction at the Bloor JCC later this year.

Performers include **David Gale**, **Randy Vancourt**, **Molly Johnson**, **Marily Lerner**, **David Wall**, **Theresa Tova** and **Take Three Plus One**, with the Bloor JCC choir.

The event "promises to be our best show ever," says program organizer **Marie Lynn Hammond**. "Everyone involved is really excited about the evening and the prospect of a new performance space at the JCC."

The Stars Celebrate Bloor 2000 may be the last big show to be held in the Bloor JCC auditorium. That facility is to be replaced by the Al Green Theatre, a versatile cultural arts centre providing space for film, drama, music and more.

Bloor JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. June 18, 7:30 p.m. Tickets $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Tel:416- 924-6211.

* * *

Meet the Author: Writer Susan Stern speaks and autographs copies of her book, *Awakening Your Life Skills: A light-hearted, pragmatic and humorous approach to a less stressful life*. Chapters Bookstore, Yonge and Steeles. June 17, 2 p.m.

Concert to benefit Matti Baranovski Fund

TORONTO — Northview Heights Secondary School is holding a concert of children's and adult's music composed and performed by Russian composer Vladimir Shainski.

Proceeds from the June 29 concert will be donated to the Jewish Russian Community Centre Matti Baronovski Youth Program Fund.

Baranovski, who was beaten to death last November, attended Northview. He was 15.

Many generations of children in Russia have grown up with Shainski's music.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets cost $18, $20 and $22, and can be bought from the school's office at 550 Finch Ave. W (416-395-3290); Finchurst Deli at Bathurst and Finch; Marks International Deli at Bathurst and Sheppard.

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Not your ordinary museum

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES — It's a showcase for promoting human rights and advancing an understanding of the Holocaust.

The Museum of Tolerance, the educational arm of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, challenges visitors on two fronts.

It invites them to confront prejudice in all its permutations and offers them an opportunity to understand the greatest crime ever committed against the Jewish people.

Opened to the public seven years ago, the gleaming $55 million facility, far in spirit and distance from the seamy glitz of Hollywood, was definitely not designed to be an ordinary museum with the usual documents and artifacts.

Through the technological wonders of interactive displays, video monitors, films and graphics, it highlights two interlocking themes – the history of racism in the United States and the story of the Holocaust.

The museum, at 9786 West Pico Blvd., is essentially divided into two parts – the Tolerancenter and the Holocaust section.

An eye-opener, the Tolerancenter consists of several exhibits.

The *Other America* is a wall-sized, computer interactive map of 250 hate groups in the U.S., ranging from the Ku Klux Klan to Aryan Nations. It's clear that the wellsprings of hatred run deep in the United States.

Ain't You Gotta Right? documents the African-American struggle for civil rights through the medium of a 16-screen video wall. Martin Luther King Jr., the black leader, delivers a stirring speech. Blacks recall the struggle for equality. White policemen beat up black demonstrators in southern towns.

Pop Up Heads is a sardonic display about ethnic diversity in a society which usually describes itself as a melting pot.

Point of View Diner, the museum's newest exhibit, uses the latest cutting edge technology to convey the overall message of personal responsibility when it comes to tolerance.

In Our Time, a documentary on Rwanda, Bosnia and contemporary neo-Nazi organizations, zeroes in on human rights violations throughout the world.

Historic Milestones charts important developments in the struggle against racism, such as the establishment of the Fair Employment Practices Commission in 1941 and the debunking of the theory of racial superiority by famed anthropologist Franz Boas in 1928.

At once stark and fearsome, the Holocaust section drives home the point that bigotry, if harnessed to a fanatical political movement, can be downright catastrophic.

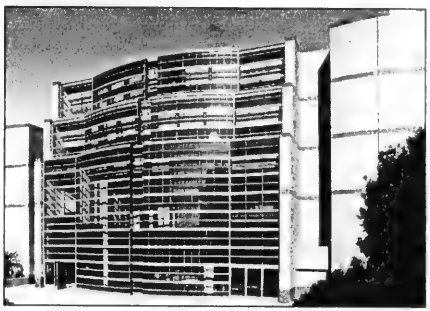
The *Outdoor Cafe Scene* is a re-enactment of a 1930s Berlin street in which people express their concerns about the growing strength of the often underestimated Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler.

The *Wannsee Conference* refers to the January 1942 meeting, in an upscale Berlin suburb, during which the planners of the Holocaust laid out a plan for the Final Solution, the systematic destruction of European Jewry.

In the *Hall of Testimony*, a living rebuke to Holocaust deniers, Holocaust survivors tell their stories at regular times of the day.

At a computer work station, visitors can click into an exhibit on Jewish resistance during the Holocaust.

The Scroll of Righteous Gentiles, with the names of more than 8,000 Christians and Muslims who saved Jews at the risk of their own lives, is a reminder that the magnitude of the Holocaust could have been greater.



The Museum of Tolerance

New edition for handy Jewish guide

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to the CJN

A 440-page soft-cover book, published by Vallentine Mitchell in association with the *Jewish Chronicle* of London, England, purports to be the most thorough guide available to the Jewish world.

Jewish Travel Guide 2000, edited by Michael Zaidner, is compact enough for travellers to carry in their luggage as they visit any of the thousands of Jewish communities it describes, in some 110 countries from Albania to Zimbabwe. The guide provides details of synagogues, cultural organizations, libraries, hotels, kosher restaurants and other institutions of immediate interest to Jewish visitors.

A capsule history is given for each country's Jewish community, and pertinent details supplied in context. The entry for Corfu, Greece, for example, gives a contact phone number and explains, "There was an ancient synagogue and cemetery here, destroyed by the Nazis." The entry for Majorca, Spain, reveals that the present-day Montezion Church "was the Great Synagogue of this capital in the 14th century."

The guide's treatment of Canada seems remarkably thorough, listing Jewish institutions from sea to sea, not just in the major cities but in many smaller centres as well. For instance, it details all four Jewish communities in Nova Scotia – Halifax, Sydney, Glace Bay, even tiny Yarmouth – and no less than 25 in Ontario.

The guide reflects the sad reality that small-town Jewish life has largely disappeared from Quebec in particular. Only three communities are listed for Quebec (Montreal, Quebec City, Ste. Agathe-des-Monts), the same as for Saskatchewan (Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon).

Continued on page 37

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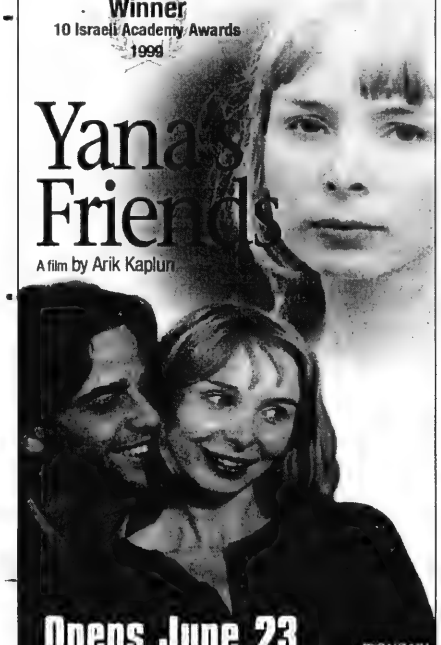

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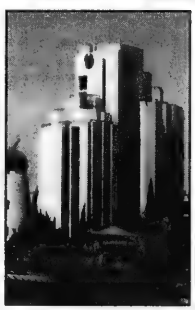

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Arts & Travel

Director's film debut wins award at Sundance Film Festival

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Strange yet immensely satisfying, director Eric Mendelsohn's well-received film *Judy Berlin* has played in a couple of movie houses in Toronto since it made its Canadian debut in May at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

The black-and-white feature film, Mendelsohn's first, has achieved an impressive garland of good reviews and garnered the Best Director award at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival.

Director Eric Mendelsohn

During a recent visit to Toronto, the 36-year-old filmmaker explained that he spent 1½ years writing *Judy Berlin*, which chronicles a day in the life of a sleepy Long Island hamlet called Babylon on the day of a surreal, and seemingly never-ending, solar eclipse.

Perhaps Mendelsohn's most brilliant stroke of luck or talent was in casting such a superb ensemble – including Barbara Barrie, Bob Dishy, Edie Falco, Aaron Harnick, Madeline Kahn and Julie Kavner – and convincing each of them to work on an "experimental, non-theatrical" low-budget film at the lowest union rate of $87 a day.

"Casting is writing, as far as I'm concerned," says the Manhattan resident, who previously worked as costume designer on many films, including several of Woody Allen's.

"If you miscast a brilliant character, there isn't any amount of direction that will correct your mistake."

Kahn's performance, in particular, is a gem, and all the more precious because she died soon afterward.

How did the novice director persuade her to join the project? He explains that he got the script to her through a common friend, a costume designer. "She left me a message that she was interested in talking. She said she had never worked on anything like this at all. She had never done low-budget.

"We met in New York and talked over coffee about the script. She got to know me and I got to know her. There had to be this enormous trust and she was very careful about whether or not I was worthy of this trust, which I understood completely."

He says that the actors were particularly intrigued at doing something different; to his astonishment, he was able to assemble his dream-team of actors.

"I offered them something that isn't always offered to them, and I promised them a way of working that they would feel comfortable with, and I never reneged on that."

The film was shot in 30 days, during which Mendelsohn says he felt a prolonged angst, fearful that one of his actors would "walk" or that some other element would go awry.

He compares the nerve-wracking process to building a model airplane, when all the major components are held in place with elastic bands until the epoxy dries.

The editing process involved reconceptualizing the entire film, Mendelsohn says. "In editing we created a whole other movie," he says. "You have to keep looking at what you've actually got, rather than what you were going for."

The result is a quirky, intriguing, alternate film that is highly entertaining even as it turns its back on the need for a commercialized Hollywood plot formula.

Although *Judy Berlin* works well on its own refreshing terms, Mendelsohn speaks with frustration of his attempts to find major distribution for the film, even to get certain distributors to look at it. The "indie" road is a difficult path, he says.

Even so, he has begun writing his next feature. "It's called *Delia* – that's the main character's name– and it takes place in Manhattan. It's about a woman in her 30s who works in a theatrical costume shop, and lives on the fringes of fame and celebrity. It's about her attempts to change her position in life forever."

Mendelsohn cites numerous influences, including the plays of Thornton Wilder and the short stories of Shirley Jackson. "She's a great short story writer. It's her attention to detail and the accumulation of details that can be earth-shattering. You know why I like them? Because the way we live life is in the details. We don't often see big things happening to us. The changes occur usually in the details."

Some reviewers suggest that Mendelsohn was also influenced by Woody Allen, another Manhattanite who works with an ensemble cast.

"I've logged enough hours watching his films, so if he's an influence it was unconscious," Mendelsohn responds. "We spent lots of hours together on sets. We had a relationship and I'm glad to have been able to listen to him talk for many hours about what was going on on the set that day.

"When people say I've been influenced by Woody Allen, what I hope they mean is that my characters are mature people – that they are funny, passionate and complex beings, trying to figure out the world."

Jewish Travel Guide

Continued from page 36

All of Canada is covered, seemingly quite well, in only 12 pages. By comparison, the United States gets 135 pages, the United Kingdom 41 pages, France 36 pages, and Israel a surprisingly light 21 pages. Obviously, the guide is not nearly as inclusive in regard to the Jewish state as it is with most of the Diaspora nations.

Jewish Travel Guide 2000 is an indispensible resource for world travellers interested in visiting sites of Jewish interest or eating kosher at their destinations. To avoid kashrut-related confusion, an appendix supplies the names of kosher fish as they would appear on menus in eight countries, and in Hong Kong.

A companion volume by the same publishers, the Jewish Year Book 2000 is a detailed compendium of information about the Jewish community of the United Kingdom. It includes essays, obituaries, a who's who of British Jewry, organization addresses and much more.

Both books are available at Jewish bookstores.

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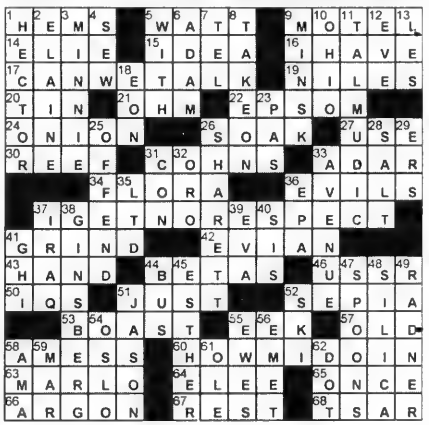

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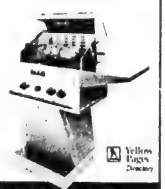

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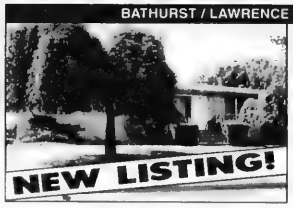
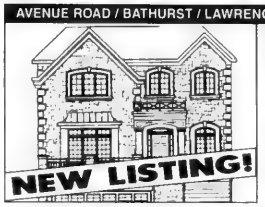


Spacious 3 + 1 bdrm. ranch bungalow, modern family-size kitchen, w/o to deck from family room, huge rec. room in basement, asking $399,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!



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Brand new custom home, luxurious 4 + 2 bdrms., dramatic open concept, family room, maple hardwood floors, dream maple kitchen. **A MUST SEE!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

CLANTON PARK — HOME RENTAL
Spacious 5 + 1 bedroom back-split, renovated & decorated, new appliances, sep. entry to in-law suite, prime central location. Asking $2,050 / month. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

UPPER FOREST HILL VILLAGE

Majestic & elegant! 4 + 2 bdrms., family-size modern kitchen, family room, large principal rooms. Ideal for entertaining, custom features throughout, floating spiral staircase, 2 central air zones +++. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — LUXURY CONDO

Penthouse suite with 10 ft. ceilings, approx. 2,200 sq. ft., 2 bdrms. + den, 70 oz. broadloom, marble foyer, loaded with upgrades. Priced to sell at $699,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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Tri-plex, 2-3 bdrm apts. + 1-1 bdrm, bths ens, balcs., garaged + pkg., Great buy & location!

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Estate sale. Brick det. Bung., high development area. Ideal for prof. use, lge lot, across from shopping plaza. Great investment! Don't miss!

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2 storey T.H. SOLD s, 2 bths, 5 appls, rec. rm., gar.

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$309,000
Charming 2 storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living & dining rooms, central air conditioning, finished basement, separate side entrance, wonderful 45x120 lot. Excellent street!
Diane Litchen
Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd.
(416) 441-2888

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Bathurst South of Steeles
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BATHURST / PALM / FAYWOOD Fabulous 3 bdrm. bung. on 50' lot, in-law apt., modern fam. size kit., hrdwd. floors, large principal rooms. A great home in a great location! Call **Jacob Florans**, Sutton Group Admiral Realty, 416-739-7200.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Bathurst/St. Clair, Female roommate wanted to share large, 2 bdrm.. apt. Parking. $650/mo incl. 416-656-7513

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

Finch/Wilmington, 1 bdrm bsmt. apt.. 1 bth., kit., lau., n/smkr. female pref. close to TTC & York U. Avail. imm. $600/mo. Call 416-638-6838.

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Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET

Bath/Steeles - avail. Jun. 15-Aug. 30. 1 bdrm. 416-733-3436.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Clear Lake - first lake north of Lake Rosseau, 20 mins. south of Parry Sound. Min. one month, seas. pref. Cozy (850 sq. ft. on 2 floors), 3 bdr. cottage. 300 ft. of shoreline on approx. 1 acre of land. Up-dated, fully furn., fireplace, screened-in porch. Avail. for season July & Aug. (min 1 mo.) at $1000/wk. June & Sept. nego. Call Jack, 905-793-7083 ext. 265 (any time) & leave message.

Lake Simcoe, Lakefront. 8 bdrm., 3 bth. Dock. Brand new. All appl. Laundry. Available June-Sept. Call 905-737-2219.

Muskoka waterfront - Beau, new cottage. Fully equipped. Non-smkr. Avail. Jun-Sept. 416-781-7463, or 705-645-3211.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

West Palm Beach, condo avail. in Century Village senior community. 1 bdrm. 1+ bth, furn, 1st fl. $15K/US. 864-995-3372 or email: 2di4lake@hspower.com

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Pembroke Pines - deluxe condo. Fully furn., 2 bdrm., 1 1/2 bath. 3rd floor. 416-663-9932.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Located in very nice surroundings on Mount C'naan near Safed. 4 brand new cottages for sale, 5 rooms, 3 bath., 2 bal. Cellar storage and parking. Private land. About 1500 sq. ft. plus 2000 sq. ft. attached to each cottage. **Call Micha at 011-972-4-8254587 or email: rodica@tx.technion.ac.il**

160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

Jerusalem - July 15 - Nov. Flexible. 2 bdrm. Arab house, garden, patio, romantic. Quiet street in city centre. Fully furnished. Close to old city, all buses, entertainment area. $900 US/mo. + utilities. **Call 011-972-2-625-6611 or email: SAMBL39@yahoo.com**

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A&J Pro Student Driveways Inc.
Seeks responsible and energetic University students for outdoor labour and/or sales. Full training provided. Please call **416-728-2720**

Avenue Road Hockey Association is looking for a timekeeper (paid position) to run its hockey program. Sun. to Thur. nights. Oct.-Apr. Must have a car. Bathurst & Wilson area. Hockey knowledge a plus. 398-3825.

TEACHERS WANTED for permanent afternoon positions in English & Math, grades 6-8, in an observant Jewish school. Only experienced, certified teachers will be considered. Excellent salary. Fax resume with references by June 27, 2000 to 905-764-3130.

The First Narayever Cong. is downtown, traditional & egalitarian. We are looking for someone, preferably with an interest in education, to lead our Junior Cong. on Shabbat mornings. The ideal candidate will feel comfortable with youth, ages 12 & under, be innovative & flexible. Call Janis: 967-5184

Yiddish Teachers sought for children's Sunday school (9:30am-noon), and for evening adult classes in various locations during the week. For info, call Adam Fuerstenberg at 416-635-2883, ext. 155.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

INNOVATIVE DOWNTOWN KETUBAH company seeks dynamic, articulate, quick learner to train for management role within one year. Excellent English communication, Mac/Windows, Hebrew reading/writing required. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. **Fax resume to: 416-963-9129.**

Secretary Wanted
by an observant Jewish school in Thornhill. Must be able to type English, Hebrew (and Yiddish) comfortably, and have good communication & office management skills. Good pay. **Fax resume to: 905-764-3130, by June 30, 2000.**

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Nice, hardworking lady seeks cleaning jobs. Many years of exp. in Orthodox Jewish homes. Please Call Danuta 431-5020.

Nurse/companion/driver avail. Eves., Live-out. 905-738-8225

Reliable caregiver avail. to care for your children. Live in/out. Ref's avail. Call 416-741-2469.

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ATTENTION EMPLOYERS
Caregivers in Israel, the Philippines, & Caribbean available for sponsorship. **398-5803**

Avail. now! Live-in/out nannies & caregivers. **416-281-9943** or www.nannycarecanada.com Overseas nannies & caregivers seek employers. No Fee!

Exp. cleaning lady available any time, Mon-Fri. 248-9095.

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
Wee Care Placement Agency
416-789-3070 .

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

COMPANION for elderly man, live-in Mon-Fri. Some cooking & light housekeeping. Exp. & refs. a must! 416-398-6833.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Bringing People Together. It only takes one match to light a fire. Call Ruth **905-731-5204**.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Single female, early 40's, looking for an intermediate tennis player, and light hiking companion. Call Ronit at 416-631-6937.

Very shy, 33 **year** old man, would like to meet male or female to socialize. Please reply to CJN Box #7281.

Romantic male, sensitive, caring, kind and honest. Looking for lady, any age, with the same qualities, for committed relationship. CJN Box #7283.

Nice lady, many good qualities, seeks a good man for serious relationship. Age 50+. 488-8689

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Collector is buying old, used, photo equipment (cameras, lens, flashes, filters). Please Call 905-660-7385.

330 OBITUARIES

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3429 Bathurst St. (corner of Melrose)

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(416) 782-8995

TEPER, Avraham - on May 12, 2000, late of 588 Conley St.
FLOHR, Lisa - on May 13, 2000, late of 16 Valleyview Rd.
ZSOLDOS, Margaret - on May 14, 2000, late of 205 Cummer Ave.

A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

KROWITZ, Charles Michael - on May 17, 2000, late of 17 Sandfield Rd.
NYSSENBAUM, Chaim - on May 17, 2000, late of 1131 Steeles Ave. W.
FRANK, George - on May 18, 2000, late of 1111 Steeles Ave. W.
LINDSAY, Tilly - on May 18, 2000, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
CASPARY, Herman - on May 19, 2000.
DACKS, Ethel - on May 19, 2000, late of 535 Sheppard Ave. W.
LIEPCIGER, Rose - on May 19, 2000.
MANDELKERN, Benjamin - on May 19, 2000, late of 269 Betty Ann Dr.
BERGER, Ilona - on May 20, 2000, late of 6010 Bathurst St.

TURNER, Allan (Sonny) - on May 9, 2000, late of 131 Torresdale Ave., #1006.
WEINSTOCK, Saul - on May 9, 2000, late of 90 Fisherville Rd., #808.
APPLETON, George - on May 10, 2000, late of 89 Skymark Dr., #312.
BEN-DAVID, Arieh - on May 11, 2000, late of 100 Canyon Ave., #907.
NASH, Mimi - on May 11, 2000, late of 19 Nevada Ave.
AUSTERWEIL, Agnes - on May 13, 2000, late of 310 Tweedsmuir Ave., #510.
COLE, Melville - on May 13, 2000, late of 228 Forest Hill Rd.
GOLDBERG, Adolf - on May 15, 2000, late of 360 Ridelle Ave., #808.
ORGAN, Albert - on May 15, 2000, late of 130 Eglinton Ave. E., #403.
PAPE, Elsie - on May 15, 2000, late of 110 Bloor St. W., #709.
VETENSKY, Maureen - on May 16, 2000, late of 9 Ashdown Cres.
COHEN, Miriam - on May 17, 2000, late of 2900 Bathurst St., #308.
JEFFERY, Laura - on May 17, 2000, late of 26 Woodbriar Pl. S.W.
MORDOUKHOVICH, Evgenia - on May 17, 2000, late of 140 Ling Rd., #90.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

331 IN MEMORIAM

FLORENCE CECILLE GULKO ז"ל
"Teenchy"
Born July 31, 1926 — Died June 15, 1980

IN MEMORY OF AN ANGEL, TOO SOON RECALLED TO HEAVEN

Flo, on this, the 20th Yahrzeit of your death, you are still vibrantly alive in our memories. We miss you very much. We can never forget your radiant smiles, your goodness and wisdom, your generosity of heart and soul, your boundless love, and your spontaneous hugs and kisses!

You are forever loved by your husband, children, family and friends

330 OBITUARIES

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To respond to an ad, Call: 1-900-451-4552 Ext. #65

SERIOUS INTENTIONS

Single female, fit, full of energy, blonde hair, hazel eyes, seeks male, attractive, fit, 37-45 yrs, emotionally and financially stable. AD#1398

LOVE LIFE

Single female, very attractive, fit, no children, loves life, seeks male handsome, financially and emotionally stable, single Dad's or divorced okay caring honest down to earth, clean shaven, well groomed and loves life. AD#1331

FREE SPIRIT

Single female, Jewish, 38 yrs, 5'6", slim, pretty, fit, Dr of natural medicine, teacher, open minded, spiritual, fun loving, dancer, writer, artist, actress, emotionally stable Seeking male, fun, fit, romantic, easy going, good communicator AD#1550

HAPPINESS IS KEY

Female, 41 yrs, green eyes, auburn hair, pretty, fun loving, kind, humourous, open minded, love for humanity and animals Seeking kind, open hearted, generous gentleman, age/height/weight not important, financially secure, similar qualities, who'll treat me with respect and kindness. AD#1507

LET'S ENJOY LIFE

Retired female, successful Jewish business, professional, widow, 52 yrs, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, caring, fun loving, positive, passionate, and looking for excitement in life. Seeking successful, tall, Jewish, businessman, or professional 50-62 yrs AD#1118

LOVE'S LIFE

Single Jewish female, slim, young looking, attractive, kind, warm hearted, outgoing, enjoys theatre, reading, nature walks, art, movies, tradition, travel and dancing Seeking male, 49-59 yrs, with similar interest, who's ready to share life to the fullest. AD#1215

SERIOUS COMMITMENT

Attractive Jewish female, 59 yrs, sincere, compassionate, fun loving, selective, and unincumbered, enjoy bridge, tennis, jazz, books, movies and dining. Seeking handsome male, who's elegant, intelligent, independent, and non-smoker, to share the best years of life AD#1332

LASTING RELATIONSHIP

Single Eastern European, born female, 55 yrs, 5'7", independent, intelligent, and a smoker, seeks male for a loving and lasting relationship AD#1432

SHARE LIFE

Female, with many interests, enjoy theatre, movies, dining out and quiet times at home, seeks male 65+ to share interests with AD#1230

LIFE'S PLEASURES

Attractive single professional female, educated, independent, compassionate, imagnative, athletic, sensual and vibrant, enjoy nature, the arts and enlightened conversations. Seeking cultured, witty, literate, accomplished and kind male, 40-50 yrs, who thinks, outside the box, to sample life's pleasures together. AD#1010

SECOND CHANCES

Divorced Jewish professional female, 51 yrs, Eastern European background, speak Hebrew, loving, caring, romantic, great personality, sense of humour, family values, enjoys good conversation, walks, movies, theatre and travelling, seeking male, 51-58 yrs, with similar qualities and interests, for long term relationship. AD#1323

MARRIAGE ONLY

Separated female, attractive, Hebrew teacher, with 5 yr old daughter, seeking only attractive, financially secure male 30-38, who wants quiet family life, must love my daughter and be ready to care her as a father. AD#1229

TAKE A CHANCE

Single professional female, 43 yrs, with one 14 yr old daughter, originally from Eastern Europe, attractive, slim, enjoys dining, reading and long walks. Seeking financially independent male, 45-55 yrs, with similar interests AD#1194

MY BEST FRIEND

Divorced Jewish professional mom, 43 yrs, 5'6", lives in Thornhill, seeks intelligent, stable, optimistic, happy, healthy and energetic single Jewish mensch, with family values, sense of humour, for long term commited relationship based on honesty and friendship. AD#1133

MULTI-FACETED

Female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, unpretentous, fun loving, compassionate, of substance depth and soul, enjoys good food, conversation, walks, quiet times Seeking male, romantic, affectionate, gentle, emotionally/financially secure, with integrity, traditional values, style, who's ready and available to explore life AD#1170

SHARE LOVE AND LAUGHTER

Divorced Jewish female, early 50's, 5'6", attractive professional with 2 grown children, honest, sincere, romantic, enjoys opera, classical music, theatre, travel, dining, dancing. Seeking male 45-56 yrs, same interests, caring, financially independent, respectful, fun loving, traditional values, for love and laughter. AD#1242

LET'S CONNECT

Single female, 52 yrs, a high school teacher with 2 grown daughters, enjoy hiking, plays, sewing, music, gardening, Jewish studies, and computers Seeking kind, warm and loving male, who wants a real relationship, devoting time and energy to develop a connection. AD#1225

MARRIAGE MINDED

Separated Israeli, female, mother of 1 child, 5 yrs, attractive, Hebrew teacher Seeks male, professional or self employed, handsome, 5'10" or over, non-smoker, non-drinker, fluent in Hebrew for serious relationship AD#1193

CLASSY LADY

Single Jewish female, 62 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, selective, enjoys music, the theatre. Seeks male elegant, classy, for loving monogamous long term relationship AD#1054

FAMILY ORIENTATED

Single divorced Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm with great sense of humour. Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat and respect a lady who was previously married and experienced family life. AD#1396

ANIMAL LOVER

Single Jewish female, tall, with long dark hair and dark eyes, enjoys travelling, the outdoors, and loves animals Seeking a tall male, with a good sense of humour, who's easy to talk to. AD#1387

LET'S LAUGH

Single female, 40 yrs, a beauty, zestic, fun loving, lives large and respects life Seeking nice Jewish male, 35-75 yrs, who's open hearted and minded, is financially secure for a wonderful friend and kind loving companion. AD#1392

FRIEND AND COMPANION

Single Jewish female, widow, 55 yrs, 5' attractive, intelligent, caring, raised with traditional values Seeking male, 55-65 yrs, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, to share laughter and more. AD#1518

BE MY MENSCH

Attractive female, 5'8", creative, active, adventurous, youthful and elegant feminist Seeks emotionally available mensch, 50-56 yrs, to share arts, nature and more. AD#1409

FRIENDS FIRST

Single mom, 40 yrs, attractive, slim, 1 ten year old son, university educated, employed, ambitious, outgoing, enjoys dancing dancing, cooking, reading, long walks, sports, cross country skiing Seeks male, non-smoker, social drinker in the same age group with similar interests. AD#1359

MUSIC LOVER

Divorced female, from the Hamilton area, originally from Montreal, vivacious, fit, attractive, early 50's, enjoys travel, dining and dancing, theatre Seeks male, outgoing, financially independent, likes classical music and jazz good sense of humour, loves tennis for possible long term relationship AD#1605

COMPANIONSHIP

Female, 5'2", blonde hair with medium build, employed full time and works out at YMCA. Seeking gentleman who's nice and honourable as a companion AD#1357

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Jewish female, divorced, 40 yrs, very attractive, well educated, physically fit, good sense of humour. Seeking male with same attributes, who's financially and emotionally secure, professional, honest, reliable, 40-50 yrs, and knows how to live life to the fullest AD#1642

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Divorced female, 40 yrs, with 10 yr old son, 5'3fi, very attractive, slim, adventurous, university educated, employed, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys movies, sports, dancing and taking walks. Seeking male who's university educated, non-smoker and drinks very little AD#1369

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish female, 37 yrs, brown hair, hazel green eyes, slim, cute, petite, honest, sincere, smoker, enjoys cooking, singing, dining and dancing, movies, walks, talks Seeking Jewish male, 35-43, spontaneous, romantic, ambitious, smoker, who's ready to settle down and have children AD#1428

BUILD A FAMILY

Single modern orthodox Jewish female, blue eyes, brown hair, beautiful, educated, tall Seeks male, caring, intelligent, healthy, tall, 36-48 yrs, ready to build a happy, loving family AD#1665

WAITING FOR YOU

Single Jewish female, 40 yrs, 5'8", brown eyes, tall attractive, honest, sincere, secure, enjoy dancing, sports, dining and outdoor activities. Seeking male 38-52 yrs, established, intelligent, romantic with similar interests and qualities AD#1730

GREAT PERSONALITY

Single female from Australia en route to England, 5'1", long dark curly hair, attractive, outgoing, feminine, fun loving Seeks male with similar qualities AD#1154

MAN OF MY DREAMS

Single Jewish female, petite, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, brown eyes, red hair, enjoy the theater, movies, music, travelling Seeking a Jewish male, 52-65, non smoker, financially and emotionally stable, honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests AD#1253

FEMME DE JOUR

Slim Jewish professional female, dynamic and challenging personality, multi-faceted with great sense of humour Enjoys dancing, travel and exploring new horizons Seeking an honest, established tall gentleman, mensch only AD#1138

MARRIAGE ONLY

Separated Israeli female with 5 yr old daughter, attractive, a Hebrew teacher Seeks professional or self-employed Canadian-Israeli male, attractive, 5'10"+, speaks fluent Hebrew, non-smoker and non-drinker, for marriage only. AD#1139

SERIOUS CALLS ONLY

Single female, good looking, business woman, 48, 5'6", warm, spiritual, sincere, marriage minded, with 2 children, 1 married, other 14 yrs old. Enjoy dining, dancing, movies and other interests. Seeking male 46-57 yrs for friendship first relationship. AD#1449

It's absolutely **FREE** to retrieve your messages

Men seeking Women

To respond to an ad, Call: 1-900-451-4552 Ext. #65

LOVING GENTLEMAN

Single male, tall, youthful appearance, active, fit, loving, considerate, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks amiable female for companionship and friends first relationship AD#1086

HEART OF GOLD

Single seniour gentleman, tall, youthful active, thoughtful, loving non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks female similar for compassionship AD#1244

LET'S CONNECT

Single male, non-observant Jewish male, widow, 50 yrs, professional, no kids or other dependents, very fit, works out 4 times a week Seeking female, 45-50 yrs, with very similar attributes, for a relationship AD#1241

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, professional accountant, enjoys sports, long walks, dining and dancing, keeping fit, movies, reading travel Seeks female, with similar qualities and interests AD#1445

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Divorced male, 44 yrs, Toronto born and raised, 5'10", smoker, lived in Israel for 11 yrs, variety of interests, seeks female, sexy, attractive, adventurous, fun loving, for romantic relationship AD#1375

LET'S TALK

Caring nature, semi-retired, 67 yr old, professional male, non-smoker with many interests and hobbies, seeking easy going, down to earth female, who's slim, attractive, and fun to be with AD#1094

MARRIAGE MINDED

70 yr old, divorced Jewish male, honest and sincere, would like to meet marriage minded lady, in her 60's. AD#1182

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

Semi-retired male, 5'11", 165 lbs, slim, blue eyes, healthy, attractive, casual, romantic, enjoys intimate restaurants, sea, sun, walks on the beach sports, swimming, tennis, 60's music and kissing, seeking attractive female, caring, humourous, financially secure, physically and emotionally fit. AD#1524

POSSIBLE ROMANCE

Single male, 48 yrs, 5'10", 175 lbs, attractive, friendly, outgoing, romantic, passionate, straight forward, open-minded, employed, enjoy movies, dining, walks in parks, sporting events, golf, cuddling and watching TV. Seeking female with similar qualities and interests, for friendship and perhaps romance. AD#1623

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people Seeks female similar qualities and interests AD#1388

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS

Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with. AD#1038

WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family. AD#1370

SPECIAL SENIOR DOLL

Single retired male, living in Toronto and Florida, seeking female, 65+, who's good looking, slim, and must have a good sense of humour, for meaningful relationship AD#1580

LOVE WAITS

Single male, 5'7", Greenish blue eyes, handsome, poor starving writer, reliable, enjoys sports, swimming, tennis, very down to earth, ready to start a family Seeks Jewish female, with similar interests AD#1195

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Single male, 34 yrs, seeking female with professional status, intelligent, good conversationalist, who enjoys movies, sports, dining, dancing, walks, reading, having fun and tender moments. AD#1190

IT'S SPRING!

Single male, 46 yrs, special education teacher, 2 grown children, 23 yrs & 21 yrs, romantic, self-confident, enjoys roller-blading, travel, country walks, have eclectic tastes, good sense of humour Seeks female with similar qualities and interests AD#1498

FAMILY MAN

Separated male, 50 yrs, 5'7", 160lbs, with 3 teenage children, family oriented, fairly intelligent and financially secure Seeking female who enjoys dining, theatre, movies, outdoor activities and welcomes anyone with family AD#1533

LOVE & LAUGHTER

Single Jewish male, 33 yrs, good sense of humour, honest, nice, intelligent, happy, warm hearted, energetic Seeks female, happy go lucky who's wants some good laugh AD#1442

TIMELESS LOVE

Single male, 49 yrs, 5'11", Brown hair, Brown eyes, handsome, successful, caring, supportive, romantic, passionate, sensual, open honest with feelings, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cooking quiet evenings at home Seeks attractive female 35-45 yrs, affectionate, emotionally healthy, passionate about herself and the man in her life AD#1377

WANTS FAMILY LIFE

Divorced male, 53 yrs, a writer, no children, good hearted, good looking, good humoured and good brain. Seeking female to have children with and start a family AD#1151

TO SHARE LIFE

Single male, 41 yrs, seeks female who's attractive, nice, good sense of humour, lives in the Toronto, enjoys theatre, having a good time and the great outdoors to share my life with. AD#1265

SCHOLARLY MYSTIC

Attorney and international entrepreneur, cultured, aereodite, talmud, chachim, kaballist, thaumaturcal healer, violinist, poet, parachutist, scuba diver, wishes to a new period. Seeks slender, intelligent, attractive, adventurous lady who's emotionally/financially secure as my queen AD#1386

WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS MOST

Single male, 47 yrs, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies-especially Hitchcock, and drives in the country. Seeking female, professional or non-professional, non slim okay, children okay, smoker on non-smoker, a basically nice, down to earth person. AD#1055

GOOD IN EVERY WAY!

Divorced male, 53 yrs, no children, good hearted, good humoured, good looking Seeks female for loving relationship AD#1600

WARM & CARING

Single white male, 57 yrs, warm, caring, romantic, self-employed Enjoys travel, movies, quiet romantic evenings, good conversation. Seeks female with similar interests and qualities AD#1565

LET'S HAVE COFFEE

Single male, young looking, 45 yrs, 5'11", brown hair, brown eyes, cute smile, university educated, employed professional, good manners. Enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, sporting events. Seeks female 30-42 yrs, for casual relationship, possible long lasting relationship AD#1598

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single male, 35 yrs, 5' 10", honest, sharing and caring, down to earth, enjoys movies, dining, and dancing, concerts, quiet romantic evenings Seeks female with similar interests AD#1660

LOVE AWAITS

Single Jewish male, late 40's, 5' 10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, loving, good sense of humour Enjoys the theatre, long walks, bowling, tennis Seeks female, 32-33 yrs, single or widowed, orthodox preferred but not required, intelligent, with similar interests AD#1161

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER

Single Jewish male, widower, blue eyes, brown hair, medium herght, good looking, non smoker, very fit, work out, enjoy movies, dining, travelling, beach holidays, skiing Seeking a female, attractive, good natured, to enjoy life with AD#1393

GOOD MAN

Divorced male, 53, no children, good hearted, good looking, good sense of humour seeking a female to share life with AD#1178

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Single male, unique and special, with traditional values, attractive, young looking healthy, successful, enjoy life Seeking a female with similar qualities AD#1212

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, sincere, no children Seeking a physically fit and sincere female, 25-35, for serious relationship AD#1189

WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single Jewish semi-retired business man in beauty supply, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, short dark hair, mustache, traditional, family oriented, enjoy swimming, bicycling, lot of educational reading Seeking a Jewish female to have children and a family AD#1322

TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME

Single Jewish male, traditional, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, well educated, semi-retired, in the beauty supply business, handsome, short dark hair, mustache, enjoy swimming, cycling, educational reading, family life, ready for marriage and family Seeking a single Jewish female, with similar qualities and interests AD#1008

LIVE LIFE FULLY

Single male, divorced, father of 2, 48, 5'7", slim, fit, generous, Family Physician, enjoy philosophy, cultures, Latin dancing, cross country skiing Seeking a younger female, attractive, slim, highly intelligent, passionate, giving, sincere, emotionally and financially secure, likes children AD#1318

HOUSE OF TORRAH

Single male, Canadian born, divorced, caring, professional, enjoy Torrah and phycology Seeking a female, attractive, Jovio, 32-44, easy going, warm, gentle, spritual, compatible for love, marriage, family AD#1222

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish male, Canadian born, lawyer, Sabth of servant. Seeking a very intelligent and attractive female who wants children and family AD#1638

SOULMATE

Single male, 58, 6'1", 160lbs, Israeli origin, Canadian citizen, young looking and feeling, tolerant, compassionate, love nature, country side, animals, reading, dining, glass of wine, anxious for a real soulmate to enrich and fulfill my life. AD#1424

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

Divorced male, professional, originally from Eastern Europe, 5'10", handsome, slim, fit, down to earth, non smoker, hopeless romantic, enjoy movies, sunsets on the beach, healthy lifestyle Seeking a female, affectionate, slim,

Have Questions? **Call: 416-236-6644**

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The Canadian Jewish news

Toronto centre leads Penn State to championship

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Alon Eizenman has had a season for the record books.

First, he scores 32 goals and 43 assists in 34 games to lead the Penn State Nittany Lion Icers to the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) National Tournament. Then, in the championship game he scores the winner – in overtime – to clinch the title against arch-rivals Eastern Michigan.

He's named ACHA Player of the Year and he wins the Bob Johnson Trophy, awarded to athletes who combine excellence in hockey with superior academic and extra-curricular performances.

In the middle of all this, he centres Israel's top line at the IIHF Pool D championships, and helps the Jewish state win its first-ever hockey gold medal.

Then, to cap it all off, *Sports Illustrated* includes him in its Faces in the Crowd feature, recounting highlights from his season.

Not bad for a Gretzky, but all the more impressive for an Eizenman.

The season had a lot of high points, acknowledges Eizenman, 21, and the *SI* feature "was a huge thrill for me."

On the ice, the best moment for him came during the final game of the ACHA tournament – the one that was decided in overtime. Sixteen minutes into the extra frame, Eizenman, a centre, took a faceoff deep in the Eastern Michigan zone. The puck went into the corner where Eizenman retrieved it and centred it to his winger. The forward's shot went wide but bounced out to Eizenman who had circled around the net. He picked it up and put it home for the tournament-winning goal.

"It was pandemonium," he recalls. "The veterans, me included, were not expecting to win. We're a close team so the absolute joy in winning was unbelievable."

It was, he said, the single most exciting hockey moment in his career.

Eizenman presaged that heroic effort with key performances in preliminary games. In the quarter-final,with the Icers down 3-1, he scored two goals to tie the game and send it to overtime. In the semi-final he scored the game-tieing goal with 1:37 left to play to again send it into overtime, where the Icers won again.

And then there was the tournament-winning goal.

His coach, Joe Battista, won't say he expected Eizenman's heroics, but he wasn't altogether surprised either. Eizenman, he believes, "is the best overall player in our league...He's creative, very unselfish, almost to a fault.

"He has tremendous skill, but probably the biggest thing is his vision. He sees plays develop and he can anticipate plays. He scores the kind of goals that make you go 'ooh' and 'aah'."

For his part, Eizenman believes his game has improved by leaps and bounds since he joined the Icers as a freshman three years ago.

"I like to think of myself as an all-round player. I can go on the ice in any situation. I can score or I can shut down the other team's players. I feel my game has grown in that way. I've always been a pretty good playmaker and defensive player; the goal scoring has come along."

Ironically, before he left Toronto, Eizenman had to beat the bushes looking for a U.S. college to offer him a spot. A product of the MTHL, at age 17 he had played Midget hockey for the Wexford Raiders at a time when kids his age were playing Junior.

"I sent out a bunch of letters," he recalled. "Major [NCAA] Division 1 schools don't scout Midget, just Junior."

Penn State, which plays in the second tier of U.S. college hockey, did send someone to scout Eizenman and, based on his scoring prowess, offered him a partial academic scholarship. Eizenman chose to head south rather than accept an offer to play Tier II Junior A hockey in Ontario.

Penn State is known for the high academic standards it demands of its athletes. Eizenman has excelled in both areas. "He's been a great role model for students who take seriously the terms, scholar-athlete," Battista said.

Turning his college success into a pro tryout was never his main intention when he headed south to Penn State. He plans to apply to law school but he's keeping his options open. He feels if he bulks up his six foot, 170-lb frame, the nearby Penguins might invite him to try out.

"If I'm afforded the opportunity, I'll at least try. If it happens, I'll give it a shot. I've never played versus the top players...I'd like to at least see how I stack up."

Battista believes that if he dedicates himself to a pro career, Eizenman has a shot. "He's fast, he's shifty. I believe he could play in Sweden or Finland if he wanted to."

To play pro hockey in North American, "he'll really have to make a commitment in the weight room."

Whatever Eizenman decides, Battista is just glad to have him back for his senior year next season. He's seen him "learn and mature and now he understands what it takes to be a leader at this level. He's competitive and he sets high standards for everything he does.

"It'll be hard to top his season, but you know what. I wouldn't put it past him."

Alon Eizenman (left) and his brother Erez suited up for Israel at the IIHF Pool D championship in Iceland recently.

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Hear ye, hear ye. Trials are set to begin

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TAKE NOTICE

Young men and women in the Toronto area are being asked to get their briefs in order and present themselves for trial at the Esther Shiner Hydro Field.

They may attend in the company of a guardian or on their own, as their disposition will be at the discretion of judges well versed in the matter at hand.

Those who successfully pass their preliminary investigation will be remanded in the custody of their parents until their next appearance date, which has yet to be firmly set but is expected later in the summer.

Only those boys and girls with outstanding abilities in the game of soccer may attend the trials, which will be held on June 17 and 18, beginning at 9 in the forenoon.

Young defenders, midfielders and strikers born between Jan. 1, 1985 and Dec. 31, 1987 are eligible for the trials, which will determine finalists for Canada's junior soccer teams that will compete in the 2001 Maccabiah Games in Israel.

This item constitutes legal notice under the Charter, By-Laws or Constitution of any legally constituted and lawfully enjoined corporate and organizational entity whose Charter, By-Laws or Constitution entitles them to give legal notice.

* * *

Long-standing soccer maven David Rumack will be one of two coaches putting the boys through their paces at the soccer trials. He'll be joined by Yiftach Levy of Montreal, who will coach the boys team at next summer's Maccabiah Games in Israel. Valmie Ouellette of Montreal will be on hand to coach the girls.

Rumack suggested that those trying out for the outdoor soccer team would have some soccer experience at the high school or club levels, though that is not mandatory. Athletes may pre-register or simply show up at the field, which is located off of Bathurst Street north of Finch.

For more information, contact Rumack at 416-424-2525.

Inside Back

An abbreviated guide to Jewish history, part 3 (2171-2447)

By JORDAN MAX

2171 (1589 BCE) — Jacob, his Mama's boy, tricks Isaac into giving him his older brother's blessings and the keys to dad's donkey. Esau, who failed anger management school, is really ticked off and wants to kill Jacob, at which point Jacob decides to go on an extended vacation and while he's at it, pick out a wife or two.

Arriving penniless at his uncle Laban's house, he works as a grazing consultant (aka shepherd) for seven years to marry his younger daughter Rachel. Laban pulls a fast one and switches Rachel for Leah, his older daughter, which only proves that Jacob should have bought the shidduch insurance package in the first place.

Jacob marries Rachel and works another 13 years for Laban, while managing to have 12 children by four wives. After 34 years of being away, Jacob eventually runs out of clean laundry and leaves for his mother's house, taking his family with him. After an all-night mediation session, Jacob reconciles with Esau and settles down.

2216 (1544 BCE) — Joseph, Jacob's second youngest son and by far the flashiest dresser, so annoys his brothers that they sell him to some passing Ishmaelites going to Egypt, where he is again sold.

As he rises through the corporate ladder to become Potiphar's executive assistant, he is sexually harassed by Potiphar's wife, and unable to get good legal counsel, winds up in prison. Here he again rises to become head prisoner, a fancy title with a few perks but no additional pay.

Able to accurately interpret the dreams of other inmates, he is taken to the palace to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, and predicts seven years of surplus and seven of famine. Joseph is then chosen to be Pharaoh's Number 2 and implements Josephian economics (an idea later stolen by Keynes).

Joseph's brothers come to buy food, and Joseph tests their consciences, then reveals himself to his brothers, who immediately ask him for season's tickets to all the local sporting events.

2238 (1522 BCE) — Receiving the good news that Joseph is alive and Pharaoh's right hand man to boot, Jacob moves the whole mishpachah down to Egypt "just for a few years, until the famine finishes" and settles in the Goshen suburbs, a nice condominium complex with an adjoining golf course.

However, once Joseph dies, the new Pharaoh develops a sudden case of historical amnesia and gradually reduces Jacob's descendants to the status of slaves. Despite heavy manual labour and utter powerlessness, they are guided by their leader Xerox, and exhibit tremendous reproductivity.

2368 (1392 BCE) — In the midst of decrees of death against all male infants, Marvin, the third child of Amram and Yocheved, is born and is secretly kept until the photos come back from the lab. His mother places him in a basket in the Nile River, where he is found by Pharaoh's daughter, who re-names him Moses (thankfully) and raises him as an Egyptian prince.

One day, he goes for a royal "walkabout" session with his future subjects, and sees an Egyptian "workload motivational consultant" beating a Hebrew slave. In a fit of anger, Moses kills the taskmaster and flees to Midyan, where he marries Yitro's daughter Zipporah and begins a second career as an executive grazing consultant.

Later, God makes him an offer he can't refuse through a burning bush (a very neat trick at that), telling him to return to Egypt and to demand that Pharaoh release the Jewish slaves.

Moses submits his first proposal to Pharaoh, but faced with Pharaoh's "difficult" negotiating position, God softens up Pharaoh through ten plaques. Upon discovering the typographical error, God sends ten plagues instead.

To be continued

Last Laugh

KASHA PILAF

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2 tsp. toasted sesame oil
1 small onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
pinch of sea salt
2 cups boiling water
2 medium red potatoes
1 baking potato
4 mushrooms, sliced
1 cup kasha
freshly ground black pepper

Heat oil in a 2 qt. saucepan. Add onion, garlic and salt and sauté until onion is soft. Scrub potatoes well and cut into 1/2 inch cubes. Add potatoes and mushrooms to onions, stir and sauté 1 to 2 minutes. Add kasha to mixture and stir. Pour in boiling water. Turn heat to low. Cover pot and simmer 15 minutes. Fluff grains with fork and serve immediately garnished with freshly ground black pepper.

About Teens

Dear Karilani,

After school one day, my friend was smoking cigarettes. She offered me one and I just ran away. The next day the same thing happened. I told her cigarettes are bad for your health and she said, "All the cool people smoke, why don't you?" I said no again and she slapped me and ran away. The next day she acted as though nothing happened. What should I do?

Hurt and Confused

Dear Hurt and Confused,

First, you should be congratulated on standing up for yourself. Sometimes that is the hardest step. You were right in saying no to the cigarettes. The issue that you have to address is whether you are more hurt by the way your friend acted towards you, or the fact that she may end up choosing smoking and those "cool" kids over your friendship.

You need to speak to your friend about this – quickly. If you don't discuss her actions, you will end up resenting her. After you said you weren't interested in smoking, she should have respected your decision. Furthermore, she had no right to slap you. You have to tell her how she has made you feel and that you are hurt by the way she has treated you.

You must also evaluate the friendship that you two share. How long have you been friends? Are you close? Is the friendship important to you? If your friend's behaviour doesn't change it sounds as though you both may go through some trying times. But if you really care about her and the friendship, then work at it, because once she realizes how ridiculous she is acting, she will come back to you.

Don't feel threatened by these "cool" people she speaks of. You have made the decision not to smoke and if you hold true to that, people will end up respecting you. However cliched the saying is, if people think of you differently because of your decision to not smoke, they are unworthy of your friendship.

Keep all of these issues in mind when you speak to your friend. You must express how you feel. Communication is very important in a relationship.

Karilani is a composite name for three girls, who are close friends and in Grade 12 in Toronto

The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"What Do You Say?"

By Matt Gaffney
and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

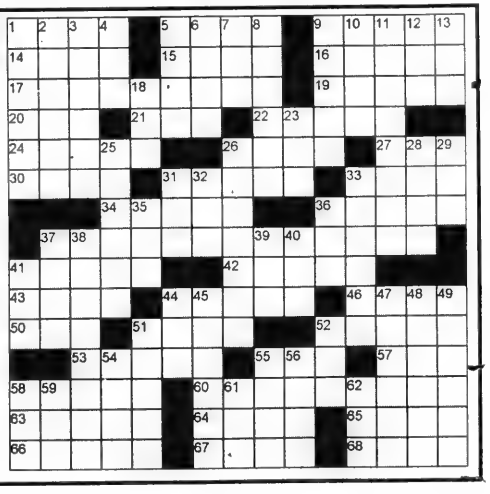
Across

1 Skirt features
5 Word on a bulb
9 Hodel's beloved
14 First name in Romanian Jewry
15 Brainstorm
16 "___ a dream"
17 Joan Rivers catchphrase
19 "Frasier" character
20 Element #50
21 A little resistance
22 ___ salts
24 Bagel variety
26 Enjoy the tub
27 Employ
30 Surfer's worry
31 Mindy and Roy
33 ___ Sheni
34 Plant life
36 Lesser of two ___
37 Rodney Dangerfield catchphrase
41 Daily routine
42 Conference of '38
43 Round of applause
44 Test versions
46 Refusenik's land
50 MENSA members' pride
51 Fair
52 Brown hue
53 Be a braggart
55 "A mouse!"
57 Like Methuselah
58 Disheveled
60 Ed Koch catchphrase
63 Actress Thomas
64 General Robt. ___
65 Never again
66 Element #18
67 Snooze
68 Pale of Settlement ruler

Down

1 Achilles killed him
2 One of Jerry's exes
3 One of Walt's creations
4 Do stitchery
5 Accompanying
6 With 12-down, biblical couple
7 ___ Hai (early Zionist settlement)
8 Challenge
9 Pale of Settlement city
10 Joel Hyatt's state
11 Type of law
12 See 6-down
13 Bandleader Brown
18 Long time
23 Men of the house
25 Rile the ADL
26 Ben-Gurion's predecessor and successor
28 Latke condiment
29 Where some M.D.'s work
31 Leona Helmsley, at one point
32 Gold, in Guadalajara
33 Fifth, notably
35 Inc., in England
36 Part of the DOI
37 It fired scuds at Israel
38 Beat poet Allen
39 Juan Peron's wife
40 Bro's sib
41 JK follows them
44 Ralph Kramden's workplace
45 Purim heroine
47 Borscht scoopers
48 Quartz or opal material
49 "It's Always Something" author
51 Alexander of "Seinfeld"
52 Enjoy Vail
54 Nordic capital
55 They go "baa"
56 ___ *V'Emunah*
58 "I ___ Camera"
59 Taint
61 Bullring cry
62 Morse code bit

(Answers are on page 37.)



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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

B.C. launches new Holocaust education guide. *Page 3*

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein first woman head of Toronto Board of Rabbis. *Page 14*

The Imperial Quartet: Practise makes perfect. *Page 19*

Health & Lifestyles

PRIME study focuses on treatment of schizophrenia. *Page 28*

Arts & Travel

From Tel Aviv to Jerusalem: Plenty to see and do. *Travel Talk.* *Page 34*

The Travellers keep on strumming close to 50 years later. *Page 36*

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www.cjnews.com

PARLIAMENT HILL PROTEST: Concerned individuals protested their outrage last week on the steps of parliament at the ongoing plight of the 13 Iranian Jews. The protest was organized by the Montreal Board of Rabbis. The Ottawa Jewish community has been conducting daily vigils on behalf of the Iranian Jews in front of the Iranian Embassy. Verdicts are expected this week.

Calgary writer wins top honours

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Nancy Huston, a Calgary-born author living in Paris, has won top honours and a prize of $1,000 for her 1998 novel *The Mark of the Angel* at this year's Jewish Book Awards.

Another 10 books were honoured at the 12th annual ceremony, which attracted some 200 people to the Leah Posluns Theatre in Toronto on June 7.

"This is my fourth year for sponsoring the award for fiction, and I'm exhilarated by the choice the committee made this year," said Beatrice Fischer, handing the prize envelope to committee member Bernard Katz, who accepted it on behalf of the absent Huston.

Winner of the Martin and Beatrice Fischer Prize for Fiction, Huston's seventh novel tells the story of a docile German girl who becomes housekeeper, then wife, to a Paris musician in the 1950s. Taking her husband's flute to a repair shop in the Jewish Marais district, she falls into a passionate affair with the instrument maker, a Hungarian-Jewish survivor of the Holocaust.

The Mark of the Angel was short-listed for last year's Giller prize. It is published in Canada by McArthur and Co.

Jewish Book Awards

"It's an amazing book, with vivid characterizations and deep echoes of the Holocaust," says Adam Fuerstenberg, the Ryerson professor of English literature who founded the Jewish Book awards in 1988 and who stepped down as its chair after the latest ceremony.

The event was distinguished by a reading from Chava Rosenfarb, the Yiddish novelist whose prize-winning works have chronicled the Lodz Ghetto and the vibrant Jewish life of Poland before World War II.

Continued on page 23

Barak extols human rights

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For the president of Israel's Supreme Court, the legacy of the Holocaust has not been bitterness or recrimination, but the triumph of the human spirit and a hunger for the pursuit of human rights.

Aharon Barak

Aharon Barak, a child survivor of the Jewish ghetto in Kovno, Lithuania, made that clear last Friday in accepting an honourary doctor of laws degree from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University.

"Most of my family was killed and I was saved by a miracle, by the grace of Lithuanian peasants," Israel's chief justice told over 300 new lawyers at York's spring convocation.

Continued on page 31

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Behaalotcha
Candlelighting: 8:45
Havdallah: 9:50

UN confirms IDF withdrawal from Lebanon — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Goussinsky's Arrest

OTTAWA — Canadian Jewish Congress president Moshe Ronen has written to Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy to express concern over last week's arrest of Russian media baron Vladimir Goussinsky, who is also president of the Russian Jewish Congress.

"We are concerned for the well-being of Mr. Goussinsky. Our concern extends to the overall state of freedom of the press and human rights in the Russian Federation. The Russian government must be made aware that their actions will be held accountable by the international community," Ronen wrote.

BBC in Ottawa

OTTAWA — Officials of B'nai Brith Canada made a presentation to members of the House of Commons recently in which they urged legislators to make the Holocaust central to a planned museum exhibit on 20th-century war crimes. At the same time, the organization called on Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan to strip three Nazi collaborators of their citizenship and deport them.

Degree for Barak

TORONTO — The president of the Supreme Court of Israel, Aharon Barak, received an honorary doctor of laws degree from York University last Friday. Barak also addressed York University's Osgoode Hall Law School convocation.

Mission to Ottawa

MONTREAL — The Montreal Board of Rabbis recently organized a mission to Parliament Hill in support of the 13 Jews on trial in Iran. They asked the Canadian government to make clear that a guilty verdict will have serious economic and diplomatic consequences.

Philanthropy Awards

TORONTO — Joey and Toby Tanenbaum and MP Michael Wilson were among the recipients of the 2000 Philanthropy Awards, sponsored by the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives, Greater Toronto chapter. The awards honour excellence in community building.

ISRAEL

Weiz Loses Motion

JERUSALEM — A major hurdle has been cleared in the case of an Israeli soldier wanted in last autumn's beating death of Toronto teenager Matti Baranovski. Last week, Daniel Weiz, 19, a suspect in the murder, lost a legal motion in which he alleged that evidence against him was selective and perjured. Israel's Supreme Court rejected his claim and ruled that Israel does not need to request additional evidence from Canada.

PA's First Census

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian Authority's first Jerusalem census points to a higher Palestinian population in the eastern portion of the city than Israel has reported. The study says the Palestinian population in areas annexed by Israel after 1967 was 210,209, compared with 180,000 reported by Israel.

High-Tech Rating

JERUSALEM — Israel is the fourth most influential high-tech hub in the world, according to *Wired* magazine. Silicon Valley in California, Boston and Stockholm-Kista were ranked as the top three.

WORLD

Chassidim Attacked

NEW YORK — A stabbing attack by a group of Hispanics against four Chassidim in Brooklyn is being investigated as a hate crime by New York City police. One man was in critical but stable condition, and three in stable condition, in the incident on the Coney Island boardwalk.

Candle Fire Kills

NEW YORK — Investigators said candles lit for Shavuot helped to start a Brooklyn fire that killed the granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum, the leader of the Satmar chassidic sect.

Alarm Sounded

NEW YORK — *Reform Judaism* magazine is devoting its summer 2000 cover story to the problem of eating disorders, and draws attention to the "skyrocketing number of Jewish women affected by eating disorders. Eating disorders prey upon so many women... that we felt we had to sound the alarm," said Aron Hirt-Manheimer, editor-in-chief.

Protestors Fined

PRAGUE — Czech authorities last week fined nine "English speaking" Jewish protestors who ignored police requests to leave an office construction site located above a former Jewish cemetery here. Earlier in the week, three Jewish protestors were fined for trespassing at the same site on Vladislavova Street, which is half a mile from the city's famous old Jewish cemetery.

Valuable Judaica Stolen from Synagogue

TORONTO — A 40-year-old man is facing robbery charges after several Jewish artifacts were stolen from Beth Sholom Synagogue.

The four items stolen from the Eglinton Avenue synagogue include an early bronze Sabbath table lamp that dates back to 1670; a rare copper wedding ring from the late 16th century; a silver-filigreed Russian spice container from 1861; and a 19th-century German chanukiyah.

Police so far have been unable to find the items, which are described as extremely valuable.

Officials say the suspect had stayed at Beth Sholom during the winter when it offered space for the homeless. It's believed the items were stolen several weeks ago.

Investigators reportedly recovered a cellphone and several other items belonging to the synagogue when they arrested the man, leading them to conclude that he had already sold the remaining artifacts.

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B.C. launches new Holocaust education guides

By MARLANE SMITH
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — Zena Simces chose her words carefully in a speech introducing and commending the B.C. government's new Holocaust education resources. Two words, especially, echoed hauntingly through the aisles of Vancouver's Holocaust Education Centre (VHEC) on June 12. Never again, she said firmly.

The hushed audience – comprised of Holocaust survivors, education ministry officials, educators and media – nodded unanimously in agreement. "Never again do we want to hear that a student is graduating in B.C. from grade 12 without hearing the word Holocaust," said Simces, chair of the Pacific region's Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC).

Two resource guides focusing on Canada and the Holocaust – one targeted for Grade 6, the other for Grade 11 – will be distributed to each public and independent school in the province by the end of June. Created by a writing team of members of the CJC, the VHEC, the education ministry and teachers, the guides are the tools that can ensure "never again," Simces said.

The CJC has made Holocaust education one of its highest priorities. With VHEC's assistance, they sent a proposal to the education minister. Now – one year later – the guides and teaching tools are ready to be distributed to all B.C. schools.

Material provided for grades 6 and 11

"In Congress' experience, it's one of the fastest things we've ever seen the government do," Simces said.

Robert Weisman, Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society president, greeted the announcement almost with a sigh of relief. "We've been voices in the wilderness for many years," he said. "For us survivors, it's gratifying to see this come to fruition, especially while we're still around."

But while the new resources are deemed viable and comprehensive ways of meeting the ministry's prescribed learning outcomes for grades 6 and 11 social studies, no teacher is actually obligated to use the guides. In fact, students may continue finishing high school without learning about the Holocaust because use of the new guides is at a teacher's discretion.

"There is no way we can ensure that a teacher uses these guides, or that a teacher addresses the Holocaust," said Greg Smith, the education ministry's social studies co-ordinator. "What we can do, however, is encourage teachers to utilize them and to create an awareness of this resource."

Smith added the new resource guides are endorsed by the education minister, Penny Priddy, who will send the new guides to schools under her own cover letter – something that doesn't often happen, according to the education ministry's curriculum branch director, Dave Williams.

Frieda Miller, VHEC's education director said the need for the new guides is enormous. Until now the only course potentially broaching the subject of the Holocaust was History 12, an optional course, where the teacher could choose whether to include any mention of the Holocaust.

Her recent experience with B.C. educators shows eagerness toward raising the subject in the classroom.

Barry Krangle, a grade 6 teacher in Sechelt, B.C., began teaching his class about the Holocaust earlier this year. Krangle said most children in his classroom had never heard the word and, if they had heard it, didn't know specific details about it.

Education systems under the Nazi regime inculcated hatred toward Jews because the Nazi state enlisted professionals and civil servants – including teachers – to carry out the final solution. "Education was one of the primary instruments used by the Nazis to segregate Jews," Miller said.

For that reason, Miller said it is particularly meaningful to celebrate the launch of the B.C. education ministry's initiative, which encourages teachers to examine the legacy of the Holocaust as a means of valuing diversity, human rights and social justice.

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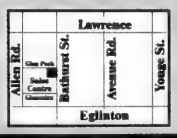

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Greater Toronto Area

Stratford's Fiddler superb

From the editor's desk

The famous and well-used stage of the intimate Festival Theatre in Stratford had been transformed into a replica of a turn-of-the-last-century shtetl in the Ukraine, run-down but not ramshackle, a busy meeting place and congested human thoroughfare right out of a Roman Vishniac photograph, its colours variations of earthy beige, brown, purple and blue.

The stylized urban horizon, suspended on the upstage wall, provided the wider context for the story about to be told: there were symbols of the ancient, comforting religion, fastidiously followed by the mostly impoverished Jews, alongside the onion-shaped domes of the Orthodox Church in whose high ceiling chambers the majority of the townspeople worshiped.

High above the stage, suspended in that urban horizon, as fixed reference points in a darkening constellation, were some of the familiar, dreamy images from Marc Chagall's paintings of shtetl life.

There was no doubting where the centre of our imaginations had been led. We were in Anatevka, awaiting the appearance of and the first piercing pulls of the violin bow by the fiddler perched precariously on the roof of one of the homes in the tiny, dusty village.

We stayed there, in imaginary Anatevka, for three hours. It was an enchanting, heart-breaking, uplifting visit.

For the first time ever, the Stratford Festival had included *Fiddler on the Roof* in its roster of theatrical offerings.

Who among *CJN* readers is not familiar with the story and the music of the *Fiddler on the Roof*? As everyone knows, the story in the play by Joseph Stein was based on the work of Sholem Aleichem. It is a magnificent tale and a magnificent script. It is also far more than a historical narrative of Jewish life in the pale of Russia one hundred years ago. It is a philosopher's journey that stops at and explores most of the essential points along the universal journey of life. Of course, the key exploration is the reconciliation between "old ways" and "new times."

The fiddler is the literary device, the metaphor for grasping on to our traditions. He is the invisible shadow following the central character Tevye throughout the play. He appears whenever Tevye's traditions are challenged or invoked.

The music by Jerry Bock and the lyrics by Sheldon Harnick are now part of the folk-lore defining Jewish identity in the late twentieth century.

The Stratford production was a superb, deeply moving experience, that splendidly conveyed the tenuous, bittersweet balance between the tears and the laughter in the daily lives of the play's central characters.

Without exception, the singing was outstanding, responding sensitively and evocatively, without affectation or strain, to the story being told in song. There are too many sweet musical moments in the play to single out just a few, but special mention must be made of Tevye's touching *If I Were A Rich Man*, of the ensemble's lovely harmonic layering of the *Sabbath Prayer*, and of the simple, poignant discovery in the duet by Tevye and Golda *Do You Love Me*?

The choreography was equally compelling, smooth and delicate or bold and aggressive as the story required, never overpowering the music and song but providing just the right visual punctuation and emphasis to the storyline. Among the choreographic highlights were the *To Life/L'Chaim* bar scene, the Fruma Sara nightmare and the bottle dance at the wedding, all of which were executed with dazzling grace, poise, drama and flair.

Of course, the real ballast and sturdiness of the production derived from the quality of the players. They meshed well; there was a patently obvious electric synergy among them on the stage that carried the play with high level energy, enthusiasm and commitment from the first curtain to the last.

The players were all a delight to watch. Unfortunately, space does not permit a more particularized tribute to them. But I do wish to mention three special performances. Michael Therriault was the perfect Motel, transforming the character, with humour and slapstick, from meek and frightened to manly and assertive.

Theresa Tova was a superb Yente, portraying her character with that finely measured patina of exaggeration that the role demanded to make it stand out as one of the fulcrum characters the playwright envisioned for the village community.

The dramatic anchor of the play however, was the remarkable performance by Brent Carver as Tevye. What room was there, I wondered, for the role between the zanyish portrayal of Tevye by Zero Mostel and the larger-than-life portrayal by Topol? It turned out, there was a great deal of creative and meaningful room left and Carver filled it wonderfully with a signature Tevye of his own: understated, gentle, quieter, more vulnerable, but deeply humane.

Carver's realization of the role was a visual, auditory and emotional delight.

The delivery of lines, the quality of singing and dancing, the mastery of facial expressions were extraordinary. Most extraordinary was his constant attention to the smaller but important details of each of his scenes as exemplified, even in the use of his hands. Carver often made heart-rending, dramatic statements merely with the sweep of his hands.

He clearly understood the complexity of his character, the poignancy of the story and the universality of its message. No single delivery of lines demonstrated this more than the way in which he painfully bade farewell to Chava in the last scene, by directing to her the weeping whisper of all generations : "God be with you." Stratford's *Fiddler on the Roof* is an exciting, stirring production, bringing new insight to the story and great credit to its cast.

— MBD

SEE JN

LUBAVITCH WEEK IN CANADA: From left, rabbis Berel Mochkin of Montreal, Yitzchok Wineberg of Vancouver and Zalman Grossbaum of Toronto present Prime Minister Jean Chrétien with a map of Canada superimposed with 56 Chabad-Lubavitch institutions across the country, as Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan looks on. The rabbis also presented Chrétien with a proclamation marking the first week of July – corresponding to the sixth anniversary of the death of the Lubavitcher Rebbe – as "Lubavitch Week" in Canada. [J.M. Carisse photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Wolfe endows U of T Holocaust studies chair

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish communal activist and former University of Toronto chancellor Rose Wolfe has created the school's first chair in Holocaust studies.

The Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Chair in Holocaust Studies will endow, in perpetuity, a program that will examine the history, causes and consequences of the Holocaust.

The chair will be under the aegis of the university's history department. It will be awarded to a tenured professor with a known track record in Holocaust scholarship.

"Of all the things I could have done, this to me was the most important," said Wolfe, who served as the university's chancellor from 1991 to 1997.

U of T will become the second Canadian university to have a chair in Holocaust studies. The Silber Family Chair in Holocaust and Eastern European Studies was established at York University last year.

According to U of T, the Wolfe chair will be a critical link between the university and Holocaust studies taking place at other research universities around the world, as well as such institutions as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

It will also work with related U of T faculties, such as arts and science, law, medicine and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education – at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

"We owe it to our predecessors, to ourselves and to future generations to understand what happened during that terrible period in human history," said Wolfe. "Most importantly, we must use this knowledge to ensure that such atrocities never happen again. If we fail one group, we fail all of humanity."

Wolfe is a longtime leader on the Jewish scene, having been the first and only female president of Toronto Jewish Congress (now Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto) and president of United Jewish Appeal's Women's Division. She's also chaired the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress.

As a young social worker in 1947, she helped to place orphans rescued from European concentration camps in Canadian homes.

In a related matter, Wolfe last week said it was "unfortunate" that U of T awarded honorary degrees at its spring convocation to two well-known critics of Israel.

Pro-Palestinian professor Edward Said and U.S. foreign policy critic Noam Chomsky both received honorary doctorates, something "that showed real insensitivity to the Jewish community," Wolfe said.

In a June 1 letter to U of T president Robert Prichard, CJC Ontario region chair Keith Landy called Said and Chomsky "hard-line peace process critics" who have argued that the Olso peace accord "was an Israeli/American plot to deny Palestinians a credible state of their own."

Landy also pointed out that Chomsky once wrote an introduction to a book by the notorious French Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson (in which Chomsky defended Faurisson's right to free speech).

Landy wrote that he must "question the judgment" of the university in its decision to pay tribute to Said and Chomsky.

"Honouring academics who deal in absolutes, and demand that history provide guarantees, seem a strange message to young scholars," Landy stated.

In a reply, Prichard said the awarding of the degrees could not be reconsidered. "That fact does not diminish, however, my regret at any offence we may have caused you," he added.

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Greater Toronto Area

New racist Web site launched as Heritage Front does upgrade

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — They're back.

Just when you thought the radical right had gone into a dormant stage or was too busy trying to stay out of jail, it has resurfaced on the Internet.

A new racist Web site called Anschluss Kanada (AK), has debuted while an old one operated by the Heritage Front (HF) has been upgraded.

Canadian Jewish Congress spokesman Bernie Farber believes the new Web presence signals a desire by some members of the racist right to resurrect a popular following.

Anschluss Kanada appears to be named after the 1938 Nazi takeover (Anschluss) of Austria. Its mission is to create "togetherness and union" and it describes itself as "a political, social and cultural information and e-news site that discusses issues of interest to European-Canadians, especially those of German descent."

It recently addressed the case of Nazi collaborator Helmut Oberlander, the retired Kitchener builder who served as an interpreter in a notorious German murder unit during World War II.

"It's a dark, bleak irony that today's neo-Nazis would support yesterday's Nazis," said Farber. "The shoe seems to fit."

Farber pointed out that The Freedomsite (www.freedomsite.org), which hosts the HF and AK sites, has been keeping racist sites going.

The resurgence of the Heritage Front site and the introduction of Anschluss Kanada may be the first stage of a right-wing revival, he speculated. "It's their first kick at it. It looks like they may be gearing up for a second coming."

However, times have changed since the heyday of the Heritage Front 10 or more years ago, he continued. "Their foot soldiers who were 18 or 19 are now around 30" and many have developed other interests.

In addition, the Heritage Front does not have the kind of leadership that once vaulted it onto the national scene. Wolfgang Droege, its past leader, has disappeared from the local racist movement, Farber said.

Farber added the Web sites mark an attempt to win over tech-savvy young people while still giving "support and succour to Nazi ideas."

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Exciting news for women's health!

Mount Sinai Hospital now offers women the most comprehensive range of obstetrics, gynaecology, neonatology and reproductive services in Canada. In June, the University Health Network transferred its obstetrics, neonatal and reproductive health programs to Mount Sinai Hospital, as directed by the Health Services Restructuring Commission.

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Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
And the Auxiliary Centre for Women's and Reproductive Health
The Third Floor, Ontario Power Generation Building (formerly Hydro Place)
700 University Avenue, Toronto ON M5G 1Z5
at the corner of College and University

Programs offered at this site include:
·Women's Unit
·Prenatal Diagnosis Unit
·Maternal Infant Program
·Urogynaecology
·Obstetrical and Gynaelogical Ultrasound
·General and low-risk Obstetrics and Gynaecology
·Special Pregnancy Program (including fetal assessment and high risk pregnancy clinic)
·Reproductive Medicine (including Invitro Fertilization, and the Toronto Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank).

All inpatient obstetrical, neonatal and reproductive programs formerly at University Health Network have been transferred to Mount Sinai Hospital.
They include:
·Paediatric clinic and offices
·Labour and Delivery Unit
·Level II and Level III Nurseries
·In Vitro Fertilization Laboratory
·Obstetrical Day Unit
·Ante and Postpartum units
·Breastfeeding clinic and store
·Stem Cell Bank
·High Risk Clinic/Ultrasound (Fetal Intervention)
·Maternal Serum Screening Laboratory
·Cytogentics Laboratory* (*to be transferred mid September)

For more information please contact your doctor or call 596-4200.
You may also check the Mount Sinai Hospital website at www.mtsinai.on.ca.

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Greater Toronto Area

El Al manager parachutes into middle of air war

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — On the ground, Israel and Canada are the best of friends, but in the air, it's war.

A war, that is, for the patronage and loyalty of the Canadian air traveller.

El Al, Israel's national airline, and Air Canada, Canada's national air carrier, compete head to head for travelers to and from Israel. Behind the scenes, Canada and Israel are in the midst of tough negotiations to update a civil aviation agreement that would set the number of flights per airline between the two countries.

Into the midst of this situation, Rami Fischer has landed. Fischer became general manager for El Al in Canada on Jan.23, taking over from Moshe Shamai, who was promoted to a head office job in Israel.

Prior to this, Fischer spent six years in Los Angeles and one year at head office in Israel.

For Fischer, his first six months in Canada have been both the worst of times and the best of times.

On the one hand, Air Canada continues to expand its service to Tel Aviv, offering nine summertime flights per week to El Al's four. The Canadian air carrier is looking to increase that number. During the winter, it offered seven flights per week to El Al's three.

On the other hand, El Al's flights in May and June – "usually weaker months" – have hovered at 95 percent capacity, while flights in July and August are expected to be completely booked, Fischer said. The situation is so good, he has asked head office to boost capacity by replacing the originally scheduled 767s, which carry 200 passengers, to 747s, which carry 400.

Moreover, El Al has succeeded in revamping its image and luring back passengers who had left the airline because of dissatisfaction with its service.

El Al recognized the problem several years ago and responded to passengers' concerns by making all flights to and from Israel non-smoking and by increasing the room between rows. El Al also worked hard to make passengers more comfortable, even offering 28 choices of kosher food, Fischer said.

Rami Fischer

In addition to the return of large segments of the airline's traditional Jewish market, El Al has made inroads among Christian pilgrims eager to visit the Holy Land, especially in the wake of the Pope's visit, Fischer said.

Still, there have been some causes for concern. In January, El Al dropped its Montreal to Tel Aviv flights, prompting an angry response from some quarters.

"We heard a lot from Montreal Jews, but we saw the numbers," Fischer said. "They were sharply down from the Montreal area and exactly the opposite of Toronto...At the end of the month, we have to pay the [bills]."

The Montreal falloff was part of a three to four-year trend, added Stanley Morais, El Al's sales and marketing manager. Despite dropping the Montreal route, El Al has seen the total number of passengers increase year over year, and the airline expects that trend to continue into 2001.

Nevertheless, its competition with Air Canada is causing concern. Air Canada is demanding a big jump in the number of its Israel flights and last November, Canada threatened to prevent El Al from overflying Canadian airspace en route to the United States unless it agreed to up Air Canada's winter 2000 flights to Israel. Israel buckled under the pressure and Air Canada boosted its nonstop flights to Israel to seven from five.

As far as Fischer is considered, Air Canada is not playing fair – a complaint heard from domestic and other foreign airlines as well. Last week, Air France and British Airways complained to the Senate committee on transportation and communications that Air Canada is using its clout with travel agents to freeze them out of the Canadian market and reduce competition.

Fischer said Air Canada loads its planes with American passengers and ferries them to Israel via Toronto. We "assume it's about 70 percent U.S. passengers," he said.

Fischer further contends that Canadian passengers are subsidizing the Americans sitting next to them. Americans flying from New York to Israel via Toronto pay only $499 US while Canadian passengers who board the same flight in Toronto pay $1,300.

Air Canada spokesperson Sandy Dexter said "it's quite normal when you have U.S. cities close to the border, they prefer to fly on a Canadian carrier...It sounds similar to the situation in Vancouver where it's cheaper to purchase a ticket to Asia in Seattle" than in Canada, she said.

"The market in Seattle is extremely competitive so we have to be competitive with those prices. That would be true in the east as it is in the west."

Morais suggested that if Air Canada gets its way and "increases the frequency of its flights, it can cut prices and get the market...El Al can't compete on the number of flights. The market is too small."

"El Al wants to see a real competition based on the number of Canadian passengers, so that both airlines develop Canadian passengers and not be based on traffic from outside of Canada," Fischer said.

Meanwhile, during a recent trip to Israel, Air Canada president and CEO Robert Milton said he was confident a new civil aviation agreement would enable Air Canada to increase its flights. "The Canadian government has been very supportive of us," he is reported as saying.

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To the teachers, we owe a great deal...

One of our ancient, great and insightful sages, Rabbi Eleazer ben Shammua, was of the view that we should revere our teachers as we revere heaven. Unfortunately, in an age when reverence for heaven is slight, and becoming it seems, even slighter, Rav Eleazer's formula may yield very little reverence for our teachers. And that would be a terrible state of affairs for us as parents and as a society.

Rav Eleazer understood very well and very clearly that the fundamental building block for a good, decent, civil and humane society was the imparting of knowledge and values to the next generation through learning and study. But without teachers, there can simply be no long-lasting, effective learning and study, and thus neither, the critically vital imparting of knowledge and values to our children.

Therefore, in the infinite line that we call human existence, the student's teachers stand alongside the student's parents.

The torch of goodness and enlightenment that one generation passes on to the next, would be nothing more than a dimly glowing ember but for the efforts and the labours of our children's teachers.

We owe them a great deal. It is appropriate at this time of year, when the academic year is reaching its end, that we acknowledge that debt.

...for our children, we feel a great pride

But a teacher without a pupil teaches no one. Thus, the labours and the efforts that have brought our children to the end of the school year must also be recognized and appreciated. Many are graduating to different schools and to different, more complicated stages in their young lives.

The uncertainty of the future will undoubtedly unnerve a great many of our children as they cast their eyes forward to a new horizon. Until that horizon becomes more familiar and thus, less unnerving to them, we must unfailingly offer our children the encouragement, support, promise and confidence that one day they will touch even that far-off place. And we must also express our feelings of great pride in all the accomplishments that they bring to this memorable day.

Graduating from one grade to a higher one, from one school to the next one, or from school to employment, is an immensely worthy accomplishment. It evokes in us, as parents or simply as interested observers, powerful emotions of pride and gratitude and moves us to say to our children: thank you, too.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Tefflin, Omed Tefflin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

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Applaud, but with reservations

I guess the report that Israel has received conditional approval to join one of the regional groupings of the United Nations should be applauded, but with some reservations. Since attaining membership in the United Nations, Israel has been subjected to a slew of racist and biased resolutions.

That countries headed by murderers and despots have full membership in the United Nations demonstrates the hypocrisy that has permeated that organization for years.

Probably, the leaders of totalitarian countries fear the introduction of another state committed to democracy and human rights and, of course, the last thing those countries need or want is more democracy.

Bert Raphael
President
Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada
Toronto

* * *

I heard the shofar cry

I had the privilege of accompanying a wonderful group of teenagers on the March of the Living 2000. We had exhaustingly long days and emotionally charged events. The tone of the journey was set on the second day, as we arrived in Auschwitz to start the March.

I am positive each of the participants has a moment in time to lock away in his or her own special time capsule.

Mine is when our contingent silently gathered around one another in Auschwitz as Irving Eisner (one of our marvelous survivor participants) slowly climbed atop a stone structure. He raised his shofar to his lips, and with great care and solemnity, he inhaled the air he would require. The quiet was deafening, all eyes and attention turned to this man who had survived the worst that could befall humankind.

Mr. Eisner exhaled and the shofar wailed, a lament for all those who didn't survive. We stood in awe as the shofar sounded its mournful tune.

The tears rolled silently down my cheeks and a chill enveloped me — I heard the shofar cry.

Judi Sporn
Toronto

* * *

Inaction over Iran intolerable

Sandy Stern says it all (*CJN*, Letters to the editor, June 8) and it is frightening.

Hitler didn't get any resistance from the Jews, so he continued his bloodthirsty attacks on us.

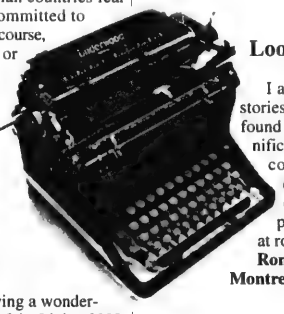
We held meetings behind closed doors.

What is stopping us now?

We should put away our fears and get out and march for our 13 Jews. How do they feel about our inaction?

Mollie Posen
Toronto

* * *



Looking for jewelry stories

I am looking for unusual personal stories about jewelry hidden, salvaged, found after the war or attached to a significant personal event, in the hope of compiling a collection that would eventually be published. Please contact Roma Gelblum Bross by phone at 514-933-6219 or by e-mail at roma.bross@ sympatico.ca.

Roma Gelblum Bross
Montreal

* * *

Holocaust centre seeks survivors from Romania and Transnistria

The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC) is preparing a commemoration dedicated to the Jews of Romania who perished at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators during the Shoah. If you are a survivor of Romania or Transnistria, or the child or grandchild of a survivor, your history (or your parents' or grandparents' history) of the Holocaust is extremely important to the MHMC. The commemoration program, to be held on Sunday, Sept. 24, will integrate survivor testimony.

Please write or call the MHMC before Aug. 1. Write to The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, 1 Cummings Square, 5151 Cote St. Catherine Road, Montreal, Quebec H3W 1M6, phone: 514-345-2605, fax: 514-344-2651, e-mail: karent@fedcjamtl.org. A member of the MHMC will contact you to gather the information.

Bill Surkis
Executive Director, MHMC
Montreal

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

MORDECAI GEBIRTIG

The following is the first of a two-part series on the Yiddish folk poet, Mordecai Gebirtig, in commemoration of his death on 19 Sivan (June 4) 1942. Part 2 will be published next week.

By SIMCHA SIMCHOVITCH

Mordecai Gebirtig is one of the most popular and beloved Yiddish folk poets of our time. His songs were widely known and sung by the common people and professional singers alike. He was a simple man endowed with an unusual poetic and musical talent and a rare, gentle soul, permeated with compassion for every living person, Jew or non-Jew alike.

He was especially moved by the plight of the weak and subjugated in society: the orphan and the widow, the women wronged by men, the workingmen and the unemployed. All these compassionate feelings were illumined by his gentle humour and deep belief in the sanctity of human life. No wonder, therefore, that the people received his songs so warmly and considered him their singer and spokesman.

Between the first and second world wars Gebirtig's songs resounded in Jewish cities and towns all over Poland; and they were carried overseas, in the Americas, Palestine and elsewhere, both by simple folks as well as by Jewish singers and performers. After the Holocaust a miraculous revival occurred – his songs continued to be sung not only among the Jewish people, but worldwide.

Gebirtig's real family name was Bertig and he was born in 1877 in Krakow, where he lived all his life, and where he was murdered by the Germans at the age of 65. His parents were working people and at the early age of 14, he was given into apprenticeship to a carpenter.

In 1901, he opened his own small carpenter shop, but after a few years he was forced to give it up due to his poor health. He suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for some time until he recovered. He then came to work as a restorer of used furniture in the store of his brother, Leon Bertig. There, in a small, darkened corner of his brother's store, he worked for years until his untimely death.

In 1909 Gebirtig married Bluma Lindenbaum, the sister of his brother's wife, who bore him three daughters: Shifra, Eva and Lola. The fourth daughter, Rosa, died in infancy in 1915. Having to provide for the enlarged family, Gebirtig was forced to work long hours and was, therefore, able to devote himself to his literary and musical vocation only in the rare hours after work or on weekends.

For several years, between 1904-1906, Gebirtig was also engaged in Yiddish theatre in Krakow; he played and directed theatrical works of Shalom Aleichem and others, and earned favourable reviews in the Yiddish press. It seems, however, that after his illness he resigned from his theatrical career and devoted himself entirely to his literary-musical vocation.

Gebirtig wrote his lyrics in longhand while his wife and daughter helped him in the composition of the melodies to his songs. He did not read musical score and the only instrument he played was a *fayfl* – a little flute.

Luckily, Julian Hofman, a close friend of Gebirtig and a professional musician, wrote down the musical notes to Gebirtig's songs. Thus, they were copied by hand and spread far and wide over Poland. In 1921, the famous Molly Picon visited Krakow and obtained from Gebirtig the now widely known songs *Kinder Yorn* and *Hulyet, Hulyet Kinderlekh* for her repertoire. In 1923, the same songs were incorporated in the popular operetta *The Rumanian Wedding*. Thus Gebirtig's songs became known to wider audiences in Poland and in the United States.

In 1920, when Gebirtig was 43 years old, a number of his Krakow friends and admirers published his first collection of poems titled *Folkstimlekh* (For Plain People). This was a modest booklet of 32 pages, containing a selection of his writings – all in all 20 poems without music.

Sixteen years later, in 1936, a committee of his Krakow friends published Gebirtig's second collection titled *Mayne Lider* (My Songs). It included 51 new poems plus two revised ones from the former publication, all of them with musical score. The book also contained an introduction written by the music scholar and folklorist Menakhem Kipnis, who proclaimed Gebirtig "an authentic and God-blessed folk poet and folk singer."

Gebirtig drew the themes for his songs from everyday life around him. He pitied the working man who toils all his life, creating the riches of the world while he himself lives in poverty and in need; or the working father who has no time to spend with his child; or the unemployed who, after long years of toil, are forced to carry on a pitiful existence.

With great compassion Gebirtig tells the story of Avreml Marevikher (Avreml the Thief), a clever pickpocket and jolly fellow, who wastes his abilities on stealing (mind you, only from "misers, the filthy rich") and then languishes for years in jails. In the final stanza, Gerbirtig writes:

Here lies Avreml, a most able thief,
he might have become a great man, a fine man,
hearty, sensitive and pure,
as God would have liked him to be,
if only a mother's eyes could have
watched over him,
if the dark streets hadn't raised him
when still a child, a father he would have,
here lies Avremi, a real jolly fellow.

With the outbreak of World War I, Gebirtig was mobilized for work in a military hospital in Krakow. During those years he wrote a number of anti-war songs, some of them included in the two editions of his poems. In the poem *Hershele,* Gebirtig tells the children that they may play any game they wish but not the game of soldiers because Hershele, the little orphan, lost his father in the war.

Please don't wake in his heart
the pain he still feels, —
because, you see, his father
played the soldier game.

They gave him a rifle
and sent him into battle,
a short letter was delivered:
"He fell like a hero" …

And in the song *An Invalid of War* the blind man's girl sings:

My dear father wasn't born blind,
he spent a long time on the battlefield,
that's where he lost his eyesight,
ended up bringing home a war medal.

Exceptional are Gebirtig's songs about children in which he penetrates the innocent and playful world of the Jewish child. In the song *My Father A Cohen,* Avreml gave the Cohen's son a hard push. But, as it is well known, to start up with a Cohen is no joke. A Cohen in Jewish folklore is an angry man, "he'll rip up a person/ when he gets his temper up."

But luckily for Avreml,
just at that time
his sick father had passed away,
how fortunate is he!

Because a Cohen must not enter
the house where a corpse lies –
beat me up again, do you think always
such a miracle would happen?

This child's reasoning reminds us of Shalom Aleichem's Motl, the cantor's son who declared, "I'm well, I'm an orphan."

In another song, *Avremele and Yosele*, Yosele tries to persuade Avremele to skip the religious school, the cheder, and follow him into the field where the sun shines so brightly, and birds and butterflies zoom in the air. But Avreml is more of a realist and reminds Yosele that tomorrow the rebbe will find out the truth. To this Yosele replies:

Avremele, O little fool,
don't worry at all about tomorrow,
excuses are easy to come by,
one only has to be a little clever –
look how that bird flies!
Don't worry about tomorrow.

Avremele, however, doesn't let himself be lured and says:

O Yosele, I'm warning you,
don't go, on my word as a Jew.
Satan has disguised himself
as a bird, there in the field,
and tries to drag and pull us there –
don't go, on my word as a Jew.

In the end, the two friends part – Avremele goes to school and Yosele proceeds into the field.

Gebirtig's gentle and moving love songs, such as *Reyzele* or *Baym Taykhele* (Beside the River) have a special charm. In *Reyzele,* the beloved asks her Dofidl not to whistle anymore because her mother thinks it's not proper for a Jewish boy to do so. Dovidl promises from now on to be good and pious and, for her mother's sake, he'll even attend the prayerhouse every Saturday. For this Reyzele promises Dovidl to knit a tfillin bag for him with a little Star of David on it.

And how lovely and gently Gebirtig handles the erotic theme in *Baym Taykhele.* A boy is lying by the river when a maiden appears to bathe in it. The girl feels ashamed before the young man and warns him not to look on. The boy promises in good faith, to cover his eyes and not glance at her. However, the girl is not satisfied and says:

I don't believe you, my dear boy,
swearing's not hard to do,
you often swear, we believe you,
then find out you've cheated us.

In the end, the boy cannot endure it any more and pleads with the girl to come out of the river, but she warns him again:

Don't look, don't look, dear boy,
I'm coming out of the river.

In quite a number of poems, Gebirtig tells of the fate of young women who were cheated, seduced or jilted by their lovers or grooms. He does not omit the joy, intermingled with sadness, of Jewish parents who marry off their daughters, as in the song *Dray Tekhterlekh* (Three Daughters).

Close to his heart is the sighing of the old couple who long in their sleepless nights for their noisy children, now grown up and far-away from home.

In spite of Gebirtig's hard life and the serious content of most of his songs, we can still find a number of humorous poems, such as *Nokh a Glezl Tey* (Another Cup of Tea) in which the pregnant wife is arguing with her husband after whom to name the child soon to be born. The quarrel is resolved when the husband states:

But why should we quarrel now
and waste our time talking?
We could even have twins –
even two baby girls.

Similar is the song *Khvil Nisht Aza Khosn* (I Don't Want Such a Bridegroom). Here, the bride is too choosy, she doesn't like the first two young men the matchmaker offered her because of their common Jewish names, and the third one she dislikes because he speaks Yiddish.

Finally, the matchmaker finds a bridegroom to her liking, but there is a snag: his mother's name is Sarah, just as is the bride's name which, according to a superstitious belief, is to be avoided. The unlucky bride concludes sadly:

Even when God sends me someone,
it turns out a disaster,
is my name Sarah.
Woe is me, dear mother,
O dear mother.

Decalogue dramas

Most readers of this column are probably much more familiar with television films than I am. In the past, I seemed to find very little time to spend in front of the tube; my wife and I have always preferred reading to viewing the uncertain offerings presented on television.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

But personal circumstances have lately drawn me into the circle of those who pay attention to some of the films mentioned in John Doyle's critical film reviews in the *Globe and Mail*.

The other day I was lucky and tuned in to a show called *Decalogue*. I saw two riveting present-day dramas, expertly written and splendidly acted. Most 1½-hour-long films deal with clearly emerging themes, but it took the person who introduced the show to call the viewer's attention to the biblical Decalogue.

The first film dealt with a father and his son, both immensely attractive persons, portraying an intimate intellectual and emotional relationship that one seldom sees. Father and son are expert in using computers, and the father, a teacher at a university, is, like his son, enormously attractive in the way he speaks and acts. The tragedy that ensues arises from his reliance on what the computer tells him. Nowhere in the show is the underlying theme even mentioned: that computers and for that matter science in general, do not hold the ultimate answers to what we deem truly important in life. Without the announcer's introduction, I would not have related this show to the first commandments: "I am the Lord your God" and "You shall have no other gods before me." (The show follows the Christian way of numbering these commandments as one.)

The second show deals with the commandment: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." It features a doctor and a pregnant woman who wants to know whether her husband, presently in hospital, will live or die. If he dies, she will carry her baby to full term, but if he lives, she will have an abortion, for the child was fathered by another man. She insists that the doctor must tell her what the fate of her husband will be, and she wants him to swear by his judgment. He finally does — using God's name in vain — with startling consequences arising.

This show was made in Poland, and is presented with English subtitles. If you ever have an opportunity to see this offering, do not miss it. For me, it was riveting — and not because I am a rabbi for whom the Decalogue is no stranger.

High-speed train never leaves the station

This month, the National Planning Council approved the construction of a new, much-needed high-speed railway line connecting Jerusalem and Tel Aviv via Ben-Gurion Airport. For several good reasons, such long overdue news should have made major headlines and been the cause of celebration. For several equally good reasons, that was not the case.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

For all of Israel's cutting-edge prowess in the high-tech sector, it's still mired in the mid-20th century when it comes to public transportation. The most flagrant example is the rail system that, among other things, offers no train service between the country's two largest, most important cities.

In such a highly opinionated, deeply divided nation as Israel, few issues command a broad consensus. This is one of them. Indeed, virtually nobody contests the need for an alternative to cars and buses – the source of horrific pollution, time-wasting traffic jams and thousands of accidents every year.

For decades, politicians have paid lip service to the desirability of an efficient rail line linking the capital with the country's business and cultural hub. Who could argue? But, as with the much talked about and often promised Tel Aviv subway, nothing was done. Now, the tide may be turning. Perhaps.

The recent announcement of a new Jerusalem-Tel Aviv train line raises hopes.

But with no date indicated for the beginning of work nor details given on the budget, people are understandably skeptical.

They've heard it all before. Invariably, bureaucratic wrangling rules the day as such projects are hijacked by political considerations that divert budgets for more expedient expenditures – like more roadways. The result: As the country is being paved over, the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv train never leaves the station.

Two years ago, the already neglected train service between the two cities – pitifully slow and infrequent – was closed down completely following numerous derailments. By then, its use was relegated to mostly diehard rail enthusiasts willing to accept the appalling conditions and the two-hour journey, more than twice the time by car or bus.

In contrast, tens of thousands of motorists negotiate Highway Number 1 every day between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, making the 55-kilometre stretch of asphalt the most widely travelled – and congested – highway in the country.

Ironically, while the train link between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv deteriorated terribly in recent years, the situation improved elsewhere in the country.

Israel may still lack rail service in some regions but the system is expanding and overall the number of people travelling by train is growing.

At a press conference this month inaugurating train service between Tel Aviv and Rosh Ha'ayin, the head of Israel Railways (IR), Amos Uzani, said he recently presented a five-year $1.8-billion (US) plan for railway development to the Transportation Ministry. According to Uzani, IR expects to carry 15 million passengers in 2001. The next move is now up to the government.

As a tiny, densely populated country devoid of mountain ranges and massive distances to cover, Israel is ideally suited for a high-speed train system.

With the nation's roads increasingly choking with cars and trucks, the benefits of an efficient rail network servicing all of Israel are obvious: less pollution, fewer highway casualties, an alleviation of traffic jams and better population dispersal. The dividends may be hard to dispute, but sadly, no one has been able to make it happen.

Decades of foot-dragging have kept a vastly improved rail system on the back burner, opposed by the country's powerful bus co-operatives and sidetracked by bureaucrats vying for control of the potential budgets. For most politicians, keeping new roads the priority seems the most direct route to voters' hearts. And keeping people in their cars assures the government of a steady flow of big money through hefty taxes on vehicles and gas.

But the price in human lives and environmental destruction for making Israel a more car-dependent society is staggering and increasingly apparent. If the solution is not revolutionary, the will to translate it into reality is.

It's just a question of how bad the situation has to become first before the government will have no choice.

Robert Sarner can be reached at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Israeli deterrence remains strong

Has Israel gone soft? This seems to be the conclusion of the pundits, both in Israel and abroad, following the IDF's midnight exit from Lebanon.

Deploring the army's ignoble withdrawal "dragging its tail between its legs," the critics warn that for Hezbollah, this is a major victory. Now, they warn, the Palestinians, Syria and other opponents, past, present, and future, will seek confrontations with Israel.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The picture looks even bleaker when coupled wih the restraint during and after the Iraqi missile attacks in 1991, and following the Palestinian suicide bombings, during both the Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu governments.

In the 1940s, Jewish underground armed organizations, such as the Ezel, Lechi, and (sometimes) the Haganah, would not have allowed such murderous attacks to pass without retaliation. In the 1950s, Ariel Sharon's Unit 101 made sure that any village or country that allowed its territory to be used as a base for terror would share the pain. While some of these retaliatory actions were poorly planned and badly executed, the overall policy succeeded in creating a powerful deterrent, and eventually provided security.

Now, it seems, Israel has lost its collective nerve. Instead of a tough fighting force defending Jewish sovereignty, the new generation of soldiers prefers to sit on the beach, surf the Internet and cruise the mall. The pictures and shouts of joy as the troops returned from Lebanon for the last time seemed to reinforce this image of moral exhaustion. At the same time, Hezbollah's leaders are delirious with victory, and encouraging the Palestinians to follow the same strategy.

While this picture seems bleak, it is also overly simplistic. Israel's strategic position is more complex and there are good reasons to be optimistic. The 18-year entanglement in Lebanon was the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time. Both politically and militarily, Israel is not configured to fight long wars of attrition outside its borders.

Guerrilla wars always give the advantage to smaller and technologically unsophisticated forces that are insensitive to casualties.

Now that Israel is out, morale is being restored, and the IDF's strengths and superiority can again be brought to bear. The very bitter divisions within Israeli society are being healed, and if Israel is attacked now, the country will be united.

Attacks from Hezbollah or by Palestinian groups in Lebanon will lead to a quick, massive and sustained response. No Israeli leader, and Ehud Barak in particular, can or will allow a return to the situation that prevailed before 1982, when Lebanon served as the base for brutal terrorism.

If forced to respond, Israel will follow the lead of the United States and NATO during the Iraqi war of 1991, and the more recent Kosovo campaign, and rely on precise use of air power. The retaliatory raids that destroyed power stations in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon were a strong warning and the message was received and understood.

With Syria paralyzed and preoccupied following the death of Hafez Assad, Damascus will be in no position to challenge Israel. Under these circumstances, which might last for many years, the Syrians will be wary of providing bases, training, and weapons for use against Israel. If Assad's successors encourage attacks from Lebanon, the IAF will also target Syrian assets. The recent bombing of the Damascus-Beirut road demonstrated that the transportation and communication links between Syria and Lebanon are extremely vulnerable. Without a functioning economy, no money to buy weapons or spare parts, and political uncertainty, Syrian military preparedness is low and declining steadily.

Under Assad, Syrian planning had been based on continuing to bleed and divide Israel through the war in Lebanon, and the withdrawal was a major strategic surprise. In comparison, no Arab regime has the strength to pull its troops out of a battle and survive. Suddenly, they realize that Israel has gained both the military and the diplomatic initiative. If anything, among serious people and not propagandists, respect for Israel's capabilities and ability to defend its vital interests continues to grow.

The Kirshner File

Assad changed, but couldn't take final leap

Hafez al-Assad, an icon of Arab nationalism and modern Syria's most formidable politician, died on June 10 without realizing a cherished dream – the recovery of the Golan Heights, conquered by Israel in the Six Day War while he was defence minister.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Assad, who ruled Syria autocratically for almost 30 years, tried to regain the Golan by military and diplomatic means. He came relatively close during the first days of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when the Syrian army struck deeply into the Golan, and again in the past seven years, when an historic agreement with Israel periodically hung in the balance. But now, with his passing in Damascus at 69, it will be left to Assad's son and heir apparent, Bashar, a bookish ophthalmologist and rank political novice, to try to close the circle.

A calculating, ruthless man who transformed Syria from a weak, unstable state into a militarily strong and politically assertive one, Assad was a charter member of the Arab Socialist party. The Ba'ath, as it was known, was animated by the principles of pan-Arabism, secularism, anti-imperialism and anti-Zionism.

When the Ba'athists seized power in a 1963 coup, one of many which had convulsed Syria since 1949, Assad was a senior air force officer. The new regime was headed by a radical army officer, Salah Jadid, who raised the level of Syria's anti-Israel rhetoric to a fever pitch and ardently supported the newly-formed Palestine Liberation Organization, particularly after the hanging of Israeli spy Eli Cohen in 1965.

Assad toppled Jadid in 1966, gaining legitimacy, in part, from his rejectionist stance vis-a-vis Israel. Many historians believe that Syria, goaded by the Soviet Union, whipped up the incendiary climate which catapulted Egypt into a disastrous armed confrontation with Israel in 1967.

Despite the loss of the Golan, Assad consolidated his position as Syria's unrivalled leader in a bloodless putsch in 1970, and named himself president a year later. For three decades, by the threat of the sword, he gave Syria, secretive and insular, an unprecedented run of stability.

Assad's detestation of Israel was rooted in Syria's history. Under the Ottomans, Greater Syria encompassed what is today Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and the West Bank. As a result of the 1916 Sykes-Picot accord, Syria was dismembered by Britain and France. During the 1920s, Lebanon broke away and Trans-Jordan was severed from Palestine. Turkey was awarded Alexandretta in 1939. Israel emerged from the ashes of Palestine, and Jordan went its own way.

Syria became a hotbed of anti-Zionism, and Assad, an Alawite in a mainly Sunni Muslim nation, was nurtured on the milk of these setbacks. Viewed from this perspective, it is hardly surprising that Syria would be Israel's most visceral foe. "Of all the relationships in the Arab-Israeli conflict, that between Israel and Syria has been the most burdened with hatred," writes Martha Neff Kessler in *Middle East Policy*.

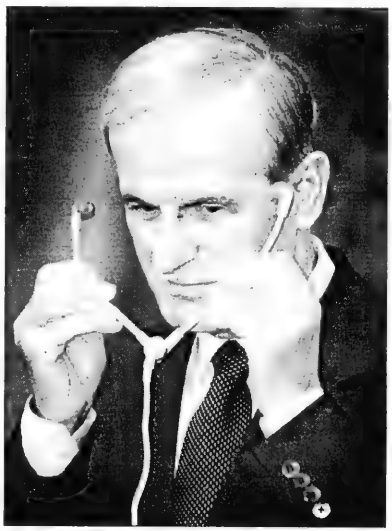
In 30 years at the helm, Assad went through basically three distinct but overlapping phases with respect to his attitude toward Israel.

Until approximately the 1973 war, which he launched in coordination with Egypt's Anwar Sadat, Assad was unflinchingly opposed to Israel's very existence. Chastened by the outcome of the Yom Kippur War, during which Israel rallied and temporarily occupied a further swath of Syrian land, Assad grudgingly resigned himself to Israel's presence in the region. Bending to international pressure, he explicitly accepted United Nations Resolution 242, promulgated shortly after the Six Day War. It called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories, and acknowledged the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every country in the area.

In this period, Syria demanded that Israel relinquish the Golan without negotiations. As Kessler points out in her monograph, Syria would not even discuss territorial adjustments, let alone a serious compromise. At best, Syria was prepared to negotiate a security arrangement once the Golan was fully restored. A formal peace treaty would have to be left to future generations.

Assad urged Arab states to stick together and refrain from signing separate and/or partial accords with Israel. Much to Assad's anger, Sadat ignored his admonition. In an enormous psychological and political breakthrough, he went to Israel to discuss the framework of a peace treaty. Subsequently, Yasser Arafat of the PLO and King Hussein of Jordan joined Sadat, thereby defying Syria.

For all his flowery words about Arab unity, Assad did not always follow his own advice. In 1975, following a brief war of attrition on the Golan and a month of frenetic shuttle diplomacy by Henry Kissinger, the U.S. secretary of state, Syria and Israel signed a disengagement agreement. Syria abided by its terms, and the border remained quiet. And through the good offices of the United States, Israel and Syria, in 1976, reached a "red lines" pact over spheres of influence in Lebanon. It buckled under the severe strain of a 1981 crisis which erupted when Syria placed anti-aircraft missile batteries in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Israel destroyed these missiles in a few short hours in the 1982 Lebanon War, during which Israeli and Syrian armour clashed in fierce tank battles.



Hafez al-Assad

With the help of its chief foreign ally, the Soviet Union, Syria attempted to achieve military parity with Israel. The effort failed and Israel remained the dominant regional power.

But in Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, Syria conducted a proxy war against Israel through Hezbollah. With Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon on May 24, Syria lost a valuable trump card.

In the aftermath of the Gulf War, the Madrid conference and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, all of which occurred in 1991, Assad essentially reassessed his unyielding policy toward Israel. Though personally unreconciled to Israel's existence, Assad knew that Syria's fundamental political and economic interests could best be served if he engaged Israel in direct talks over the fate of the Golan. Syria was politically isolated, while its outmoded centrally-planned economy was in the doldrums. He needed the goodwill and financial resources of the United States and its Western allies to modernize and strengthen Syria. So he made a "strategic choice" in favour of co-existence, if nothing else, and agreed to conduct face-to-face negotiations with Israel in the search for peace. It was an objective Assad would have condemned as treasonous earlier in his career.

After eight years, the on-again, off-again talks – a watershed in Syria's bitter relationship with Israel – have yet to yield concrete results. Assad was an extremely stubborn negotiator, not only spurning Israel's request for confidence-building measures and public diplomacy, but also insisting on a full Israeli withdrawal to the June 4, 1967 rather than the 1923 international lines (which Syria considers a colonial diktat). Talks resumed in the United States last December and January, but foundered after two frosty sessions. Then, in March, President Bill Clinton met Assad in Geneva in a fruitless effort to convince him to compromise on the 1923 border.

On the eve of his sudden death, Assad was cast as a spoiler, a role to which he was very accustomed. Although he had come a long way in accepting Israel's permanence, he could not bring himself to take the final, daring leap.

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Jewish Life

Saving lives on the Net

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Internet is often criticized for being a worldwide waste of time. And far too often, those criticisms are completely valid. But used properly, the Internet can be a critical tool for joining communities and perhaps even for saving lives.

One of the ways people are drawing attention to their condition and their needs is by setting up their own Web sites. Dr. Jeffrey Bornstein suffers from chronic myelogenous leukemia, a fatal disease of the bone marrow. After it was determined that a suitable bone marrow donor could not be found in his immediate family, he broadened his search.

Bone marrow search page

Since the odds of finding a bone marrow match are best within the extended family, Bornstein's friends have built a family tree for him after searching vital death records, cemeteries and the Internet. With the help of Dr. Simon Kreindler, a friend of the family, and some important Internet contacts, they created the Jeffrey Bornstein Bone Marrow Search Web page **[http://www.geocities.com/seflaum/Bornstein.html]**.

There was an immediate response. "We were inundated with e-mail from all over the world," Kreindler said. The Web site also helped mobilize interest in bone marrow clinics and gained attention from papers ranging from the *Forward* to the *Raleigh News & Observer* to *The Canadian Jewish News* **[http://www.cjnews.com/ pastIssues/oct2199/ health /health.htm]**. The search for a match for Bornstein continues.

One of the people who advised Kreindler is Stanley Diamond. About a decade ago, Diamond discovered that he is a carrier of a mutation of beta-thalassemia gene **[http:// www.thalassemia.org/]**. The gene does not affect carriers themselves but could be a "ticking time bomb" for descendants who marry other unsuspecting carriers. He warns that since beta-thalassemia is so rare among Ashkenazi Jews, there is a good chance of misdiagnosis unless families at risk are contacted. Children of two carriers have a one in four chance of inheriting the fatal disease, thalassemia major.

Diamond has spent years building his family tree and tracking down and warning other carriers. Along the way, he was founding president of the Montreal Genealogical Society **[http://www.gtrdata.com/jgs-montreal/]** and is project co-ordinator of the Jewish Records Indexing – Poland Project **[http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/]**.

Many of the lessons that Diamond has recorded on his own Web site apply to anyone investigating a genetic defect in their family **[http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Pointe/1439/]**.

One important article explains how to include medical information on your family tree – and even how to ask potentially difficult questions of elderly relatives **[http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/genetics.htm]**.

Diamond warns against waiting. "The two words genealogists dislike are 'if only.' If only I had listened to Bubba when she talked about her youth… If only I had written down all those endless stories my father used to tell about his grandparents… It is no different for the family historian who seeks to record his family's medical history. Talk to the older generations now!"

Thanks to Diamond's dedication, more people are asking those questions and getting some crucial answers.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home. com.

A guide to ethical living

The Book of Jewish Values **by Joseph Telushkin, Random House, $44.95.**

This book has been described as a "treasure trove of Jewish mentschlichkeit." It is a day-by-day guide to ethical living and a knowledgeable examination of Jewish ethical teachings and their application to daily situations. Divided into 365 brief chapters the precepts are presented as opportunities for enhanced spiritual insight and understanding.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Drawing on traditional Jewish sources as well as on the wisdom of contemporary sages and thinkers, the selections are replete with anecdotes, parables, aphorisms, humour – and sometimes, startling surprises.

Theological and abstract musings are blended with suitable examples and advice. The range of subjects is broad as life itself: the interaction between parents and children, husbands and wives, acquaintances and friends; the world of business; charity; concern for the aged, proper speech and controlled anger.

Here are some disparate questions for which the author provides answers. Is acting cheerfully a choice or a religious requirement? When, if ever, is lying permissible? What don't children owe their parents? What purchases are always forbidden? Should Jews donate their bodily organs? What should a guest say to a host? How can you teach your children the value of human life? Do you scream when you should? What should go through your mind when you hear an ambulance siren? Is there a limit to parental love? Is it ever appropriate to pass on a rumour? Should a doctor or a close family member tell the truth to a dying person?

All-in-all, the responses provided by Telushkin are concise, intelligent, sensible and not beyond one's ability to attain.

Here are some brief typical excerpts from the book:

"One rabbi I know prepares for Yom Kippur each year by writing two versions of his obituary. In the first, he sets down how he thinks it would be written, and in the second, how he would want it to be written. His goal, of course, is to narrow the gap between who he is and who he would like to be. So if, God forbid, you were to die today, what would your obituary say about you? Would it read the way you want it to read? And if not, what can you do now to change it?"

"As a rabbi who has had occasion to counsel congregants, I have come across people who spend hours a day thinking about the person or the people whom they most dislike. I don't know if their angry and often vengeful thoughts cause any tangible damage to the people whom they despise, but such thinking certainly ruins their days, and sometimes their lives."

"The Talmud enjoins us, just as the shattered remains of the tablets broken by Moses were regarded as holy and placed alongside the new tablets in the Ark of the Covenant, so too must we regard as holy and treat with respect those elderly people who have become intellectually broken and emotionally shattered."

The author of many books, including *Jewish Literacy* and *Biblical Literacy*, Telushkin has once again written a helpful work that touches the heart as it moves the reader to ethical concerns.

Chosen poeple

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

One of the thornier issues in Jewish education is the concept of a chosen people. Are Jews different from other national groups? Unique? Superior? Labels of this stripe give rise to pride in certain parts of the community and queasy feelings of racism in other quarters.

But such questions are certainly not new in Jewish history; indeed they were often debated. Are Jews fundamentally different from gentiles? Is it mere cultural difference or is there a deeper, almost inherently biological difference – a Jewish versus a gentile soul? That difference would have enormous repercussions from a spiritual point of view.

The historian Jacob Katz, in his book *Tradition and Crisis*, traces these two radically opposed positions in Jewish thought. The first approach "grounds the difference in theological terms" and interprets the distinction between Jews and gentiles as a "mere divergence in articles of creed." Hence our souls are composed of the same spiritual potential, our humanity is of the same order. What separates Jews and gentiles then, is a divergence in what we believe and do in religious philosophy and practice.

Katz contrasts this with the other view, what one might call an "essentialist view" of certain Jewish thinkers, which argues for an inherent distinction between Jew and non-Jew. From this perspective, a qualitative difference is involved for which the individual was hardly responsible. That is to say, there is something intangibly but nevertheless actually "other" about the Jewish soul.

An example of such thinking is to be found in the well known medieval Jewish philosopher, Yehudah Halevi. In his famous work, *The Kuzari*, Halevi comes down strongly in favour of an essential distinction between Jew and gentile, even writing with respect to converts that "any gentile who joins us unconditionally shares our good fortune without however being quite equal to us."

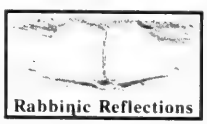
Maimonides, however, is largely a proponent of the first school of thought which sees the differences as one of thought and belief rather than genetics. He affirms that certain kinds of spiritual perfection are universally available. One's level of intellectual comprehension and moral perfection is what matters. For Maimonides there are no special genes in the DNA that spell J-E-W.

So clearly, how one views who and what a Jew is, especially in comparison with the rest of the world, will dictate how one understands the concept of a "chosen people." In Exodus 19:5, the Jews are described as God's treasured people, but in that context, maintaining the designation is contingent on performing the Law.

Do Jews maintain a claim to uniqueness if they show disinterest in or outright rejection of Judaism? This is a question that has become far more than theoretical, as this generation continues to test whether Jewish distinctiveness is a still viable idea, when Judaism itself ceases to play a central role for so many Jews.

Insomnia

By RABBI DAVID MERLING



Two weeks ago, we celebrated the holiday of Shavuot, commemorating the giving of the Torah by God to the Jewish people. Many have the custom of staying up the whole of Shavuot eve studying the Torah, expressing our excitement and joy at receiving this most special gift.

It is after all our heritage, the book of wisdom that defines us as a nation. God created a wondrous world for us, placed us in it, and gave us His holy Torah, the instruction manual for its proper use and care. Of course we stay up. How could one sleep while celebrating such a moment? And finally the morning comes, and we turn in after our early morning prayers, feeling spiritually uplifted albeit physically depleted.

There is another moving Jewish ritual, later in the calendar: the blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah. Maimonides explains that the sound of the shofar is an alarm clock, awakening us from our slumber of habitude and routine, to take stock of our lives, of where we are headed and at what pace we're going there.

There is an old Jewish saying that links these two events to each other. Roughly translated, it says: A Jew goes to sleep on Shavuot morning, and wakes up to the sound of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah.

Cute, but there is a bitter tinge of truth to it. How ironic it is that we often spend our summers in spiritual hibernation, between such powerful religious experiences. The lazy, hazy days of summer remind us to exercise our flabby muscles, yet allow our neshamah to atrophy and our mind to take a three-month siesta.

There is a group of students in Montreal who organized an amazing concert that brought out more than a thousand young Jews to have a Jewishly uplifting musical experience. They called it "Wake-Up," because its mission was to arouse Jewish pride and identity in our often disconnected and dozing youth. It was a great success.

What they discovered after the concert was that although everyone "Woke Up," very soon they went right back to sleep! The next year they followed the "Wake-Up" concert with a "Stay-Up," an all-night learnathon that gave substance and value to the high that they experienced at the concert.

Only through education and by deepening our spiritual self-awareness, can we hope to keep up the pace. Let us not let the high of Shavuot night fall flat, until we're faced with the emergency last-minute call of the shofar. Let us take the inspiration and build upon it, and when the chill of fall sets in, we will welcome the shofar as a sound of victory, rather than be shocked by the alarm of judgment.

Good morning!

Rabbi David Merling is the rabbi at the Hillel Jewish Student Centre, and of Congregation Agudath Israel in Montreal.

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Goldstein new head of Toronto Board of Rabbis

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The big deal about Rabbi Elyse Goldstein being elected the first woman president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, is that it is no big deal.

"My being a woman is inconsequential to the election, and that is what makes it so nice," said Rabbi Goldstein, director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning.

The board is a co-operative professional body of rabbis from Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstuctionist movements who work together to promote a united presence in the city, says Rabbi Goldstein, who begins her two-year term in September.

"We do not see ourselves as a legislative body. We do not do divorces or conversions, and we are not a Jewish court. We are a pluralistic voice of the community.

"Because there are representatives across the spectrum, we have a chance to listen to one another and find commonalities instead of differences," she says.

Rabbi Goldstein sat on the executive for several years and was nominated as president four years ago but she became president of the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto, so cut back her involvement on the board.

"It is historic that the board has a woman as president, but it was ready [for that move] four years ago. I declined the nomination," says Rabbi Goldstein.

Rabbi Goldstein

During her term she would like to create a mission statement, and would like members to study together in "order to understand each other's theologies. The more we study together, the more we can find common ground.

"By learning together, it will also be less frustrating when we cannot find common ground. We'll understand that if there is not way to find that common ground, we'll just move on."

In the past, she says, the board members have had many fruitful discussions and have come away with a deeper understanding of where their differences lie – whether these differences are social, halachic or historic. "If they are halachic, we agree to disagree."

The board is a collegial organization, she says, "and the more we work together, the more we can present a model of inter-denominational co-operation. I hope to facilitate that model here."

Although there are Orthodox rabbis on the board, she says, the Orthodox community in Toronto does have its own board – the Vaad Harabanim. "Cities do not usually have a separate Orthodox organization; rabbis come to the inter-denominational board. Most members of the Vaad do not come to our meetings. We would like to see everyone work together."

It is exciting for everyone, she says, to have a woman as president. "It shows that because we are a collegial group we can look at each other and say that we are equal rabbis among rabbis; women rabbis are equal."

At no time, says Rabbi Goldstein, did the board say that it is about time we had a woman as president.

"I was not nominated because I was a woman; it was a fair system. I was next in line in terms of seniority, and it was Reform's term to have a president. [The board alternates between Reform and Conservative presidents.] I was put on the slate, and no one had any issues."

The greatest tribute to how far our community has come, she says, is that when she arrived in the city in 1983, she was the only woman rabbi in Canada.

"It is wonderful, that not only do we represent the interests of different denominations, but that the director of a pluralistic organization is the president of a board of pluralistic rabbis.

"We want to be on the forefront, both reactively and proactively, whenever issues arise. We want to present a strong rabbinic voice."

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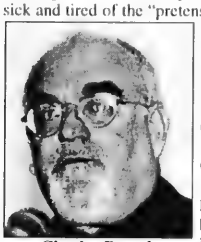
Greater Toronto Area

Children's issues focus of JF & CS annual meeting

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In a blistering diatribe against what he terms "child policy abuse" and "neo-con games" at all levels of Canadian government, Charles Pascal, executive director of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, told the recent annual meeting of Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS) he was sick and tired of the "pretense that children matter."


Charles Pascal

If kids mattered, he asked at the evening meeting, held at the Wagman Centre, why would the federal government have eliminated the Canada Systems Plan, enabling Ontario Premier Mike Harris to cut welfare by 21 percent unilaterally?

In Canada, he noted, 15.5 percent of all children live in poverty. In Toronto, the percentage is higher, he added.

The gap between rich and poor is growing, and kids are being left behind, he said.

If kids mattered, Pascal asked, why would we allow several levels of government to "tear asunder" universal health care?

"If children mattered, would we throw child-care programming and junior kindergarten to the wind?" Canada has the wealth to lead the world in early childhood programming, he said.

Not funding preventive programming is actually bad economic policy because of the amount of money that will be required down the road, he said.

It is unacceptable, said Pascal, that paper sold in Canada, containing chlorine, contributes to one of the highest levels of dioxin in breast milk. The 20 percent higher price for non-chlorinated paper would be mitigated by bulk purchasing, he noted.

If we love kids, why don't we have more employers with family friendly policies? he asked.

JF&CS has a one-year maternity leave with an option to return to work part time, it was noted earlier in the program by social worker Elinor Gertner, who was honoured for her 25 years of service to the agency.

Despite his pointed questions, Pascal, the father of a 5-year-old daughter, described himself as a "pathological optimist."

On a more positive note, he cited, among others, JF&CS "fighting intelligently for the kind of resources that could make a big difference."

He also told of his daughter's friendship with a playmate from a lower socioeconomic level. "That friendship hopefully will create the roots of empathy that will eliminate child policy abuse," he said.

JF&CS offered counselling and support to over 2,600 cases, among them 400 involving woman abuse, over the past year. The agency is continually responding to changing needs in the community, said Susan Maldoff, JF&CS president.

It has the equivalent of six full-time social workers in schools, acting as an early intervention system, she noted.

To deliver services more efficiently, JF&CS has moved toward services like solution focused brief therapy and group work, said executive director Gordon Wolfe.

Poverty and declining resources were among the top concerns he highlighted.

The agency has a balanced budget of $9.8 million for the past fiscal year. It receives over half its funding ($5.4 million) from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, $2.2 million from UJA FEDERATION and $1.5 million from United Way.

"Poverty is a reality in the Jewish community," Wolfe said. "When money stops coming into the home, there is a chain reaction. A common symptom is depression...Fuses are shorter and there's much more stress in the family, the more likelihood therefore of family violence, abuse of children and abuse of alcohol and drugs."

JF&CS has one of the lowest per capita rates of children in care in the province. "I'm convinced one of the major reasons we are able to keep children in their own homes is that we have a financial assistance program," said Wolfe. The program distributed over $1.5 million to assist more than 2,500 clients over the past year.

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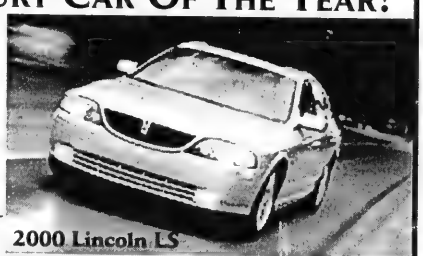

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Greater Toronto Area

Pre-teen keeps busy pace

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — Twelve-year-old Phil Birnbaum knows what it takes to raise money for charity.

Phil, a Pleasantville Public School student in Richmond Hill, has been soliciting donations for cancer and multiple sclerosis research since he was just seven. Modestly, he says each endeavour he embarks on is just "one more good deed."

Phil Birnbaum

Scheduling an interview with the fund-raiser was tough. He had to slot me in between the nights he was honoured at Richmond Hill's Beit Rayim synagogue's Volunteer Appreciation Oneg Shabbat and the Multiple Sclerosis Walk Thank-You Dinner (for the nearly $6,000 he raised).

Of all the causes, dearest to him is his brainchild, Phil's Annual Cash for Cancer Raffle, which he started in 1999 in memory of his father, Perry, who passed away from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma four years ago.

Phil raised over 100 prizes and $4,300 for the raffle over the last two years. It involved long days and nights of hard work, but Phil says it was all worth it.

"I just think it's fun going door-to-door, asking people for money and ... doing something for the community," he says.

Roberta Birnbaum Cohen, Phil's mom, says she has always tried to teach her children that giving to others is an important mitzvah, but she quickly asserts Phil has taken the initiative on his own.

"I didn't sit down and teach him how to fund-raise," she says. He's a schmoozer by nature and would just go by himself and fill up his knapsack with donations.

His unrelenting nature, Roberta says, is what has enabled Phil to accomplish so much at such a young age.

"He's never afraid of anyone saying no to him," she says. "He believes in what he does so much that nothing can get in his way."

Phil's efforts have received considerable media attention, with write-ups in the *Toronto Star* and the magazine *Canadian Living*, as well as television appearances on Shaw Cable and Citytv news.

"The other day at school I had 30 or 40 people come up to me and say 'I saw you on TV,'" he says. "It was fun."

Phil has also spent several summers operating a pop stand at community baseball games and believes he is destined for a career in business.

"I want to be the next Bill Gates," he says. "But not [with] the whole computer thing."

CORRECTION

The list of ingredients for Leila Speisman's recipe for Noodle Kugel (Staff recipes, *CJN*, June 1) should have included ⅓ cup sour cream.

The CJN regrets the omission.

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שלום לרקטה

מוריס רושאר, או ה"טיל" בכינוי המקצועי, כוכב על של עולם ההוקי הקנדי, נפטר בגיל שבעים ושמונה, וקנדה ערכה לו לוויה מלכותית שראשי ממשלה, נשיאים ואפילו זמרי רוק לא זכו לשכמותה. כל מי שמכבד את עצמו טרח לעבור לפני הארון. וכל זה בלי לחזכיר את מליוני הקנדים שהיו רותקים שעות רבות למסך הקטן כדי לראות איך קנדה אומרת שלום לאליל. ואת כל זה אני כותב כי קנדה הצליחה לגדל במשך שנים בנוסף לשחקני הוקי אלימים גם סופרים מפורסמים, מוסיקאים, ואפילו חתני פרס נובל. אך אף אחד מהדגולים לא זכה לטקס פרידה כזה וכישוי עיתונאי כמו הרקטה. מה ששוב מוכיח מה באמת חשוב בחיים. ושוב אנו למדים שאין כל קשר בין תרומה לאנושות לתמורה, תחילה והערצת החמנים.

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Greater Toronto Area

Palatniks say goodbye to Toronto

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When Shakespeare wrote "Parting is such sweet sorrow," he must have had Rabbi Yaakov and Lori Palatnik in mind.

They are thrilled to be taking up their new position in Boca Raton, Fla., where they will be starting an Aish HaTorah presence.

At the same time, they feel very sad to be leaving all the friends they made at the Village Shul.

Although Lori Palatnik is a Torontonian, the couple met and married in Jerusalem. Thirteen years ago, they returned to Toronto, where Rabbi Palatnik was in charge of executive learning, a program offering religious study to business people, in a business office setting.

Some of those executives, together with a few other people living in the Forest Hill area, expressed interest in having a synagogue that would have an Aish HaTorah atmosphere – and the Palatniks took up the challenge.

"We didn't realize how it would take off," said Lori. What started in the basement of Beth Lida Congregation on Gilgorm Road developed into a renovated storefront in what had been a cheese shop on Eglinton Avenue – hence the affectionate name "Jews for Cheeses," Lori laughed. Last year, they opened their own 24,000 square foot building at the corner of Eglinton Avenue and Old Park Road.

But it is not just the stones and mortar that impress the Palatniks. It is the religious growth of the members of the congregation. "We are so proud to see how they are the teachers, the leaders, the ones inviting people to spend Shabbat with them. When we came, we were the only ones – now there is such a feeling of Shabbat."

Together with their five children, they have grown very close to the shul members. "We are like family," Lori said. "we would do anything for them, and they would do anything for us."

Rabbi Palatnik echoed her feelings.

"There was a lot of sadness, especially in making the decision," he said.

Nevertheless, they are excited at the new challenge. "People call us the 'crazy pioneers,'" Lori said. "There is something we do that's unique, and that's to start something new. We want to make a difference in people's lives."

Boca Raton is the fastest growing community for young Jewish families in the United States, Rabbi Palatnik said. They are drawn there by the pleasant lifestyle, the safety, the affluence and the prestige, not to mention the Jewish schools, kosher restaurants, and mikvah.

Boca Raton was one of the places to which Aish HaTorah had been considering expansion. Feeling that "the Village Shul congregation loves us – but they don't need us as much any more," the Palatniks took several trips to Boca Raton and decided that they could make a contribution.

They plan to begin by teaching and studying in different people's homes, having families over for Shabbat, and generally meeting the community and becoming known.

Rabbi Palatnik said that "We don't have a set rigid plan. When we get to know the community, we will see what we can offer them – perhaps a shul, or it may be just a learning centre."

They don't see that they are saying a complete farewell to Toronto. Besides the fact that Lori Palatnik's family is here, they plan to return periodically for simchas, and to speak.

Working with Aish HaTorah isn't just a job, the Palatniks agree – it is their life.

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But mom, why do I have to practise?

By ANNA MORGAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Time to practise and the avalanche of excuses begins. Parents are often left wondering – is it really worth the confrontation?

Absolutely, Ruth Levitt said. Her two children, Jane and Simon, are members of the Imperial Quartet, which appeared recently on VR's *BreakFast Television*.

Jane, 14, on violin and Simon, 16, on cello played with Gideon Weisman, 16, on viola and Kyra Nabeta, 17, on violin. They are all students at the Koffler School of Music at the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

Music has been a great educational experience for my kids, Ruth said. On one level, practising taught them the importance of discipline. They knew that even if they had some talent, it was meaningless without practice.

But their music lessons were also always challenging them. They really couldn't ever coast, Levitt said.

"Children can benefit from music in many different ways," Adrienne Cohen said in an interview.

Cohen is the director of the Koffler School of Music and has studied musical pedagogue for over 20 years.

Cohen points out that there is the Mozart effect, which is based on research that began about 10 years ago at the University of California at Irvine. Over time, evidence began to emerge which indicated certain types of classical music can have a significant positive effect on the intellectual abilities of the brain.

But, there are many other advantages children can take away from their musical education, Cohen said.

"From babies to adolescents to adults, music offers social, therapeutic and educational benefits that last forever," Cohen said.

For example, in a Mom 'n Tot program "when the mother and baby are listening to music, doing musical exercises and just feeling good about each other," Cohen said, "it can be a wonderful bonding time.

"The establishment of this type of mutually enjoyable interaction enables mothers and babies to learn how to read each other's cues and is the basis for the establishment of future relationships," said Keren Epstein-Gilboa, a researcher in developmental psychology.

When kids are ready, they move into more independent programs, Cohen said. At Koffler, the kids can study guitar, piano, violin, cello or flute.

"The children develop one-on-one relationships with their teachers and this type of teaching benefits all children – those that are doing well in school, as well as those that aren't doing well."

Often, she said, the kids will develop long-term relationships with the teachers, who become reference points in their lives.

"When the teachers' relationship with the child is genuine, caring and consistent, it can positively influence the quality of the learning experience," Epstein-Gilboa said.

When they are rehearsing, it's wonderful to see children from all streams of the Jewish community working together, Cohen said.

"Orthodox, Conservative, Reform – everyone is comfortable with each other when they're making music."

Cohen added that the kids are also in tune with diverse groups. This past year, for instance, the Koffler School of Music's Renanim Children's Choir performed with the Columbus Centre and the Italian Cultural Institute.

In this way, the kids feel recognized and discover that music can provide a link between communities in the city, Cohen said.

As the kids get older, there are adult bands they can join, or seniors' musical appreciation groups.

Recently, the kids and their parents were treated to a performance by the Koffler adult band. Cohen said it was wonderful to see music unite three generations.

Members of the Imperial Quartet (from left) Jane Levitt, Gideon Weisman, Kyra Nabeta and Simon Levitt (seated) are all students at the Koffler School of Music.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 26, is deadline for July 6 issue. Tuesday, July 4, is deadline for July 13 issue, as well as for items intended for July 20, because there will be no issue published on July 20. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Saturday, June 24

MUSICAL SERVICE

Join guest cantor **Israel Rand** for Shabbat services with Adath Israel professional choir 8:45 a.m. Adath Israel Congregation, 37 Southgate Ave. Kiddush following services.

Sunday, June 25

ONE 'HOT' DAY

Join Young Leadership of UJA for mitzvah activities followed by a barbecue, 10 a.m.-12:30. Information and registration, **Elana Carr** 631-5736.

WINGATE BRANCH

General Wingate branch, Royal Canadian Legion general meeting 9:15 a.m. Earl Bales Park.

GIANT GARAGE SALE

Soleil chapter of Jewish Women International is holding a multi-home garage sale. 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 47 Greenwin Village Rd.

JAZZ FOR SINGLES

Uptown Jazz Festival brunch for singles 35 and better. 11:30 a.m. at Adath Israel Congregation, 37 Southbourne Ave. $10 pre-paid, $15 at door. 635-5340.

FINE ART AUCTION

Auction to benefit Bais Chaya Mushka School for Girls. Preview and refreshments at 2 p.m. Auction 3:30 p.m. No couvert. **Wendy Treacy** 523-8225.

Wednesday, June 28

HAKORAS HATOV

An evening to say thank you and goodbye to **Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz, Rabbi Avram Rothman** and **Rabbi Mordechai Yaffe**, 8 p.m. at Ohr Somayach. $36 per person. Reserve: **Chaya** or **Judy** 905-886-5730.

DINNER AND DRAW

Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue holds its annual dinner and draw. Reception 6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Subscription $150. 787-1631.

BGU ANNUAL MEETING

Toronto chapter of Ben-Gurion University will install its new president **Barry D. Lipson, Q.C.**, and consul general of Israel **Meir Romem** will bring greetings at the annual meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. 665-8054.

Thursday, June 29

RUTH KELMAN MEMORIAL

A lecture will commemorate the first yahrzeit of Rebbitzen Ruth Kelman, titled Crossing the Bridge from a Vanishing Past to a Vigorous Creative Jewish Future, with **Dr. Yaffa Eliach**, 8 p.m. at Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz Congregation, 147 Overbrook Pl. 638-5955.

And What Else Is New

BAYSVILLE MINYAN

Shabbat morning services begin on the weekend of June 30-July 1 at Bnai Isaac, Baysville. Saturday morning services 9:45 a.m. For time of Friday services, call **Dr. Jesin** 636-2223, 635-5015 or 705-767-3084.

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

Leslie and Anna Dan welcome worshippers for the 10th year of Shabbat morning services at their country home in Atherley. Guest leaders: July 1, **Elliott Malamet**; July 8, **Rabbi Aaron Hoch**; July 15,

Continued on page 21

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What's New

Continued from page 20

Stuart Hytman; July 22, **Ron Nefsky**. 705-327-7069.

TRIP TO ARTPARK

Come see *Show Boat* with Adath Shalom's annual trip to ARTPARK, Sunday, July 23. $56 (Cdn) per person includes air-conditioned bus. 635-0131 to reserve.

JF&CS SUPPORT GROUPS

Parenting Teens: The Challenges and Rewards. Learn how to keep talking to the stranger that you live with, setting limits and the fine line between independence and freedom. Begins June 27.

Parenting can be… 1,2,3 Magic!! Three sessions for parents. Learn new behaviour management techniques July 11. Daytime and evening groups.

Social Skills Groups (age 6-15). Help your children be more comfortable in social situations. They will learn to express feelings more appropriately, develop strategies to cope with bullying and learn more socially acceptable behaviour. Begins in fall. Parent participation.

Information and registration, **Teena**, 638-7800 ext. 211.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meet other women in a relaxed, supportive environment to discuss new ideas, coping skills, and share information with others in similar situations. Tuesday afternoons at Jewish Family and Child Services. **Sheila Walker** 638-7800 ext. 260.

RESOURCE CENTRE

The Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. To register, **Bernice Friedman** 905-882-8509.

Drop-In hours: Sunday, 1-4 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Jen's Circle – Join us for songs, stories and fingerplay every Tuesday 11-11:30 a.m. and Sunday 2:30-3:15 p.m.

Stepping Stones, an 8-session early childhood development program for ages 22 months-3½, 9:30-11 a.m., ages 3½-4½, 1:30-3 p.m. Begins June 26.

Public Health invites you to learn about Caring For Your Children's Teeth, Tuesday, June 27, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Knitting Hearts Together Group meets every Wednesday afternoon 1:30-3:30 p.m. Knit slippers, puppets, afghans, etc. for community fund-raising projects.

Junior Jewish Art Workshop for preschoolers combining songs, stories, crafts, Thursdays 1:30-3 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith building). Registration of new members continues. June 29, Muskoka trip. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Niagara, get back $10 in coins bonus, June 28; Casino Rama July 15, 19, Aug. 2, 16. 395-7881.

Pythian Lodge #52 monthly meeting, Wednesday, July 5, Adath Shalom Synagogue; Closing banquet at Hava Nagelah Restuarant, July 30. **Ed** 665-9266.

LZA Seniors Club: *Fiddler on the Roof* Sept 13 in Stratford. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. and Cultural Club every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Osteoporosis Support Group, Tuesday, June 27, 1:15-2:30 p.m. with **Joan Turner**, ext. 126.

Canada Day barbecue, speaker, clowns, children's games, entertainment. Thursday, June 29, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **Irene**, ext. 123, or **Lily**, ext. 103.

Summer Learning Series. Wednesdays 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 28, On Being – Psychology and Aging, a new approach to nature and nurture controversy with **Mary Easton**, at Ryerson University; July 5, On Belonging – Philosophy and Aging, an interactive discussion of some ethical dilemmas of our time, with **Jim Diande** at centre; July 12, On Becoming – Aspirations and Limitations, the struggle between what we can do and what we would like to do. Speaker TBA at Betel Centre; July 19, On Being – Belonging and Becoming, understanding where you belong and making the best of yourself with **Anne Balaban** at Ryerson University. To register call **Sheila Zane** ext. 133.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst Street, 636-1880.

Limited spaces in September for morning nursery program 9-11:30 a.m. and Tuesday-Thursday Tic Tac Two program 9:15-11:15 a.m. Includes Judaic programming, Fun Centre Gym time, outdoor play and music. For information, ext. 248.

What's New... was compiled this week by **Rebecca Nadler**

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Summer Programs and Day Camps July 3-Sept. 1:

Preschoolers (2½-4 years) play-based Summer Tots program or the new Junior Art for 4-5-year-olds.

Full-day camps: Arts Alive explores different cultures through storytelling, music, dance, arts and crafts. Cityscope, off-site outings for older children. Blue Chip Basketball Camp.

A Taste of Sailing, in conjunction with Island Yacht Club, basic sailing skills, tennis, swimming, games, sports.

Mad Science for ages 6-12, hands-on participation, demonstrations.

Summer Swim Lessons, all levels, throughout the summer.

Seniors Calendar: Tuesday, June 27, 2 p.m., afternoon tea at Ha Bayit Shelanu Senior's Building, 155 Kendall Ave. Those walking join group leaving BJCC at 1:30 p.m.; Thursday, June 29 picnic at Ward's Island. leaving Bloor JCC at 10 a.m. or meet at ferry docks at 10:45 a.m.

ABOUT PEOPLE

SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science announces the six scholarship winners who will represent Canada at the Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence 32nd International Summer Science Institute in Rehovot, Israel, July 3-28: **Charina Cameron** of Wolfville, N.S., **Melissa Gitman** of Montreal, **Oleg Lavrovsky** of Calgary, **Alim Manji** and **Deborah Silver** of Toronto and **Hugh Strange** of Ottawa.

BIBLE CONTEST WINNERS: Five students from Ulpanat Orot/ Or Chaim Yeshiva placed in the top 10 at the National Bible Contest held recently in Toronto. Seen, from left, are: Moshe Halpern, Yakov Frydman-Kohl, Azriel Grysman, Rebecca Winter, Bible Contest coach Abbey Brown, and Aliza Libman.

VOLUNTEERS HONOURED: Beit Rayim Syagogue and School recently held their volunteer appreciation evening. Seen, from left, are: Chuck Ticker, past president Beit Rayim; Bernard Graham, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient; Cheryl Cash, recipient of the first Judy Stein Volunteer of the Year Award; Billy Stein; and Phil Birnbaum, 12, Judy Stein Junior Volunteer of the Year.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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SINGLES EVENTS
is an advertising feature of
The Canadian Jewish News
Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.
For rates or to place an ad, please call
MICHAEL
at (416) 391-1836
The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

Hello new singles, old friends. - The long awaited "Singles Connection" is back. Come join me and my new committee for an elegant "Mix and Mingle" at an upscale midtown hotel - Sat., June 24, 2000, 8pm, $8 - includes 1 free drink or 2 soft, and the privliage of a pianist. Dress code in effect. Call Sonia Elvin, your old friend - Hotline: 416-636-0221.

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www.jmatch.com 1350+ Tor. Jewish Singles. **Free to join!**

"Classic Events" presents ***SUMMER LAUNCH Ages* 35-55. Sun, June 25, 7:30pm.** Meet at **SAMBUCA Pizza & Pasta Bar,** 291 King Street W. (SW corner of King & John). Dancing, Mix & Mingle, Enjoy the large outdoor Patio. Swing Dance lessons from 8 to 9, given by Arthur Murray Dance Studios. **Cost: $12 *cash* at door.** Portion of proceeds to *"ZAREINU."* Call Patsi: 905-886-3301 or Ferne: 416-493-8338.

On Campus

York U's JSF to be refurbished under Jewish Toronto Tomorrow

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Change is in the air, not only at the University of Toronto's Jewish Students' Union (JSU) – which will have a new home downtown once the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life is built – but also, on a more modest scale, at York University, where the space occupied by the Jewish Student Federation (JSF) no longer meets the organization's needs.

"We're working on finding potential funders," said Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services (JCS) of Greater Toronto, the local umbrella for Jewish campus organizations.

'We're working on finding potential funders'

Kaye and Pearl Gropper Berman, JCS assistant executive director and former JSF director, have met with Susan Friedrich, architect for the Wolfond Centre, regarding plans for refurbishing JSF's home in York University's Student Centre.

Preliminary plans have been drawn up, but it is too early to say how much the renovation would cost or how long it would take, said Friedrich. Pending funding, the project will go ahead, said Kaye.

Both the JSF refurbishment and the building of the Wolfond Centre at the corner of Huron Street and Harbord Avenue fall under the aegis of Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT), the project launched in April by UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto to meet the projected needs of the community for the next ten years.

JTT is working on an $8 million partnership to cover the cost of both projects as well as campus programming, said Kaye. Part of the money has already been raised.

At York, the JSF has occupied its current space for nine years. Prior to that the group operated out of a cramped portable.

In recent years, the JSF has evolved, said Gropper Berman, who served as its director from 1995 to 1999.

"Our work is essentially engagement work," said Kaye. "The [JSF] space should be a tool for us going out on campus."

Although the JSF occupies a large space, at approximately 1,700 square feet, it would benefit from being reconfigured, Gropper Berman said. It is also run-down because it's been so well used, she added.

Currently it is used more for interest-geared and goal-oriented programming than than in past years, she said.

But "the perception is, it's not a very warm or welcoming environment," said Trish Garten, who succeeded Gropper Berman as JSF director last year. (She was out of town when the meeting with Friedrich took place.)

Because staff offices are tucked away at one end of the space, Garten said, "you have to go to the far left to find someone who works there."

"As it stands now, when you walk in you see the chapel wall," Gropper Berman said.

To make the area more welcoming, plans would eliminate the chapel, which hasn't been used for services in at least five years, and would make room at the entrance for someone to greet incoming students.

"We're [also] trying to create some more meeting spaces for the students, so it becomes an area they can operate from, and to make a lounge that's a bit more central," said Friedrich, whose own alma mater is the University of Waterloo, where she graduated in 1983.

Her professional experience on campus includes a library renovation at U of T's Scarborough College.

She uses a collaborative approach, she said. "We work really closely with our clients."

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1999/2000
Annual Report
UJA FEDERATION
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Annual Report

Tzedakah in a new millennium

Last year's Campaign 2000 continued a series of UJA FEDERATION annual campaign success stories, raising more than $41 million — a record amount — during the second year of the Campaign for Fifty. Our objective by the end of 2001 is $50 million annually — with $45 million coming from annual campaign fundraising and $5 million from endowments — to assist the vulnerable, rescue Jews from unstable regions and strengthen Jewish identity.

"We were successful for two reasons," says David Engel, who chaired Campaign 2000 with Mel Wolfond. "First, we pinpointed the needs of the community and explained why additional funds were required. Second, the volunteers had great enthusiasm and took the time to speak with people about the ways in which their donation makes a difference."

Now Campaign 2001 — The Campaign for Our Children, is about to get underway. The Campaign for Our Children intends to raise four million additional dollars for the needs of young people, in order to keep up with the spectacular growth of our community in which two-thirds of Canadian Jewish youth live.

Increased contributions will be directed to three funding initiatives:

➤ **NURTURING YOUNG JEWISH SOULS** through formal education and Jewish experiences such as youth groups, summer camps, the March of the Living and Birthright Israel.

➤ **ASSISTING YOUTH IN DISTRESS** who are living in poverty, exposed to abuse or having difficulty integrating into the community after immigrating to Canada.

➤ **THE RESCUE OF JEWS** from unstable regions of the world, to help them start new lives in Israel.

Campaign 2001 — The Campaign for Our Children, officially begins with the Community Launch on August 30.

UJA FEDERATION programs touch every community member

Nearly every member of our community benefits from services and programs provided by UJA FEDERATION and its partner organizations. Among them are:

March of the Living

A record 400 Canadians, including more than 100 Torontonians, participated in the 7th International March of the Living. Six thousand Jewish teenagers from around the world experienced an emotional pilgrimage to concentration camps and Israel. The 14-day trek featured speeches at Birkenau by the presidents of Israel and Poland, which were broadcast worldwide.

Jewish Family Education

UJA FEDERATION'S Board of Jewish Education, in partnership with synagogues and Jewish schools, have been providing innovative family education programs. Through classes and workshops, students and their parents are learning about Judaism. Together, they share rituals, celebrate holidays, discover customs, and discuss the meaning of tzedakah.

Special Education

UJA FEDERATION's Board of Jewish Education (BJE) has been busy gathering data over the last year about growing requirements for Jewish children with special needs. The data will be used for recommendations on how to strengthen the current range of services and how to deliver them.

Birthright Israel

Nearly 1,000 young people from across Canada experienced Israel — many for the first time — through this pioneering program, administered by two UJA FEDERATION beneficiary agencies, Jewish Campus Services and the Canada Israel Experience Centre. Funding for the first phase of this $300 million initiative, came from Canadian Charles Bronfman, American Michael Steinhardt and others. However, NorthAmerican Jewish federations and the government of Israel will soon join the funding effort so that thousands of North American Jews between the ages of 18 and 26 will have an opportunity to visit Israel. The 10-day tour of, among other sites, the Old City of Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea and the Golan Heights was complemented by educational programs before, during and after the journey.

A Thousand Years of Yiddish

This year-long celebration of Yiddish language, literature and culture, which began last October, continues until November 2000. Free concerts, lectures, exhibits and theatrical presentations, as well as Yiddish classes provide unique opportunities to enjoy the renewal of this proud language as it enters its second millennium.

Holocaust Education Week

The 19th annual Holocaust Education Week, the largest program of its kind in North America, offered more events and venues than ever before. Over 100 programs hosted by dozens of community organizations – including 36 churches — brought the lessons of the Holocaust to life. The week's highlights included addresses by retired Canadian Major-General Lewis Mackenzie, and Madame Justice Louise Arbour, retired Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

JTT: New partnerships for a thriving future

Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT), our Jewish community's most ambitious initiative is underway. JTT was inaugurated April 16 at the historic Kiever Synagogue, symbolizing the way in which JTT is a bridge between the present and the future. It is the largest infrastructure development program in our community's history, ensuring refurbished facilities in addition to critical programs and services for Toronto's rapidly growing Jewish community for generations to come. Jewish Toronto Tomorrow includes these key components.

➤ **COORDINATED CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS.** JTT will work with donors and partner organizations to revitalize our communal infrastructure through three campuses for Jewish life: downtown, midtown, and in York Region.

➤ **THE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS** will include the new Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre — a renovated and expanded Bloor JCC, and a new Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life. In the central Bathurst-Sheppard corridor, JTT plans will encompass improvements to the Bathurst Jewish Centre and the Lipa Green Building complex as well as the completion of renovations at CHAT — the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. JTT plans for York Region are highlighted by a new multi-faceted community campus on a recently purchased 50-acre tract of land at Bathurst and Weldrick.

➤ **THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN.** As the lifeblood of our community institutions, the annual campaign ensures the healthy preservation of our essential services. Annual Campaign contributions provide funding for Jewish education, dozens of agencies and programs, such as financial assistance for the poor; counseling for abused women and children exposed to violence; youth workers for teens at risk; and, the rescue of Jews from unstable regions.

➤ **PLANNED GIVING.** Endowments, bequests and other avenues of planned giving generate new and assured sources of income to meet the needs of succeeding generations.

➤ **NEW PARTNERSHIPS.** JTT will match philanthropists who have specific interests to organizations with innovative ideas about solving urgent challenges. In this way, we will be tapping into new pools of capital and knowledge to make dreams come true.

"JTT will complement the existing model of funding through which agencies and schools receive annual allocations from UJA FEDERATION," says Leslie Gales, Co-Chair of Jewish Toronto Tomorrow with Barry Sherman. "Jewish Toronto Tomorrow is a new approach to philanthropy to meet new community needs. The interests of our contributors will be matched with innovative ideas to deal with the challenges of dramatic community growth in a new century."

For more information on Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, visit www.jewishtorontotomorrow.net or e-mail tomorrow@jewishtoronto.net

The Challenge of Growth

Q&A with Alan Sandler

As UJA FEDERATION President Alan Sandler begins his second year in office, his focus is on Jewish Toronto Tomorrow and its positive impact on the community. In this interview, he shares his thoughts on the achievements of the last year – and the goals for the next.

Q What are some of the most notable achievements of the last year?

Jewish Toronto Tomorrow is the most significant initiative that we have undertaken. By bringing philanthropists, agencies and schools together, we can re-examine community priorities and develop innovative ways to meet community needs.

This year, our community quickly responded to the tragic death of Matti Baranovsky. Working with a newly formed group of 45 women originally from Russia, schools and neighbourhood agencies, UJA FEDERATION, developed and implemented programs specifically for Russian youth.

In York Region, the Family Resource Centre at the Promenade is offering services and programs for increasingly large numbers of participants.

Q What are some of the most important issues facing the Jewish community?

Among our biggest challenges is responding to our community's enormous growth and its movement north, while, at the same time, serving Jews downtown. Our Jewish community has grown from a population of 120,000 to nearly 200,000 in 20 years. So we need to build and renew our physical infrastructure. We also have to think about what we do and how we serve the community. New services and expanded programs are required for both young and old, in addition to professionals — including educators — who will deliver them.

Q Overall, how would you describe the first year of your term?

It has been a wonderful year. We increased funding to a number of critical programs and services. A newly renovated CHAT opened its doors to record enrolment and Birthright Israel was launched. We have much to be grateful for.

Q What's on the agenda for the coming year?

After launching Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, it has to be fully implemented. Planning for our exciting York Region campus at Bathurst & Weldrick will move ahead as we determine preliminary land use priorities. But we also need to reach our $45 million goal for Campaign 2001 — The Campaign for Our Children.

Our agenda is, undoubtedly challenging, but extremely promising for our community's future.

UJA FEDERATION President Alan Sandler is now beginning his second year in office

1999/2000 Budget

INCOME

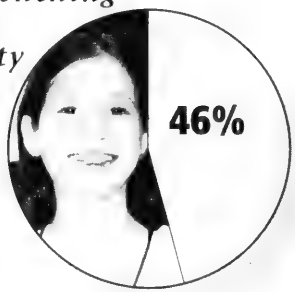
Annual Campaign Gross $40,500,000

Less:

Annual Campaign	$(3,899,000)
Provision for doubtful pledges, amortization and credit card charges	$(2,640,000)
Reserve	$(500,000)
Estimated Funds for Allocation	**$33,461,000**

ALLOCATION %

Strengthening Jewish Identity



Assisting the Vulnerable

Rescue

ALLOCATIONS

Strengthening Jewish Identity $15,302,989

Domestic

Action Committee for Jewish Continuity	**$300,000**
Bathurst Jewish Centre	
Book Fair & Cultural Programs	$162,428
Capital Debt Repayment – JCC	$437,500
BBYO	**$75,154**
Bernard Betel Centre	**$25,006**
Bloor JCC	**$103,022**
Board of Jewish Education	**$8,346,688**
Associated Hebrew School	
Beth Jacob High School	
Bialik Hebrew School	
Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT)	
Eitz Chaim	
Leo Baeck Day School	
Ner Israel Yeshiva	
Netivot HaTorah Day School	
Or Chaim	
Or Ha'emet Sephardic Day School	
She'arim Hebrew Day School	
Ulpanat Orot	
United Synagogue Day School	
Supplementary Schools	
Midrasha L'Morim	
Orah School	
Campus Agencies – National	**$127,738**
Canada-Israel Foundation	**$19,000**
Canadian Jewish Congress	**$1,291,741**
Central Fund	**$6,695**
Committee for Yiddish	**$30,956**
Community Integration Program	**$163,005**
Ameinu	
Bathurst Jewish Centre	
Beth Tikvah	
Jewish Campus Services	
Jewish Immigrant Aid Services	
Jewish Russian Community Centre	
Jewish Vocational Service	
Kolel	
Maon Noam	
Day School ESL/HSL Integration Program	**$92,111**
Associated Hebrew School	
CHAT	
Orah School	
Holocaust Education & Memorial Centre	**$211,558**
Israel Experience	**$46,083**
Jewish Campus Services	**$431,514**
Jewish Information Service	**$94,494**
Jewish Telegraphic Agency	**$11,081**
Jews for Judaism	**$15,000**
Ontario Jewish Archives	**$116,160**
Oskar Asher Schmidt Museum	**$13,195**
Schools – Immigrant Tuition	**$200,000**
Travel Fund – UIAFC	**$8,865**

Overseas

Activities in the FSU	**$827,000**
Cultural/ Educational Programs – JAFI	**$1,100,000**
Jewish Zionist Education	**$1,095,000**

Assisting the Vulnerable $10,350,810

Domestic

Bathurst Jewish Centre	**$727,365**
Program Funding	$200,532
Camp Subsidies	$45,160
Membership for Newcomers	$44,173
Capital Debt Repayment – JCC	$437,500
Bernard Betel Centre	**$64,743**
Cemetery Maintenance	**$2,100**
Circle of Care	**$29,222**
Immigrant Services	**$986,373**
Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (Admin)	$528,466
Immigrant Relief	$457,907
Jewish Camp Council	**$35,431**
Summer Camp Scholarships	$30,057
Good Fellowship Lodge Scholarships	$2,034
Orthodox Camp Scholarships	$3,340
Jewish Family & Child Service	**$2,206,792**
Supplemental Financial Assistance (SFAP)	$1,419,450
Administration for SFAP	$115,092
Counselling Program (SFAP)	$227,590
Chaplaincy	$151,935
Camping Programs	$87,635
Passover Assistance	$51,240
Social Workers in Day Schools	$48,260
Women Abuse/Children Witnessing Violence	$105,590
Jewish Immigrant Aid Services - Furniture Bank	**$12,750**
Jewish Seniors Camp Council	**$7,150**
Jewish Vocational Service – Educational Counselling Service	**$421,350**
Reena	**$52,862**
Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa	**$56,667**

Overseas

Aliyah & Klita – JAFI	**$3,500,000**
Hunger Relief – FSU	**$100,000**
Partnership 2000 – JAFI	**$900,000**
Public Housing Amigour – JAFI	**$1,200,000**

Rescue $5,100,360

Aliyah & Klita – JAFI	**$4,000,000**
Rescue Efforts – JAFI	**$270,360**
Youth Aliyah – JAFI	**$830,000**

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto $2,706,841

Administration, Operations & Programs	**$1,374,841**
Jewish Toronto Tomorrow	**$1,332,000**

Coast to Coast

Calgary-born author gets top book award honours

Continued from page 1

Rosenfarb, who recently moved from Montreal to Toronto, read a passage from *Bociany ("Storks")*, one of two novels by her to be published recently in English translation by the University of Syracuse Press. (*Of Love and Lodz* is the other.)

As in previous years, Holocaust themes were much in evidence among the award-winners. The prize for Holocaust Memoir was bestowed posthumously to Arthur Schaller for *A 100 Cigarettes and a Bottle of Vodka* (published by Malcolm Lester Books).

Toronto Yiddish poet Simcha Simchovitch won a prize for Yiddish translation for *The Remnant*, his book of translated poems about his experiences as a survivor (Mosaic Press), while the prize in Holocaust History went to Naomi Kramer and Ronald Headland for the scholarly study, *The Fallacy of Race and the Shoah* (University of Ottawa Press).

Children's author Kathy Kacer won the Young Adult Fiction prize for *Gabi's Dresser* (Second Story Press), which describes how her grandmother was saved during the Holocaust by hiding in a dresser. Second Story Press editors Sara Silberstein Swartz and Margie Wolfe won the Louis L. Lockshin Memorial Prize for their anthology *From Memory to Transformation: Jewish Women's Voices.*

Bruce Muirhead's *Against The Odds: The Public Life and Times of Louis Rasminsky* (University of Toronto Press) took the Canadian Jewish History prize, while poets Seymour Mayne, B. Glen Rotchin and Malca Janice Litovitz shared the prize for Poetry and Poetic Anthologies.

Two works of Biblical scholarship were also honoured: Adele Reinhartz's *Why Ask My Name?: Anonymity and Identity in Biblical Narrative* (Oxford U. Press), and Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Elazer Grafstein's *Judaism's Bible: A New and Expanded Translation* (Spirit of the Desert Productions).

"I appreciate this kind of event very much," poet Malca Litovitz told *The CJN* during the reception. "The concern for Jewish literature demonstrated here, and tonight's magic is exciting to see because it shows that we're all part of a strong community. I feel very blessed to be a part of this community and to have my work acknowledged in this way."

Her book of poetry is titled, *To Light, To Water* (Ligus Publications).

Yiddish author Chava Rosenfarb (left), Dorothy Shoichet, president of the Koffler Centre, and Prof. Adam Fuerstenberg, outgoing chair of the Jewish Book Awards committee, enjoy a humourous moment at the reception following the 12th annual Jewish Book Awards. **[Gloria Fuerstenberg photo]**

"It's a marvelous event," said award-winner Adele Reinhartz. "There's a wonderful sense of celebration of Canada and the cultural richness of the Canadian Jewish community."

"The awards reflect a kind of ecumenical approach to Jewish literature and Jewish history," said publisher Malcolm Lester. "As Rabbi Grafstein noted in his acceptance comments, there are a lot of divisions in the Jewish community, but this event brings a sort of unity to the community."

The total cash value of the evening's awards amounted to about $7,000, Fuerstenberg said.

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Coast to Coast

Ottawa volunteers honoured at JCC meeting

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Community volunteer awards were presented recently at the 66th annual general meeting of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir.

The Freiman Family Young Leadership Award, which recognizes a member of the Jewish community under the age of 40, was presented to Leiba Krantzberg, 32.

Currently co-president of the Hillel Academy PTA and co-chair of the Hillel Academy lottery, Krantzberg is also a member of the executive committee of the Ottawa Talmud Torah Board; an executive member of the board of Congregation Machzikei Hadas; and a member of Women's Division, State of Israel Bonds.

After receiving the award from A. J. Freiman, on behalf of the Freiman family, Krantzberg said, "I take this opportunity to address my peers in this community and to encourage them to become actively involved."

The community's highest award, the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award, for exceptional service over the course of many years, was presented posthumously to Lorry Greenberg and his nephew, Lawrence Greenberg.

Former recipient Stephen Victor spoke of the two men, and their deaths within a few months of each other. "Lorry and Lawrence shared their love for family, community and all things Jewish, and they both knew that the best gift they could bestow on their family and community was the gift of example, the example of leadership."

Vaad President Stephen Greenberg said,"...much of what I know and understand about community involvement, I learned from cousins Lawrence and Lorry," he said.

Stephen Greenberg also expressed the community's appreciation to members of the Embassy of Israel, including Ambassador David Sultan and his wife Adina, who will be returning to Israel in July.

In presenting a farewell gift to Ambassador Sultan, Greenberg said, "I know I speak for all Canadian Jewry when I say you will be missed, but the Ottawa community feels it even more personally."

Community service recognized

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — In a life devoted to public service, one of Winnipeg businessman Sheldon Berney's crowning achievements was his leadership in building the Asper Jewish Community Campus.

In recognition of that accomplishment, Berney has been chosen by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/CJA to receive its Sol Kanee Distinguished Community Service Medal.

The award was one of several presented at the community's annual Koved Evening, held recently at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue.

The Sol Kanee Medal is named after the self-effacing Winnipegger who has been described as one of the most important international Jewish leaders of the past 50 years.

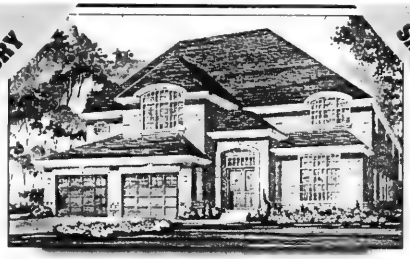
Berney, who a few years ago sold the family plastics business he headed, currently chairs the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba's investment committee. He also serves on the board of the Manitoba Opera, the Associates of the Faculty of Administrative Studies and other community organizations. Last year, he served on the Combined Jewish Appeal's management team and co-chaired the Top Donors Division.

Berney first became involved with the Campus project in 1989. Over six years of designing, planning and fund-raising, he recruited a strong team of volunteers who moved the plan forward.

The federation's second major award, the Max and Mollie Shore Memorial Award, was given to volunteers and fund-raisers Sondra Cohn and Brownie Fleishman. The two honourees have been involved in a wide range of community endevours, from CJA campaigns to the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, the YMHA, Jewish Child & Family Service and the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council.

They are perhaps best known for their leadership in Hadassah-WIZO and the Jewish National Fund, for which they have chaired numerous fund-raising events over the past 30 years.

Other Shem Tov Award winners this year include include Allan Fineblit, immediate past president of the Rose and Max Rady Jewish Community Centre; Leona Billinkoff, for many years the head of Camp Massad; Jeff Frank, co-chair of the capital committee for B'nai Brith Jewish Community Camp; Madam Justice Freda Steel, a past president of the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education; Dr. Isadore Wolch, a founder of the Jewish Genealogical Institute; Leslie Wilder, a vice-president of JIAS Canada and national board member of the AJFCA, for her decade of service to Winnipeg's Jewish Child & Family Service; Gerry Kalef who has been a CJA canvasser for many years; Shawnee Greenberg, long time board member of the Aleph-Bet Child Life Enrichment Program; and Sophie Shinewald, board member of the Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre, member of the Committee on Aging and fund-raiser for several Jewish causes.



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and children **Sheldon and Francine**
Mark and Nancy
Jay and Sarah
Corey
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Coast to Coast

Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan set to perform

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan will soon be making its annual North American tour.

The group of 16 and 17-year olds, all active in the Israeli scouting movement, spend the summer touring the cities, towns and summer camps of North America, sponsored by various groups and organizations.

The teens are talented singers and dancers, possess leadership and communication skills, have a good command of English, and have attained a high level of proficiency in the scouting movement.

Howard Osterer, Canadian tour representative for the Jewish Advisory Committee on Scouting and Guiding, is co-ordinating the Canadian tour this year, following the recent death of Robert Engel, chair of the advisory committee, who was responsible for bringing the troupe to Canada.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to meet and greet these fine young ambassadors of Israel," said Osterer. "Their excitement and enthusiasm is contagious, and our community looks forward to their visit every year."

There will be two performances in Ottawa. The first, on Tuesday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m., will be sponsored by the Vered Israel cultural program of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and will take place at the centre. It will be followed by a teen dance with a disc jockey.

The following day, the Israeli Scouts will provide the opening entertainment for Youth Forum 2000, a meeting of scouts from across Canada.

The 2000 Israeli Scout Friendship Caravan is set to tour North America.

While in Ottawa, the scouts will be hosted by local families.

The 10 teens will put on a one-hour show consisting of Hebrew songs and dances; throughout the show, audience participation is encouraged.

The Caravan will be in Montreal on June 26, and Toronto on June 29.

Complaint lodged over casino letter

MONTREAL — The widow of a Holocaust survivor has lodged a complaint with the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, after receiving a letter from the Montreal Casino addressed to "Mr. Adolf Hitler."

The letter appears with the signature of casino general manager Jacques H.Grilli and welcomes "Dear Mr. Hitler" as a member of the Casino Privilèges Club, a promotion that gives card-holders benefits, like chances to win jackpots and a subscription to the casino newsletter.

Casino officials sent an apology to the woman and are conducting an investigation.

Getting such a letter was deeply offensive and shocking to the woman, whose husband lost his entire family in the Holocaust and who had two brothers who fought in World War II, said Steven Slimovitch, chair of the League's legal committee, Quebec region.

He and the League's Quebec region chair, Allan Adel, wrote a letter to Grilli asking for "an explanation as to the circumstances surrounding this letter.

"We hope this issue will be investigated expeditiously, and that appropriate disciplinary measures be taken to ensure this type of incident will not be repeated," they wrote.

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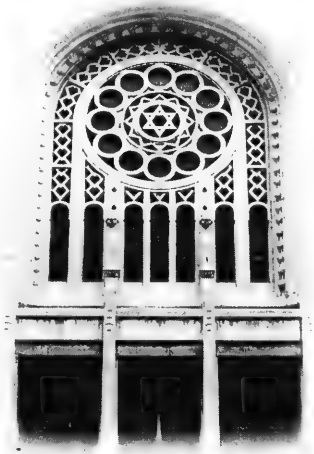

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All the works in this exhibition are on loan from the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam, © Charlotte Salomon Foundation.

This exhibition was organized by the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

Where is input into social policy?

Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

Increasingly, the Senate has become the kind of chamber of "sober second thought" envisioned by the Fathers of Confederation. It now serves as the thought-provoking barometer of social policy in Canada.

It is, therefore, no great surprise that the upper chamber issued a most important report dealing with the issue of a national strategy to deal with end-of-life care. Sharon Carstairs, the former Liberal leader of Manitoba chaired the sub-committee that looked at the question of palliative care and the growing pressures on families confronted with the pain of a loved one approaching the end of life.

As Canadian society ages, this whole area has become an urgent concern. One of the subjects the report discusses is the so-called "eternity leave" and what financial resources should be made available to familial caregivers of the aged and infirm.

This question ought to be of special importance to the Jewish community, which has a statistically high proportion of seniors within its ranks. It is, therefore, unfortunate that there was no visible representation from the Jewish community when the Senate committee studied the matter.

This, in turn, raises an important question about the role of national Jewish organizations in the development of Canadian public policy. There was a time when Canadian Jewish Congress, for example, played a prominent role in the public policy process through its Law and Social Action Committee. In recent years, however, both B'nai Brith and CJC have become more parochial in their interaction with federal and even provincial governments.

To be sure, there is no shortage of issues like school funding that should feature prominently on the communal agenda.

That having been said, two things should serve as obvious motivating factors to ensure a Jewish presence on the larger social issues. First, every social policy issue, in some way, directly affects the Jewish community. The above-mentioned example speaks for itself. Second, one would think that Jewish values and traditions have important things to say about all of these social issues. Withholding that perspective from the larger debate denies the wider society the benefit of the Jewish perspective.

That would be unfortunate – both for the Jewish community and Canadian society in general. It would also be a lost opportunity to build bridges with other stakeholders, and that too would be truly unfortunate.

Saint John Museum opens for 15th season

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

SAINT JOHN, N.B. — A year ago, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum was almost on the verge of closing after 13 successful years.

But with the recent official opening of its 15th season, the museum is on a solid financial footing. New exhibits are ready and officials are sure last year's total of 4,000 visitors will be surpassed.

"We needed to raise money quickly a year ago to get our 14th season under way," said museum president Lloyd Goldsmith. "We did it and are healthy for now but, like most non-profits, will always be faced with the need to raise money."

He suggested that an annual campaign for operating expenses will be necessary so the museum doesn't eat up what it has. "We can't do a lot corporately in a small community like Saint John. We are seeking help from national foundations but realize they fund specific projects, not operating expenses."

Curator Katherine Biggs-Craft is excited about new displays and strong, ongoing ones. "Our permanent exhibit, a collection of religious artifacts, our chapel, mikvah and Hebrew school classroom, is always there. We have an archives and library which attracts historians and genealogists.

"But this year, we have an exhibit of Jewish immigration to Saint John, a collection of photos of immigrant families, how they travelled, pictures of Partridge Island in Saint John harbour where they landed, and treasures they brought with them, such as a Russian samovar, greenglass pitcher and glasses from Poland, religious books from Europe, all treasures loaned or donated by members of our community."

She said there is a selection of 20 early-20th century postcards from New York City depicting traditional Jewish life as well as an art show on a Jewish theme, loaned by members of the Saint John community.

"It's exciting that we have 80 cruise ships coming to our port this summer," said Biggs-Craft. "We have started a Jewish bus tour, meeting travellers at the port, and guiding them through the city's north end where the community used to be, through the museum and synagogue and to the cemetery."

Obituaries

Winnipeg activist helped found Jewish museum

BY MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — With the passing of Marion Vickar on May 23, the Jewish world has lost a woman renowned for her generosity and community involvement.

"My mother was a humble, self-effacing person," says her daughter, Elaine Sharfe of Saskatoon. "I was surprised at how much people thought of her and the number of people who called to tell me about her kindnesses."

Marion Vickar was born in Hoffer, Saskatchewan, 85 years ago. Her parents, Israel and Clara Hoffer (the town was named after her family), were early pioneers and founders of one of the Jewish farm colonies in southern Saskatchewan.

Marion Hoffer was a teacher in Saskatchewan before marrying Ed Vickar. The newlyweds operated a general store in rural Saskatchewan for a time. Later, Ed acquired his first car dealership in Melfort, Saskatchewan.

In Melfort, Marion was involved in a host of Jewish and general community organizations. She was particularly active with the Canadian Mental Health Association, helping to establish programs for those with mental illness or special needs. Sharfe notes Marion was a member of the jury that established the precedent in Saskatchewan of not guilty by reason of insanity.

Ed and Marion Vickar moved to Winnipeg in 1963 when Ed bought Community Chevrolet here. Marion Vickar continued her community work. She was president of her Hadassah chapter, chair of the Women's Division of the CJA and chair of The Inner Circle, the Rotary Club's largest service branch.

Together, Ed and Marion generously contributed to a wide range of Israel-based organizations including the JNF, State of Israel Bonds, the Canadian Zionist Federation, and Israel's major universities. They also endowed the Hoffer-Vickar Chair of Orthomolecular Studies, Department of Psychiatry at Ben-Gurion University and built a visitor's centre at the university campus in Sde Boker.

In Winnipeg, their most lasting contribution is the Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of Western Canada, at the Asper Jewish Community Campus.

"My mother was truly my father's silent partner," says Sharfe.

"He wouldn't have succeeded in all he did without her."

Sharfe notes that while her mother was not a shul-goer, keeping a Jewish home was important to her. She also recalls that her mother's interests included painting, collecting and reading.

"She was a voracious reader, always eager to learn," Sharfe says.

Marion Vickar had been ill for the past two years suffering from congestive heart failure. In addition to her husband and daughter, she is survived by her son, Gary Vickar in St. Louis, seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a brother, Dr. Abram Hoffer in Victoria.

Developer supported Baycrest

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ben Katz, a man known for his interest in the welfare of the Jewish elderly, died recently. He was 94.

The Baycrest Hospital, where he died, bears his name and that of his wife, Hilda, who is 90.

Ben and Hilda Katz remain the single largest donors to Baycrest. Their donations of more than $10 million have included contributions to the Rotman Research Institute, as well as to gerontological nursing and social work.

Their charitable foundation has also contributed to more than 40 social and cultural groups.

Katz was a member of the United Jewish Peoples Order.

Though he did not finish high school, Katz became a wealthy developer, investing in building houses and apartment buildings in Brampton.

By the age of nine, his entrepreneurial ability began to emerge when he earned money rolling cigarettes for German troops stationed near the Polish town where he was born.

In 1924, Katz, who was one of four children, came to Canada at age 18 and worked to pay for passage to Canada for his two sisters. After the war, he sponsored three first cousins who survived the Holocaust.

During the war, he lived in Chesley, near Owen Sound, operating a dress shop, but returned to Toronto after the war.

His mother-in-law, Rose Shanfield, was a resident of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in the 1960s. At the time, Katz commented that "we could make life better for the elderly." This led to the creation of the 300-bed Baycrest Hospital.

"He recognized the needs of others," said Malca Sufrin, a niece, and former high school teacher, who added that he insisted on paying her university expenses.

Parc Downsview Park
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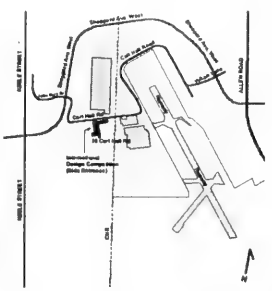
PUBLIC MEETINGS/OPEN HOUSES
TREE CITY WINNING PARK DESIGN CONCEPT
DOWNSVIEW PARK INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION
Tuesday, June 20, 2000 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 28, 2000 from 7:00 p.m.– 9:30 p.m

Please join us for two public meetings on **Tuesday, June 20th** and **Wednesday, June 28th**. The purpose of these meetings is to present "TREE CITY", the winning park design concept of the Downsview Park International Design Competition. These presentations will be led by Bruce Mau on June 20th and Rem Koolhaas on June 28th. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer period and an Open House.

Open Houses will also be held on June 21 & 22 from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** and on June 24th from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.**



The public meetings and open houses will be held in the Downsview Park International Design Competition Exhibit Area located at 35 Carl Hall Road in the rear of the Parc Downsview Park Project Office (see map). Please enter through the west-side entrance of the building. For further information please call Tony Genco, Manager of Community Affairs and Director of Special Events at (416) 952-2223.

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PRIME study focuses on treatment of schizophrenia

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Researchers at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health are taking part in a study to see if early intervention can prevent the onset or reduce the serious effects of schizophrenia.

Other institutions in this PRIME study include Yale University, University of Calgary and the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Robert Zipursky, clinical director of the schizophrenia and continuing care program at the centre and associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto, and Dr. Irvin Epstein, director of the PRIME Clinic and assistant professor at the University of Toronto, talked to *The CJN* about the disease and the study.

The PRIME study, which began in fall 1999 (people can join until December of this year), is a random study to prove whether early intervention with medication will help those with very early symptoms and those with a family history of the disease.

Epstein noted that "in Australia, preliminary evidence is that without medication, 40 percent of such people will go on to have a psychotic episode."

Dr. Irvin Epstein

The study begins with assessments of both the person and the family.

It is very important to have the family involvement, the two doctors stressed, to help the patient through the very difficult process of learning to deal with the situation.

The goal of the current study, and of a program under way at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health called First Episode, is to prevent all hospitalizations, not only "to reduce hospital costs," said Zipursky somewhat tongue-in-cheek, but to return people to their homes and to normal lives.

Contrary to popular myth, schizophrenia has nothing to do with split personalities or multiple personalities, and people with the disease are not necessarily violent, severely disabled or homeless, Zipursky stressed.

"Schizophrenia is a splitting of the mind between emotion and thought," he explained. "It is a brain disorder, a biological illness that leads to a dysfunction in reality testing."

The disease, which affects about one percent of the population across all ethnic and racial boundaries, typically begins during the period between adolescence and young adulthood – between 18 and 25 in men, and from 22 to 29 in women, although it may appear as early as 12.

The difference may have something to do with the higher level of estrogen in women, or because men are more likely to "act out" behaviourally, while women internalize.

Early symptoms, which may occur some five years before the person loses touch with reality, include distancing from friends, family, usual interests, or jobs; emotional distancing; lack of motivation and focus; depression; and anxiety.

While some of these symptoms mimic typical adolescent angst, Zipursky said it is the difference between someone saying, "I feel depressed," as opposed to someone not realizing the decline in their personality.

In a full-blown schizophrenic episode, there may be hallucinations, severe paranoia, bizarre delusions (thinking that they are Napoleon or God, for instance), disorganized language and disturbed behaviour.

Dr. Robert Zipursky

There may be some genetic connection, Zipursky said, adding that one out of five people with schizophrenia has a clear family history of the disease.

Epstein added that "in previous years it may have gone unrecognized, or been hidden, especially in environments where arranged marriages are common."

It used to be believed that hospitalization was the best treatment for schizophrenia. Now, new drugs, especially those with few side effects, such as risperidone (Risperdal), olanzapine (Zyprexa) and clozapine, often help.

This seems to be particularly true if the drugs are prescribed early.

While 80 percent of people with a first episode of schizophrenia have a full recovery after one year on these medications, Zipursky said, it is also true that "80 per cent [of them] will have a second episode, probably almost entirely due to not taking their medications."

Medications with few, if any, side effects may lessen the tendency to quit taking them, as will education and a strong system of support.

An incidence of one percent may seem very low; however, in the Toronto Jewish community, for instance, it means that nearly 2,000 people have this devastating disease, which can (and in the past did) lead to permanent disability.

Zipursky and Epstein pointed out that much of the research into early treatment has been done in places with well-developed national health care systems, such as Canada, Israel, Australia and Europe.

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Baycrest named Employer of the Year

TORONTO — The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario has named Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care Employer of the Year.

The award recognizes a health care organization that promotes excellence in clinical care as well as a commitment to professional nursing practice, research and professional development.

"RNAO is proud to sponsor this award. It is vital that employers like Baycrest, who are highly committed to excellence in nursing practice and who create environments conductive to its achievement, be publicly acknowledged," says Shirlee Sharkey, RNAO president.

"Outstanding employers make a substantive difference in the lives of patients and the lives of nurses," she said.

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See Page 36

UN confirms Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — After much debate on Sunday, the United Nations Security Council endorsed the finding that Israel is now in full compliance with a 1978 Security Council resolution.

Lebanon's rejection of the U.N. conclusion that Israeli forces had completely withdrawn from Lebanon initially prompted the Security Council to delay endorsing Secretary-General Kofi Annan's finding that Israel is now in full compliance with the 1978 resolution.

The council – in a nod to Russia, which presented the Lebanese view during the Security Council's deliberations – also acknowledged that there may have been some violations of the border since last Friday, when Annan confirmed that Israel had withdrawn to the international border.

Earlier in the day, Russia's attempts to block the council from issuing the endorsement angered other diplomats, who accused Russia of working with Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon.

The Security Council did not need Lebanon's agreement, but without it, the United Nations would not have acted on plans to station peacekeepers in the region which Israel evacuated last month.

Israel considers the presence of such peacekeepers, along with the Lebanese military, crucial to bringing security to the area, which is now under the control of Hezbollah gunmen.

For its part, Hezbollah has threatened to renew attacks against Israel if the Jewish state does not withdraw from territory that Lebanon is claiming.

Annan, who is currently visiting several countries in the Middle East, was slated to visit Lebanon on Monday and discuss the situation with Lebanese leaders.

He downplayed the disagreement, describing it on Sunday as "a hiccup that will be overcome."

Israel welcomed Annan's finding, adding that it expected U.N. peacekeepers and the Lebanese army to take up positions in the area vacated by the Israeli army. Lebanon has dispatched security forces to the area, but has yet to deploy any army troops there.

EU ready to recognize PA state

By AKIVA ELDAR
Ha'aretz Daily News Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The European Union is getting ready to recognize a Palestinian state if one is declared in September, whether by agreement with Israel or unilaterally.

A special committee of EU officials is currently discussing the status of the European consulates in Jerusalem, after the EU recognizes a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In the Berlin Declaration of March 1999, the EU expressed support for the setting up of a Palestinian state and called on both sides to conclude the negotiations within a year.

In return for Yasser Arafat's willingness to postpone the declaration, set for May 1999, most of the EU countries promised to recognize a Palestinian state if Israel and the PA failed to reach agreement by the end of 2000.

The United States officially denied that the Berlin Declaration had been co-ordinated with it, but American sources have said the declaration was preceded by a favourable nod from Washington to Brussels.

Israel's Foreign Ministry fears that France's assumption of the rotating EU presidency at the beginning of next month will further promote Palestinian efforts to invoke the Berlin Declaration. It did not escape Israeli attention that President Jacques Chirac was the only Western leader to attend Syrian President Hafez Assad's recent funeral.

Oil hike could bring Iran nukes

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Senior Israeli analysts warn that the sharp rise in international oil prices in the last few months will allow Iran to intensify its nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles programs.

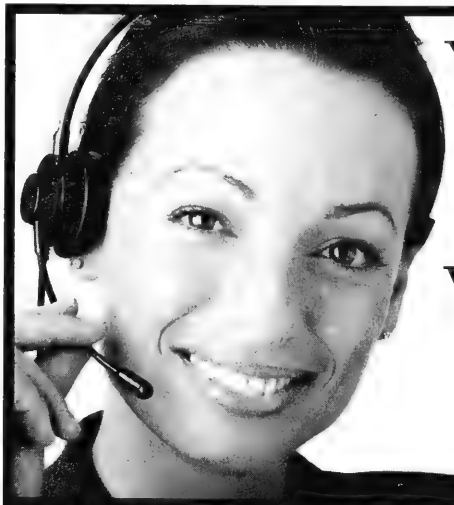
In addition, these additional revenues will enable Iran to provide extensive support to radical Islamic groups outside its borders.

In reports by military intelligence and the Foreign Ministry – recently presented to senior government officials – a past correlation between oil prices and Iran's ability "to export Islamic revolution" was shown.

Analysts say the effort to build nuclear weapons, a priority for the Iranian regime, has a guaranteed budget which never shrinks, even when the national economy hits low points.

But these experts believe the increase in revenues from oil exports will expedite Iran's efforts to arm itself with non-conventional weapons.

Experts say the rise in oil consumption internationally stems from growing economies and seasonal needs – mainly in east Asia, where a recovery is apparent after last year's economic slump.



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**On Wednesday, September 27,
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for their outstanding contribution to Canadian society**

Nominations from across Canada are invited from organizations or individuals, together with a brief profile and biography.

Individuals who were nominated in 1998 are welcome to put their nomination forward again.

NOMINATION FORM
DEADLINE: MONDAY, JULY 31, 2000

Name of Survivor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (day): (___) _____ Phone (evening): (___) _____

Fax: (___) _____ E-mail: _____

Attach a short description of nominee's background. Guidelines: a brief description of the nominee which may include biographical information, accomplishments and contribution to Canada.

I Agree to be a Nominee:

Signature: _____

Name of Nominating Organization or Individual: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

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Four Iranian Jews retract 'confessions'

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Four of the 13 Iranian Jews accused of spying for Israel retracted their "confessions" in court last week, according to an American advocate.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations, said Shahrokh Paknahad, Farzad Kashi, Nasser Levi Haim and Farhad Saleh told Judge Sadeq Nourani that their "confessions" had been made under duress.

A Muslim accused of collaborating with the Jews also denied the charge.

"We should not be overly optimistic about these reports, but these are certainly positive developments," said Hoenlein, whose organization has long contended that all 13 Jews are innocent and has been active in advocating on their behalf.

Reuters quoted the Jews' attorney, Esmail Nasseri, as saying that the court proceedings "were of benefit to our clients and strengthen the defence team's assertions that our clients are not guilty."

Pooya Dayanim, a spokesperson for the Council of Iranian American Jewish Organizations in Los Angeles, said the Jewish community in Shiraz is "becoming more confident every day. Our hope is that the other people who allegedly confessed can be brought to court so they can recant their confessions as well," he said.

When nine of the Jews "confessed" last month, observers insisted that they were coerced after having spent 15 months in solitary confinement, with human contact limited mostly to interrogators.

The Jews were arrested more than a year ago and three were released on bail in February.

The trial was closed to the public and the judge also assumed the role of investigator, prosecutor and jury. That would be considered a clear conflict of interest under Western law.

A verdict was expected at the end of this week.

Mandela warns not to condemn Iran

By SUZANNE BELLING
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JOHANNESBURG, S.A. — Former President Nelson Mandela is defending his recent statements that 13 Iranian Jews are getting a fair hearing in their espionage trial.

"I am doing everything to save the lives of those people," Mandela said last week at a gathering celebrating a new book written by South Africa's Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris – *For Heaven's Sake: The Chief Rabbi's Diary.*

Mandela said he warned U.S. Jewish leaders in New York last month that "by condemning the trial, you are endangering the lives of those 13" who are accused by Iran of spying for Israel.

After Mandela called the espionage trial "free and fair" during his U.S. visit last month, the American Jewish Committee cancelled a luncheon in his honour.

Mandela is believed to be the only high-profile figure in the world to have spoken out in favour of Iran's handling of the trial, which began last month.

"What we must consider is how to save those 13 and the best thing to do is not to force the Iranians to say, 'We want to show the United States of America and Israel that we are an independent country – so we are going to pass the death sentence and execute those people,'" Mandela said at last week's event.

Mandela, 82, has enjoyed warm relations with South Africa's Jewish community.

The Week in Israel

June 12

• A delegation of Israeli Arab Knesset members received permission to attend Syrian President Hafez al-Assad's funeral. More than 100 Druze, however, were refused entry into Syria.

June 13

• Israeli and Palestinian officials resumed negotiations toward a final peace deal, at two air force bases near Washington. No details of the talks were provided by the State Department.

June 14

• Prime Minister Ehud Barak said he would press on with the peace process despite a threat by a leading coalition party to quit his government. His comments came as officials from the Shas party said it was unlikely they would back off their plans to resign from the government Sunday.

• The IDF is preparing for another outbreak of Palestinian violence in the territories before a final peace deal is reached. A senior army officer said the Palestinians are more interested in achieving statehood through confrontation than through negotiation.

June 15

• "There is a very wide gap" between the Israeli and Palestinian positions and it is unlikely a final peace accord will be reacted by a September deadline, Foreign Minister David Levy said.

June 16

• The Shas party could lose up to six of its 17 Knesset seats if elections were held soon according to a poll sponsored by Israel Radio. According to a *Ma'ariv* poll, 55 percent of the public is dissatisfied with the way the prime minister has handled the Shas ultimatum.

Files from JTA

Supreme Court head extols human rights

Continued from page 1

"But the lesson was not hatred, not the hopelessness of human nature. It was the spirit of the human being and the ability to overcome difficulties and to survive."

In a warmly received address, the 64-year-old Barak, under whose direction Israel's Supreme Court has issued a number of often unpopular rulings affirming the rights of Israelis and Arabs alike, said the Holocaust imbued him with a sense of "the centrality of the human being and the importance of human rights."

Judging "is a lost art," said Barak, who assumed the Supreme Court's presidency in 1995 after serving as Israel's attorney general and dean of law at Hebrew University. A judge should have no agenda, he offered.

"I am neutral, but neutrality is not the same as indifference." A judge should "protect and further human rights and the dignity of man...to search and find the appropriate balance between the rights of the individual and the rights of a society."

Barak returned repeatedly to his theme that human rights are paramount; that they need to be applied equally at the same time as the rule of law must prevail.

And it's not just the rule of law "but the rule of democratic law [balancing] the needs of the state and the right of the individual. A democracy is not just majority rule. A majority which violates the rights of the minority does not act in a democratic way."

In introducing Barak, Peter Hogg, dean of the law school, noted many of the Israeli Supreme Court's recent decisions: allowing women to serve on local religious councils; upholding equal rights among same-sex partners; striking down the military's use of administrative detention; and stopping the army's use of torture.

In May, the court issued a landmark decision: allowing women to read from the Torah in organized prayer at the Western Wall and ordering the security apparatus to protect them.

Barak praised Canada as a constitutional role model, saying our Charter of Rights is "an example to the world," and that Canada's Supreme Court "is one of the best in the world."

Israel relied on Canada's charter in revising its own constitutional laws in 1992.

But rights, Barak said, don't come easily or automatically. They "must be protected every week, every day, every hour."

His presence at York was an initial step in the university's plan to establish a visiting professorship in Jewish law and ethics.

Just prior to the convocation ceremony, Barak explained his concept of judging to a select group of lawyers and law professors.

"I do think judges have agendas. Judges are neutral and independent [but] not neutral in personal values. A judge's mission is to build bridges between law and life."

Another is to uphold the constitution, and, of course, human rights.

"His or her agenda is to seek balance. It's a mistake to talk just about human rights. Human beings have rights only within communities. Therefore, the peace and tranquility of the community is a major interest and value which judges should take into account. Communities do not exist for the individual.

"The proper agenda for a judge is to do his or her best to find proper balance between individual and community. A judge should reflect the values of his or her society. He should reflect history and not hysteria."

Last Thursday, Barak addressed a gathering sponsored by the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University.

At York, he earned polite laughter when he noted the many compliments he'd received in Toronto. "At home, I'm not used to hearing nice things."

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Deadline for submission: Friday, June 30, 2000.

The Canadian Jewish News extend sincerest condolences to our colleague and friend
Carolan Halpern and her family
on the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother
Jennie Zuker ז"ל

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Israel & the Jewish World

Jurists will address issues 'on the Jewish agenda'

By PAUL LUNGEN & VIVA PRESS
CJN Reporters

Lawyers, judges and academics from around the world will gather in Toronto this summer for a watershed meeting of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ).

For the first time since the IAJLJ was founded in 1969, the human rights organization will hold a conference in North America. As many as 1,000 delegates from 30 countries are expected to attend the meeting, which runs from Aug. 13 to 16 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel. The conference theme this year is, Pursuing Justice in the Global Village.

Canadian and international legal personalities are expected to participate in the conference's plenary and in smaller sessions. Among those scheduled to address the meetings are: Yossi Beilin, Israel's Minister of Justice; Yoram Dinstein, former president of Tel Aviv University; MP Irwin Cotler, professor of law at McGill University; Prof. David Unterhalter, director of the centre for applied legal studies at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; Justice Rosalie Abella and John I. Laskin of the Ontario Court of Appeal; and Prof. Amnon Rubinstein, chair of the Knesset Law Committee.

Organizing committee chair Igor Ellyn was excited about the prospect of Toronto hosting the event. This "signifies a desire of the association to bring it to the attention of many more lawyers and jurists in North America who are interested in the association's work," he said.

Besides raising the organization's profile in Canada and the United States, the meeting will serve as a forum to discuss key issues of justice and it will provide Jewish jurists with a means of networking, he said.

The conference will provide Jewish perspectives on human rights, democracy, media and commerce. Plenary sessions will address issues of crimes against humanity, electronic anti-Semitism, and the way in which Jewish and Israeli issues are portrayed in the international media. Smaller sessions will examine such issues as secular justice and religious law, free trade in the global village and the restitution of Holocaust era assets.

Cotler, honorary chair of the conference, said the meeting should strengthen the already firm ties that bind Canada and Israel. The legal relationship is "the crown jewel in the Canada-Israel relationship," he said.

During Prime Minister Chrétien's recent visit to Israel, Israeli Chief Justice Aharon Barak pointed out that Canada's Charter of Rights is the source of inspiration for Israel's basic laws on human rights and that Canadian jurisprudence is cited by Israeli courts more often than the legal decisions of any other country, Cotler said.

Hadessah Ben-Itto

Israeli jurist Hadassah Ben-Itto, who heads the IAJLJ, said Toronto was selected to host the conference because "we have a very impressive committee of lawyers in Canada."

Ben-Itto, who will address the IAJLJ's opening session, has been the president of the association for 12 years. During a legal career that spanned 36 years, she served as justice of the Supreme Court in Israel and vice-president of the Tel Aviv District Court. When she was appointed to the bench in 1960, she was the youngest judge in Israel and only the fifth woman to be named to the bench.

She served on Israel's delegation to the UN in 1965, and again 10 years later in 1975.

Today, she is one of the 17 judges – and the only woman – on the international tribunal in Switzerland that deals with dormant accounts of Holocaust victims.

On October 31, 1991, Ben-Itto officially presided over her last hearing. A few months earlier she shocked Israel's legal community by announcing her early retirement. Her reason: to research and write a book about *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the Russian secret police forgery that claims a Jewish conspiracy for world domination.

Although officially retired, Ben-Itto, 74, still presides over commercial arbitrations and she serves as president of the IAJLJ and its quarterly magazine, *Justice*.

"There's nothing in our world that doesn't have some legal aspect," she said in a telephone interview from her home in Tel Aviv. "That's why [law] is so interesting. The law deals with real problems of people. It's very exciting. I loved every day both as a lawyer and on the bench. That's why I'm still involved in it in the association..

"When I started practising law I think I was the only woman in Israel who practised criminal law privately," she said. "We were a generation that paved the way for the women who came after us."

Today more than 50 percent of Israel's judiciary are women, she noted.

Ben-Itto, who has one daughter and two grandchildren, said she always had an interest in the private life of the Jewish people.

"You name it, the IAJLJ deals with all issues on the Jewish agenda. It's a continuation of what I did all of my life," she said.

Jazz singer Julie Michels performs at Le Select Bistro

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Cool jazz sounds will waft through the air when American-born, Toronto-based jazz singer Julie Michels, performs at Le Select Bistro on June 25, as part of the du Maurier Downtown Jazz in Toronto.

Michels will be joined on stage by bassist John Greggie and guitarist Kim Ratcliffe, both members of the Ottawa-based band, Chelsea Bridge. The trio mixes old with new, from freshly written originals to standards by some of Michels' favourite composers, like George Gershwin and Cole Porter.

A singer who also plays guitar and percussion and "mucks around" with piano and bass, Michels has no qualms about including tunes from other genres like Lyle Lovett's *First Mistake*.

Michels has only praise for her band members. "Playing with musicians like this is a privilege that singers don't always get," she says, noting that unlike other bands, hers is a true team effort.

Michels' earlier years were spent travelling the world as a U.S. army brat with her father Mike Saylor, mother, Lou, a former musical theatre performer and two equally musical sisters.

When Michels was 12, her father, who was by then working as a civilian, moved the family to Toronto. "My mother says I used to hum when I nursed. One day she noticed I was humming in tune with the hi-fi," says the singer who has been performing since she was 15.

Her first attempt at formal training was not too successful. "I tried studying opera at one point, but I was told by a coloratura soprano, a woman who can hit notes only dogs can hear, that I have a hormonal imbalance, because normal healthy women couldn't sing the bass clef," Michels explains.

"She suggested I see a specialist. I thought, no, my hormones are just fine thank you. I have a four-octave range in the wrong direction, I sing too low to actively sing opera, so I started singing other stuff."

It wasn't until this political philosophy and economics student at the University of Wisconsin needed a course outside her major that she discovered a knack for jazz.

"There was a course called Black Music History," she says. "I wandered into the class and bassist Richard Davis teaching. He was a legend although I didn't know it at the time. He's played with Sarah Vaughan, Count Bassie and Shirley Horn. Igor Stravinsky wrote a little song for him. Richard changed my life."

Michels stayed in Wisconsin after university for a few years then decided to ply her talents in Europe. She says the experience was incredible but very frightening because she didn't know anyone.

She would go up to musicians and ask to sing. Europeans loved her stylings and Michels spent 2½ years singing on both sides of the Atlantic.

Julie Michels

At the North Sea Jazz Festival in The Hague, Netherlands, Michels was thrilled to be performing at the same venue as the late Betty Carter, a jazz icon who Michels credits as one of her greatest inspirations.

The vocalist resettled in Toronto in 1992. She continues to tour across the country and has garnered many fans from as far away as the Yukon.

Last year Michels was thrilled to be asked to open for Manhattan Transfer at Toronto's Molson Amphitheatre.

Michels has recorded an independent CD with bassist George Koller called *Singing Naked* and is about to start production on her second effort. When she is not performing, the former chef enjoys cooking, camping, canoeing, reading and is an avid moviegoer.

She hopes the next time she performs in the north, she can spend some time canoeing down the Yukon River.

"What motivates me to sing, at least in part, is very spiritual. For me to be able to sing and make music is a gift. I don't take it for granted – ever, ever, ever!"

For advance reservations for Michels' 7:45 p.m. du Maurier Downtown Jazz concert at Le Select Bistro, 328 Queen St. W., call 416-596-6405.

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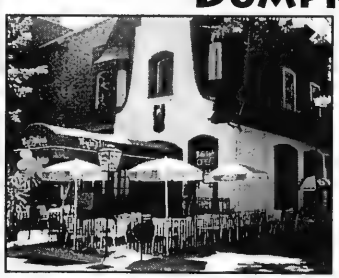

Bumpkin's, since 1971, is situated in a Victorian house with an inviting atmosphere and warm fireplace. The huge menu includes duck a l'orange, quails and sauteed frog legs; for seafood, try the best-selling Shrimps Bumpkin's, fresh Atlantic salmon, stuffed rainbow trout, or fresh catch of the day. The choice of tender, juicy meat items includes roast beef, sirloin, filet mignon and sirloin butt steak; there are also fine vegetarian dishes, like pasta primavera. Daily specials include tiger shrimp, pasta aux fruits de mer, and surf 'n turf. Appetizers are from $3.95, entrees from $9.95; lunches include soup or salad. Best escargots & mussels in town! Angelo and his colleagues are ready to offer you the best service.
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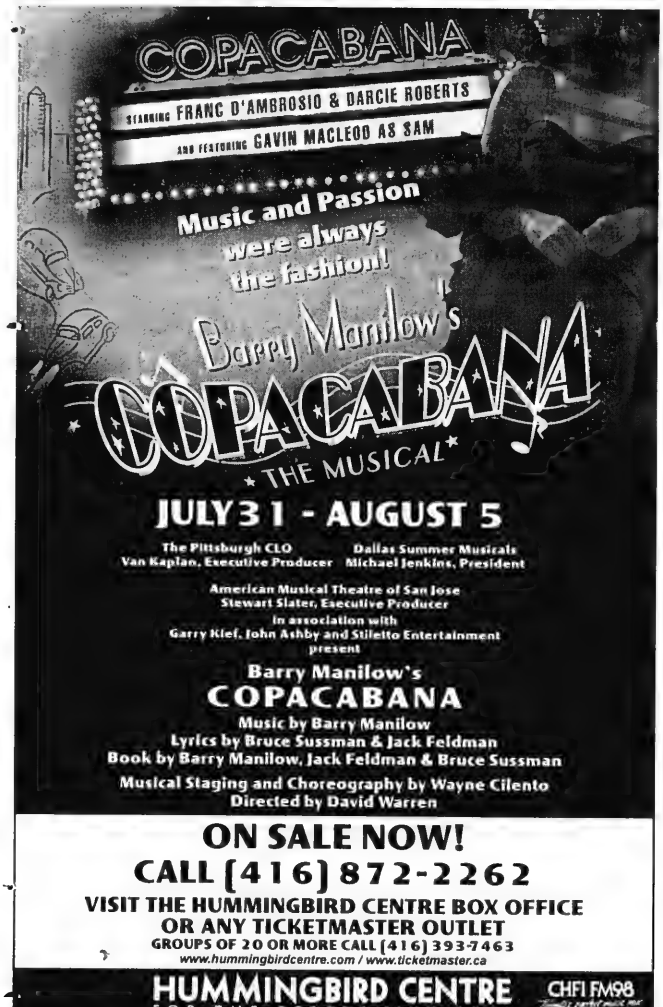
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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

If you've been to Israel, chances are you've travelled on Highway 1, the 64-kilometre expressway between the country's two main cities, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The journey from one to the other usually takes about 45 minutes.

The six-lane highway crosses the Plain of Sharon, skirts Ben-Gurion International Airport, then rises through the Valley of Ayalon where, 3,500 years ago, Joshua bade the sun stand still.

If you let time stand still for you for a few hours, there are many things to see in the vicinity.

Just past the midway point between the two cities, the highway enters the steep Shaar Hagai Valley and snakes up to Jerusalem, 840 metres above sea level. Here one looks eagerly, and often with growing anticipation, at the farms, villages, and valleys and hills reforested with pine trees. From this point, Jerusalem is only about 20 minutes away.

By exiting Highway 1 at the Shaar Hagai interchange and driving south along Route 38, travellers arrive at Kibbutz Tzora. Founded in the 1940s, Tzora boasts a thriving boutique winery that produces both red and white vintages. The kibbutz, which dates back to the nation's pioneer heyday, sells vegetables, breads and cheeses. Guided tours of the flower-filled village are available.

About 20 kilometres further is Bet Guvrin and its assortment of fascinating ancient caves, some quite extensive with vast vaults and (in one case) a gloriously painted interior. One is fashioned as a columbarium, with thousands of tiny niches believed to be originally for housing pigeons.

Adjacent to Bet Guvrin is Tel Maresha, a steep mound on the site of a substantial metropolis dating back 2,500 years. Excavations have revealed remains of Israelite, Greek and Roman cities.

Returning north, take Route 375 into the green Valley of Elah, where the young David slew Goliath with his slingshot. The Elah brook still gurgles as it did in David's day. Also in the area is the Sorek cave, a small but extraordinary stalactite cave discovered during blasting at a nearby quarry in 1967. The lighting installed by the Israel Parks Authority has won international praise for the way it highlights the natural colours and shapes to best advantage.

Another destination off Highway 1, about 32 kilometres from Tel Aviv, is the Trappist Monastery of Latrun. Visitors may tour the monastery and sample the monks' wines, fiery brandy, olive oil and honey.

From Latrun, take Route 3 to Kibbutz Tal Shahar and the well-known Soreq Winery. The grounds of the kibbutz make a delightful picnic stop.

Nearer to Jerusalem, on the north side of the highway, the village of Abu Ghosh boasts an elegant crusader church, built in 1142, and a monastery where the Ark of the Covenant rested for 20 years before King David took it to Jerusalem.

A prosperous Arab town, Abu Ghosh also boasts the irreverent Elvis Inn, a fun restaurant and shrine celebrating the life of the modern pop idol.

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ALON NASHMON PLAYS *ALPHONSE* AT BLOOR JCC

Alon Nashman, the versatile actor who appeared in *Reading Hebron, Easy Lenny Lazmon* and many other well-noted plays, takes on multiple roles in the award-winning one-man play *Alphonse*, by Montreal playwright **Wajdi Mouawad**.

Alphonse is "a fantasia on the imagination of a child," a boy who embarks on a "coming-of-age pilgrimage." A powerful play for young people, it deals with adult questions in a highly theatrical and imaginative manner, and is suitable for adults and children aged seven or higher.

The play is presented by the Fringe Festival and Theaturtle, which describes itself as "a cutting-edge, super creative, Jewish inspired theatre [company] in Toronto."

"We're a young company with deep roots," says artistic director Nashman, who established Theaturtle in 1998. "We draw on Jewish source texts, history, music and spirit, and attempt to derive their meaning in a contemporary context."

Bloor JCC, Courtyard Playground ("where the sun always shines"), 750 Spadina Ave. Adults $8, children $5. Multiple performances at various times between July 6 and 16. Fringe Hotline, 416-966-1062.

* * *

A Revue Returns: Due to popular demand, the Civic Light Opera Company is restaging The MGM Revue, which features musical sequences from famous Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer movie musicals including *Singin'in the Rain, Gigi, The Wizard of Oz, An American in Paris* and many others. The previous production, at the Fairview Library Theatre in March, was sold out.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

One of the revue's stars is **Carol Kugler**, preschool music specialist at Toronto's Temple Sinai. Kugler won attention in the company's spring production of State Fair. The production also features **Bob Deutsch, Lisa Malcolm, Joe Cascone** and many others.

The MGM Revue is at the Fairview Library Theatre, North York, for three performances before starting a tour of southern Ontario. July 23 & 24. Adults $15. 416-203-7839.

* * *

Freedman's Weighty Drama: Susan Freedman, who claims to weigh 110 pounds, is staging her hit one-woman show *Fifty-Seven And Still Lying About My Weight!* as part of the upcoming Toronto Fringe Festival.

The 45-minute show is a "funny and moving object lesson in being a survivor," says the writer-actor, who has been called "a modern-day success story" by the *National Post*. Her show runs July 6 to 16 at the Helen Gardiner Phelan Theatre, 79A St. George St. $8. 416-862-2222.

Also featured in the Fringe Festival is *Breaking Legs!* a wry comedy about what goes on behind the scenes in the theatre business. The playwright is **Alphra Zimmerman**, who also takes a role in the seven-person cast. Poor Alex, July 7 to 15. $8. 416-862-2222.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• A collection of 31 rare etchings by **Rembrandt** are on view at the Odon Wagner Gallery, 196 Davenport Rd. 416-962-0438.

• The Toronto Fringe Festival's 24-Hour Playwrighting Contest is accepting applications for its upcoming contest (July 6) in which participants are given a group of locations, objects and concepts that must be incorporated into their scripts. Top prize is $300. 416-966-1062.

• Professional hypnotist **Mike Mandel** has rescheduled a two-day workshop after dust from an office renovation led to a severe allergic reaction. Previous ticket-holders please note that a "dust-check" policy is in effect. Places are still available for the workshop, slated for July 8 and 9. $699. 416-750-7999.

• Comedian, singer, actress and writer **Sandra Bernhard** returns to Massey Hall with her new Broadway show *I'm Still Here ... Damn It!* June 21, 8 p.m. $29.50-$49.50. 416-872-4255.

• Folk singer **Noah Zacharin** is releasing his third CD *aLIVE* on June 29 at the Tranzac, 292 Brunswick Ave. (just south of Bloor). Doors open 8:30, music starts at 9 p.m.

Answers to this week's crossword puzzle.

1 L	2 A	3 W	■	4 S	5 K	6 I	7 T	■	■	■	8 P	9 A	10 S	11 S
12 O	L	E	■	13 C	A	N	W	14 E	■	15 N	A	C	H	T
16 A	L	I	■	17 I	T	D	I	D	■	18 O	S	C	A	R
19 F	I	Z	20 Z	■	21 Z	O	N	I	22 N	G	■	23 U	Z	I
■	■	24 M	A	25 H	I	■	26 B	E	A	■	27 A	S	A	P
28 O	29 N	A	H	O	R	30 S	E	■	31 V	32 I	P	E	R	S
33 P	E	N	N	S	■	34 A	D	35 D	O	N	S	■	■	■
36 T	O	N	■	37 T	38 O	V	■	39 U	N	A	■	40 R	41 U	42 E
■	■	■	43 R	E	N	E	44 W	S	■	45 B	46 R	E	N	T
47 M	48 O	49 B	I	L	E	■	50 E	T	51 H	I	O	P	I	A
52 A	R	E	D	■	53 A	54 S	I	■	55 E	T	T	U	■	■
56 D	I	N	■	57 B	L	A	Z	58 E	R	■	59 E	B	60 A	61 N
62 D	O	Z	63 E	S	■	64 A	M	A	Z	65 E	■	66 L	I	E
67 E	L	V	I	S	■	68 B	A	T	O	N	■	69 I	D	I
70 R	E	I	N	■	■	■	71 N	A	G	S	■	72 C	A	L

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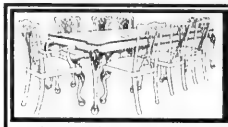
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The Canadian Jewish news

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Arts & Travel

The Travellers: Almost 50 years of folk tunes

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — For almost 50 years The Travellers have been singing songs of brotherhood and peace – always available to lend their talents to causes they strongly believe in.

On June 24, at 8 p.m. the Canadian folk group will be performing at a concert in support of the Performing Arts Lodges of Canada in the courtyard of the PAL's downtown location at 110 The Esplanade.

This is the third year The Travellers have joined other entertainers to perform at PAL to raise awareness and funds for this organization which provides affordable housing and care for senior members of Canada's entertainment industry.

"This fundraising concert allows PAL to keep on doing what they are doing, housing still vibrant entertainers, now retired, but not retired from life, who didn't make much money working in the Canadian entertainment industry," says Jerry Gray, 66, one of the founding members of The Travellers and the only original still in the group.

Joining The Travellers for this concert and a few other appearances is founding member Sid Dolgay, who initiated the connection between PAL and The Travellers. The evening's entertainment will include Nancy White, Rick Fielding, Bill Garrett and Sue Lothrop with Curly Boy Stubbs.

The Travellers began in 1953 as an offshoot of the United Jewish People's Order's youth singers - a group that sang at union meetings and Jewish functions.

In addition to Gray and Dolgay, the original lineup included Gray's sister Helen, Oscar Ross and Jerry Goodis.

"We were attuned to the left of centre, we sang songs of the world and focused on Canada. In the '50s that wasn't an easy thing to do because of the McCarthy era," explains Gray.

"In 1954 we heard Pete Seeger sing the Woody Guthrie song, *This Land Is Your Land*, Pete told us we could do it because nobody in the States was going to sing it for a long time. So we changed the words to Canadian place names and recorded it for the first time in 1956. It struck a chord in the Canadian psyche. Canada was looking for a song that was different from the official national anthem at the time, *God Save The Queen*. Still to this day, we close every single program with that song."

While their left wing counterparts in the U.S. like Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie and The Weavers were being blacklisted, The Travellers gained notoriety.

"I guess the greatest amount of acceptance came in 1964 when we were politically cleared to sing at a Command Performance in Charlottetown for Her Majesty the Queen of England and Prince Phillip," adds Gray.

Over the years the personnel of the group changed, although the current incarnation has been together for almost 30 years. It includes Joe Hampson, Ted Roberts, Don Vickery and Aileen Ahern.

The Travellers have recorded 16 albums and have plans to record a 17th next year. The album will be a collection of songs about the labour movement based on an album the group originally recorded 30 years ago.

Over the years The Travellers have shared stages with Ian and Sylvia, Gordon Lightfoot, Anne Murray, Peter Appleyard, Oscar Peterson, Theodore Bikel, Harry Belafonte, and many more. They have performed for Canadian peacekeepers around the world.

The groupwill be featured in a documentary slated for broadcast this fall on History Television.

Both the Canadian Labour Congress and The Musicians' Union have honoured The Travellers for a lifetime of service and for their vision for a better life for humanity.

"The Canadian music scene is such that it is virtually impossible to maintain a career for as long as we have. I think we've done it by maintaining a sense of purpose and branching out. All the other members play with different groups and come together as The Travellers when we need to," states Gray, a retired dentist, now devoting his attention to The Travellers' busy concert schedule and to teaching a course this fall at the University of Toronto called Canadian Folk, Protest and Labour Music.

Tickets for the PAL concert cost $20 are available at the door or by phoning 416-777-9674.

Judaism: A Quest For Meaning

TVO series doesn't pull any punches

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The paradoxes and challenges of modern Jewish life in the new millennium are the key themes of a new 12-part TVOntario series, *Judaism: A Quest for Meaning*.

Produced by Sleeping Giant Productions, the first 30-minute episode gets under way on Friday, June 23 at 2:30 p.m.

Featuring interviews with rabbinical scholars like rabbis David Hartman, Dow Marmur and Arthur Hertzberg, the series examines Judaism from different angles: personal identity, women and feminism and the portrayal of God.

Judging by two episodes, the unifying theme which runs through the series is the tension between traditional Judaism and the modern forces of secularism, caused by the breakdown of a unified Jewish tradition after the Enlightenment.

Judaism, whose notions of ethics and justice laid the foundation of Western civilization, is beset by a sense of crisis today precisely because it is so tolerant a religion.

Rabbi Hartman, a resident of Jerusalem and a former spiritual leader of a Montreal synagogue, argues that Judaism survived a whole host of vicissitudes because it was bold and innovative. However, he calls for a "critical distance" of Judaism from the modern world.

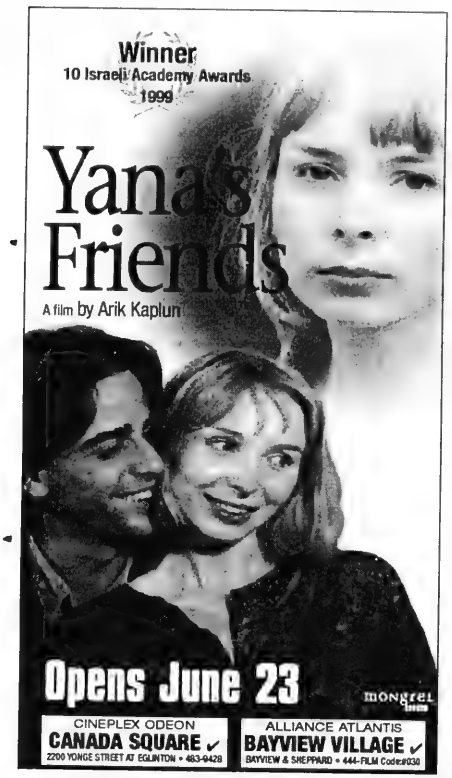
Rabbi Michael Marmur, of the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, believes that there should be a balance between tradition and modernity.

Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor and author who has dealt with Jewish issues, says that Judaism's challenge is to make Jewish learning relevant.

According to Rabbi Dow Marmur of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple, God is beyond our comprehension.

Dershowitz claims that most smart people have or have had doubts about God. But to one Hebrew University scholar interviewed here, God is "the king of the universe," humanity's suffering notwithstanding.

These and other questions are intelligently debated and probed by *Judaism*, a series that does not pull its punches.



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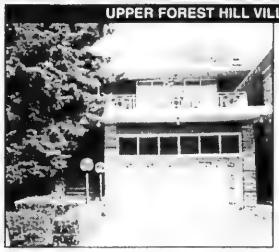

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Tuesday, June 27, for the July 6 edition.

Tuesday, July 4, for the July 13 edition.

There will be no edition the week of July 20.

The Canadian Jewish news

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2 storey, 4 bedrooms, large kit. w/o to deck, living room/dining room combination, hardwood and ceramic floors, double garage, walking distance to all schools & synagogues. View this property @ www.realtyphotours.com/springate

BATHURST & GLENCAIRN

1 year old 2 storey, 4 bedrooms, large principal rooms, laundry room on second floor, finished basement w/separate entrance. View this property @ www.realtyphototours.com/coldstream

MARSHA GOLDSTEIN
Sales Representative
416-229-4454
Royal LePage Partners Realty

BALMORAL

Wilson Hts./401, 5 bedroom Bramalea, 3,900 sq. ft., fin. basement, on court, 5-star. $789,000. Call to view!

Laurie Cochrane, Sales Rep.
Re/Max Realtron Realty
(416) 222-8600

ARMOUR HEIGHTS

Stunning Custom Built 3500+ sq. ft. MBR. w/walkout + retreat area, gourmet kit., fin. lower level w/walkout, 4BR., 4 WR., 4 fireplaces, direct entry from dbl. gar., fam. rm. w/walkout, perfect floor plan. All on a picturesque 218' deep lot. Value priced @ $729,000. Harvey Cooper, Cooper & Co. R.E. ltd. 416-322-0322.

REAL ESTATE Section

ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

BATHURST-MILL - PREMIUM LOT!
Approx. 4,200 sq. ft., exquisite 4 bdrm. home! Gourmet kit., 2 ensuites, lib., appliances, air, alarm+++ Must see! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-ATKINSON - ALL LARGE ROOMS
Large 4 bedrooms, double garage, appliances, close to shops, schools, shuls! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK - OVER 4,000 SQ. FT.
2 Kosher kitchens, finished basement apartment, 5+1 bedrooms, walk to synagogue. Stunning home! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-ATKINSON - ON QUIET CRESCENT
Premium lot! Lrge. 4 bdrm., mn. flr. den & fam. rm., fin. bsmnt., 2 ensuites, hrwd., ceramics, gourmet kit., extras! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK "SPRING FARM" HOME
Beautiful decor! 4 bdrms., fin. basement, new windows, new kitchen, inground swimming pool & more! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-STEELES - JUST REDUCED!
4 level backsplit w/ingrd. concrete pool! Reno. kitchen, ensuite bathroom, lrge. fam. rm. with walk-out to garden! *Helen Gould

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK.
Stunning 4 bedroom, wood floors, close to shuls, parks, schools, transit. Show great - must see! *Carey Rosenzweig

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK $319,900
Gorgeous 4 bedroom, finished basement, kosher kitchen, new addition at rear. *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-CHABAD GATE ONLY $259,900!
Lovely det. 3 bdrm., steps from shuls, TTC & shop.! Completely fin. bsmnt., 4 baths, new roof & driveway. *Abie Rosenberg

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

CLARK-HILDA "CONSERVATORY" JUST LISTED!
Fabulous large corner unit about 1,780 sq. ft., gleaming hardwood floors throughout plus many ugrades. Call *Sarah Rovet

• • •

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

(905) 764-7200

JUST LISTED - 45 PALM DRIVE

This beautifully landscaped 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom sidesplit is ideally located, walking distance to shuls, schools, parks and transportation. With a finished bsmnt./apt. and a separate side entrance, this could be the perfect family home for you! **Call Murray Rose, Sales Representative, Royal LePage 487-4311 with your inquires.**

UPPER VILLAGE
Rare 6 bedrooms. Walking distance to shuls, subway and parks. Huge open concept living/dining rooms. Main floor den with fireplace. Finished basement.

Weiss Realty Ltd. **Michael Weiss, Broker**
(416) 636-6800
www.weissrealty.com

The Canadian Jewish news
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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

I COVER THE WATERFRONT
LAKE SIMCOE "COTTAGES TO CASTLES"
45 min. drive from Toronto

LAKE SIMCOE
INCREDIBLE space & quality. 4.34 ac., 380' shore S. of Barrie - Arch. masterpiece 3 yrs. in the making, stone/glass/wood, boat hs., perm. pier. $2,650,000 (considerable Pr. reduction, if lot severed)

LAKE SIMCOE- SANDY COVE
FABULOUS 6,000 s.f. of flowing openness to sweeping sand beach. $1,250,000.

LAKE SIMCOE-
BELLE EWART ESTATE (DBL. LOT)
(Mins. to shul) MAGNIFICENT stone waterfront estate in total privacy, vast stone fireplace, walls of glass, open concept opens to wrap-around deck, gorg. kitchen, lux. master with double ens. & lounge, major waterfront improvements, sand beach - RARE BEAUTY!! $970,000

LAKE SIMCOE - BAY LANE
Kempenfelt Bay S. of Barrie. Privacy & space for kids - 5 bdrms & kit. like new, frpl., Fl. rm. w/o to lrge. deck. Gas heat. Tennis crt. share, marine rail. $319,000

LAKE SIMCOE - BELLE EWART
(35 min. to Tor.) **$274,900.** Lovely 4 bdrm. nicely renovated, large guest cottage, permanent pier.

Call the #1 Waterfront Specialist
Bernice Whelan
BERNICE WHELAN RLTY INC.
(705) 739-8000

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
633-7373

BATHURST SHEPPARD
Estate sale, 5 rm. bung., high development area, ideal for prof. use, across from Bathurst Sheppard plaza. Great investment!

• • •

CLARK ATKINSON
Custom 4 bdrm. 5 bths, up-to-date kit, bu[SOLD]s, den, fam. rm., w/out[illegible] bsmnt, quiet cres, Don't miss!

• • •

OVERBROOK ALLEN RD.
Tri-plex, 2-3 bdrm + 1-1 bdrm, bths ens, balcs, garages + pkg. Don't miss!

• • •

AVENUE RD WILSON
Store + 2 apts, fully rented, good income, busy location!

• • •

A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Centre/Atkinson 4 bd., 2+ bth., near Shuls/schools. No agents. $339,900.Call 905-886-4818

Clark/Dufferin, det. 3 bdrm., 3 bth., fin. bsmt., fire pl., CAC, dble. drvwy. No agents please. $255,500. Call 905-761-5644.

Spring Farm Home
$475K. 4 bdrm., combo liv./din. room, cathedral ceiling, fam. room., hrdwd firs., prof. fin. bsmt., 2 car gar., close to shuls/schools. 905-764-5154.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath./Clark - Furn. 3 bdrm., 3 bath. Kosher kitchen. Close to shuls/schools. Avail. Aug. 15-Jan. 30. Call 905-764-1535.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath/Lawrence - lovely, 4 bdrm. split level on a prestigious circle. Fin. bsmt., CAC, Aug. 1 2000. $3500/mo + util. No pets. Ref.'s. 789-9595.

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Bath./Sheppard, furn rm w/ prv bth. Kosher, pkg. Fem. student pref. No Sat. calls. 638-9240

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. (416) 441-2003

SKYMARK
DON MILLS & FINCH (TORONTO)
Skymark II: unique 1 b.r. + sunrm. (den/2nd b.r.), + balc. $155K.
Skymark II: reno'd., well laid out S.W. corner, 2 b.r., fam., balc. + powder.
Skymark Zenith: S.E. corner, 2 b.r. + fam. + sol. Approx. 1,711 s.f. For my updated inventory, colour brochures & 360º virtual tour, call:

SANTEE LEUNG, F.R.I., SKYMARK SPECIALIST

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
Penthouse "New" custom, high ceilings, private large terrace, 2 parking, hardwood floors. Only 56 suites in building. **$369,900.**
Other suites available from $199,900-$240,000.
Phyllis Shapiro, Coldwell Banker Terrequity
(416) 496-9220

By owner Townsgate 7 corner. 1500 sq. ft., 2 split bdrms., sol., balc., 2 bth. Locker on same floor. $279,000. 416-661-0934.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

29 year old female professional has a beautiful 2 bdrm. apt. in **Forest Hill Village** to share. Clean & bright. Fantastic location - 1 minute walk to all amenities- 5 minute walk to TTC. Rent $567 incl. cable. Pay phone & hydro. Avail. July 1, 2000. No smoking, no pets, no designated parking spot available. Call 416-482-7322.

Clark/Hilda - Semi-furn., 1 bdrm. avail in two bdrm apt. 1 bth., kit., liv. room. Pkg avail. Please call 905-886-0711.

62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Young female, looking to share accom. with mid-20's female. Non smoker & responsible. Call 416-712-9489.

68 HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE

Exp., quiet Housesitter available through Nov. 1. Ref's. Reas. rates. Call 905-452-9032.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

Bath./Clark - 1 bdrm., reno'd bsmt. Sep. entr. $700/mo. util. incl. Avail immed. No smoking/no pets. Call 905-660-5493.

Finch/Wilmington, 1 bdrm bsmt. apt. 1 bth., kit., lau., n/smkr. female pref. close to TTC & York U. Avail. imm. $600/mo. Call 416-638-6838.

Steeles/Leslie - 1 bdrm. furn. bsmt. Avail. Imm. With details, fax: 905-764-1579.

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-8377 or 631-0388 - Super

105 COTTAGE FOR RENT

LAKE COUCHICHING
Stunning 5 bedroom year round lakefront family home. High ceilings, skylights, stone fireplace, family room and sauna.
Renee Seligman
Sales Representative
Forest Hill Real Estate Inc.
416-226-1987

Wisker Ave. Belle Ewart - Enjoy view of lake from wraparound deck. Beautiful 68' x 250' lot. ½ share in 50' waterfront & dock. Comes w/property. Year round home shows pride of ownership. $169,900. Eleanor Beatty Toll Free 1-877-436-5111.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe waterfront cottages, Belle Ewart. 3 - 4 bdrms. Available for the summer. Call Bernie at 705-456-2999.

Lake Simcoe, 4 mi. pt, near Orillia. 3bd, lkft, canoe, dock. Jun 26 -July 7. $1000 416-223-6824

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Located in very nice surroundings on Mount C'naan near Safed. 4 brand new cottages for sale, 5 rooms, 3 bath., 2 bal. Cellar storage and parking. Private land. About 1500 sq. ft. plus 2000 sq. ft. attached to each cottage. **Call Micha at 011-972-4-8254587 or email: rodica@tx.technion.ac.il**

160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

Jerusalem - July 15 - Nov. Flexible. 2 bdrm. Arab house, garden, patio, romantic. Quiet street in city centre. Fully furnished. Close to old city, all buses, entertainment area. $900 US/mo. + utilities. **Call 011-972-2-625-6611 or email: SAMBL39@yahoo.com**

205 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE

Thornhill - Arnold Ave. Potential for 2 or 3 lots. 905-881-6965

232 BUSINESS FOR SALE

2 for 1 Pizza Franchise
150 km. east of Toronto
7 years in same location
Good lease • Good reputation
For details call
416 - 885-8592

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for sale with option for partnership. 416-256-9537

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Graduating Seniors - Need a Job? Hillel of Buffalo, at the University of Buffalo, NY is looking for a JCSC! **What is it?** Hillel's Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellowship is an award winning program on college campuses throughout the US, Canada and Israel. Members of the Corps develop cutting-edge programs and engage diverse groups of Jewish students. Dynamic, creative and imaginative individuals are encouraged to apply. The fellowship is full-time, ten months in duration, and begins August 1, 2000 & ends May 31, 2001. If you are interested, please contact Susan Pardo: **spardo@buffalo.edu** or call: **716-639-8361**. We're hiring immediately!

If you're looking for an opportunity, Primerica Financial Services can give you one. We're a large marketing organization. A unique company. One of the top industry leaders, year after year. If you'd like more information about how representing Primerica Financial Services could change your whole life, call Patricia Pinna at 416-635-5274, ext. 24.

INNOVATIVE DOWNTOWN KETUBAH company seeks dynamic, articulate, quick learner to train for management role within one year. Excellent English communication, Mac/Windows, Hebrew reading/writing required. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. **Fax resume to: 416-963-9129.**

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Avenue Road Hockey Association is looking for a timekeeper (paid position) to run its hockey program. Sun. to Thur. nights. Oct.-Apr. Must have a car. Bathurst & Wilson area. Hockey knowledge a plus. 398-3825.

PRIVATE SCHOOL
Primary teaching position available. 4 afternoons per week. Experience and references req'd. **Bathurst/Wilson area. Fax Resume to: 416-789-7730.**

The First Narayever Cong. is downtown, traditional & egalitarian. We are looking for someone, preferably with an interest in education, to lead our Junior Cong. on Shabbat mornings. The ideal candidate will feel comfortable with youth, ages 12 & under, be innovative & flexible. Call Janis 967-5184

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

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Call: (416) 385-3167

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora or Sasha, 416-736-1179, or pager: 416-390-7349.

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Housekeepers, elderly care, nannies, cleaning ladies, party helpers. 905-771-6543.

Nannies, live-in/out, cleaning. F/T & P/T. **416-224-9907**
Servicing Toronto since1985.
NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.

Nurse/companion/driver avail. Eves., Live-out. 905-738-8225

Polish cleaning lady w/ exp. & ref's. Call 416-751-1826.

Reliable caregiver avail. to care for your children. Live in/out. Ref's avail. Call 416-741-2469.

Two Portuguese cleaning ladies are avail. to clean houses and apt's. Paula 416-532-7496

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS
Caregivers in Israel, the Philippines, & Caribbean available for sponsorship. **398-5803**

Avail. now! Live-in/out nannies & caregivers. **416-281-9943** or www.nannycarecanada.com Overseas nannies & caregivers seek employers. No Fee!

Babysitter/housekeeper avail. immed.Excel refs.905-294-8778 or 1-800-604-3493.

Cleaning lady avail. w/10 years exp. Refs avail. 416-216-1657.

Cleaning lady available with references. Call 416-782-7592.

Exp. Nannies/Housekeepers from the Philipines seeking families to sponsor them. No fee! Call Ludy at 416-516-7434.

Experienced home maker seeking jobs in homes for elderly. Refs. 416-265-3809.

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
Wee Care Placement Agency
416-789-3070 .

In-home elderly care by RN's and nurse's aides. Bonded, refs. **416-224-9907**
Servicing Toronto since1985.
NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Cleaning lady/ housekeeper needed. 2 days per week. Richmond Hill. Call 905-770-1896.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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Bringing People Together. It only takes one match to light a fire. Call Ruth **905-731-5204.**

SUMMER'S HERE!
Men half price, ladies free!
People Meet - 416-781-7844.

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tov
Kayla & Darryl
Kathy & Bill Forberg
Krisz & Peter Frankfort
Are proud to announce the Engagement of their children.
Excited brothers are:
Darryl & Trevor.
Proud grandparents are:
Simi & Dave Forberg
Olga & George Frankfort
Eleanor & Syd Legear
Agnes & Steven Sipkoi

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Abrahamsohn/Gelman - Roni & George Abrahamsohn, and Judy & Stan Gelman are delighted to announce the engagement of their children **Tara and Gregory**. Proud grandparents are: Edith Vag and Selma & Charles Maclin. Ecstatic sisters are Rixi and Lisa. Greatly missed are Viola, Louis and Marta Abrahamsohn, Leslie Vaq and Ida & Isaac Gelman.

To my wonderful wife Joanna - Mazal Tov on your graduation. I'm very proud of you!!
All my love, Michael

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

***Mensch* needed** for 41 year old Jewish goddess. *Zuftig* and reubenesque. 416-787-7031.

Very shy, 33 year old man, would like to meet male or female to socialize. Please reply to CJN Box #7281.

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

Service Directory and Classified Advertising deadlines are 8 days prior to the issue date, by 4pm. Early deadlines are possible due to holidays and office closings.

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300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Ladies Cocktail Ring, 14kt, 3 sapphires, 4 diamonds, $620. Women's White Opal ring, 14kt, $470. Call 416-447-2246

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Collector is buying old, used, photo equipment (cameras, lens, flashes, filters). Please Call 905-660-7385.

330 OBITUARIES

PERLMUTTER, Leah (Yael) - on May 21, 2000, late of 4383 Bathurst St.
BRIKKER, Aron - on May 23, 2000.
RENARD, Anne - on May 23, 2000, late of 2700 Bathurst St.
SHIP, William - on May 23, 2000, late of 6040 Bathurst St.
GEIST, Samuel - on May 25, 2000, late of 100 High Park Ave.
KATZNELSON, Michael - on May 26, 2000, late of 555 Finch Ave. W.
GOLDMANN, Pal - on May 27, 2000, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W.
MANOLSON, William - on May 27, 2000, late of 48 Roxborough St. W.
NADBORNY, Esther - on May 28, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
APPLEBAUM, Eva - on May 28, 2000, late of 555 Finch Ave. W.
ROYTMAN, Zlota - on May 30, 2000.
SHORE, Samuel - on May 29, 2000, late of 252 Acton Ave.
KIRSH, Sam - on May 30, 2000, late of 4001 Bayview Ave.
GARTNER, Morris - on May 31, 2000.
GOLTSBLAT, Fanya - on May 31, 2000.
GREENWALD, Gerald Lawrence - on June 1, 2000, late of 103 Winding Lane.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

RAIDER, Libby - on May 17, 2000, late of 3601 Battleford Rd., #224.
SHOOT, Goldie - on May 17, 2000, late of 880 Lawrence Ave. E.
RICHARDSON, Samuel H. - on May 19, 2000, late of 46 Overbrook Pl.
ROMBERG-ROSEN, Mulya - on May 19, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SIMBROW, Marvin - on May 19, 2000, late of 100 Canyon Ave., #204.
SWIRSKY, Marlene - on May 19, 2000, late of 15 McMurrich St., #803.
MOZES, Leslie - on May 21, 2000, late of 58 Clarinda Dr.
CHIPPIN, George - on May 23, 2000, late of 1101 Steeles Ave. W., #903.
ZARNETT, Sadie - on May 23, 2000, late of 425 Ridelle Ave.
LEWIS, Allen - on May 24, 2000, late of 3181 Bayview Ave., #101.
STEINMAN, Max - on May 24, 2000, late of 33 Stonedene Blvd.
LASTMAN, Tracy - on May 24, 2000, late of 6760 Coltsfoot Drive
SAMUEL, Ernest - on May 25, 2000, late of 2182 Lakeshore Rd. E.
FREEDMAN, Sheba - on May 26, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst Street.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

FRIEDMAN, David - on June 2, 2000.
AUSUBEL, Gina - on June 2, 2000.
BUZILO, Meir - on June 3, 2000, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
KREBS, Morris - on June 4, 2000.
BIENSTOCK, Jenny - on June 3, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst Street
ROZLER, Garry - on June 4, 2000, late of 1327 Steeles Ave. West.
GOLDSTEIN, Manuel - on June 5, 2000, late of 280 Searle Ave.
WEBBER (KALIFER), Sylvia - on June 5, 2000.
NOBEL, Hyman - on June 5, 2000, late of 26 Denrock Dr.
MOSES, Elizabeth - on June 6, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BROCK, Frances - on June 7, 2000.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

KING, Charles - on May 28, 2000, late of 37 Brucewood Crescent.
STEINHAUER, Paul - on May 27, 2000, late of 59 Strathearn Road.
BUSSIN, June - on May 28, 2000, late of 73 Scenic Millway.
GREENWOOD, Saul - on May 28, 2000, late of 1555 Finch Avenue East, #205.
KIRSZBAUM, Szulim - on May 28, 2000, late of 5523 Wolseley Avenue.
GOLDENBERG, Cherie - on May 29, 2000, late of 2567 Yonge Street, #410.
LAMPEL, Sylvia - on May 29, 2000, late of 1166 Bay Street.
DORSEY, Ida - on May 30, 2000, late of 89 DeQuincey Blvd.
BADER, Earl - on May 31, 2000, late of 33 Wilmington Avenue.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

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(416) 782-8995

3429 Bathurst St. (corner of Melrose)

330 OBITUARIES

MORRIS, Norman Noah - on June 1, 2000, late of 2075 Bayview Ave.
KIRK, Morris - on June 1, 2000, late of 238 Dons Avenue, #1107.
BRIEF, Goldie - on June 2, 2000, late of 8 Seneca Hill Drive.
BOCKNER, Arthur - on June 2, 2000, late of 1080 99th Street, A#23.
FARBER, Earl - on June 3, 2000, late of 11 James Foxway.
LEDER, Zosia - on June 4, 2000, late of 69 Baycrest Avenue.
KAPLAN, Edith - on June 4, 2000, late of 1 Clark Avenue West, #902.
GOLDSTEIN, Rona - on June 4, 2000, late of 27 James Foxway.
SINUKOFF, Anne - on June 5, 2000, late of 1201 Steeles Avenue West, #201.
NYILAS, Ann-Marie - on June 6, 2000, late of 3847 Lawrence Avenue E., #1207.
LER, Anne - on June 7, 2000, late of 61 Burncrest Drive.
BECKER, Pauline - on June 7, 2000, late of 1035 Eglinton Avenue W., #206.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
YETTA BERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Section II
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ARTHUR COOPER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 25th, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ESTHER GOLDREICH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 2 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lipsker Young Men's Section #39 relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IDA SOMMER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park -
Lipsker Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FAE WISEBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 25th, 11:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
B'nai Brith Section
Henry Wiseberg and Murray Dresler invite all friends to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SIDNEY LEWIS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 25th at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
New Fraternal Section
Sally Lewis, Martin Lewis, Marilyn Lewis-Dichter and family invite all relatives and friends to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all our friends for your support, heartfelt sympathies and generous donations in memory of our beloved mother and grandmother.

CHAVA SELIGER ז"ל

Yael, Neta, Amir and Shira.

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LET'S CUDDLE

Single Jewish female, petite, brown eyes, red hair, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, enjoy theatre, movies, music, travelling, walking and playing bridge Seeking Jewish male, 55-65 yrs, non-smoker, financially/emotionally stable, who's honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests AD#1333

SUMMER LOVE

Single female, mid 40s, tall thin, model esque, seeks male widower under 50 yrs, 6' or taller thoughtful, kind, gentle lives in the 416 area AD#1023

LOVE TO LAUGH

Single attractive female, with blue eyes, black hair, very romantic, loves to laugh, with a wonderful sense of humour, seeking attractive male, who's honest, sincere and loving with a great sense of humour AD#1096

LOVE LIFE

Single female, very attractive, fit, no children, loves life seeks male handsome, financially and emotionally stable, single Dad's or divorced okay caring honest down to earth, clean shaven, well groomed and loves life AD#1331

FREE SPIRIT

Single female, Jewish, 38 yrs, 5'6", slim pretty, fit, Dr of natural medicine, teacher, open minded, spiritual, fun loving, dancer, writer, artist, actress, emotionally stable Seeking male, fun, fit romantic, easy going, good communicator AD#1550

HAPPINESS IS KEY

Female, 41 yrs, green eyes, auburn hair, pretty, fun loving, kind, humourous, open minded, love for humanity and animals Seeking kind, open hearted, generous gentleman, age/height/weight not important, financially secure, similar qualities, who'll treat me with respect and kindness AD#1507

LET'S ENJOY LIFE

Retired female, successful Jewish business, professional, widow, 52 yrs, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, caring, fun loving, positive, passionate, and looking for excitement in life Seeking successful, tall, Jewish, businessman, or professional 50-62 yrs. AD#1318

LOVE'S LIFE

Single Jewish female, slim, young looking, attractive, kind, warm hearted, outgoing, enjoys theatre, reading, nature walks, art, movies, tradition, travel and dancing Seeking male, 49-59 yrs, with similar interest, who's ready to share life to the fullest AD#1215

SERIOUS COMMITMENT

Attractive Jewish female, 59 yrs, sincere, compassionate, fun loving, selective, and unincumbered, enjoy bridge, tennis, jazz, books, movies and dining Seeking handsome male, who's elegant, intelligent, independent, and non-smoker, to share the best years of life AD#1332

LASTING RELATIONSHIP

Single Eastern European, born female, 55 yrs, 5'7", independent, intelligent, and a smoker, seeks male for a loving and lasting relationship AD#1432

SHARE LIFE

Female, with many interests, enjoy theatre, movies, dining out and quiet times at home, seeks male 65+ to share interests with AD#1230

LIFE'S PLEASURES

Attractive single professional female, educated, independent, compassionate, imaginative, athletic, sensual and vibrant, enjoy nature, the arts and enlightened conversations. Seeking cultured, witty, literate, accomplished and kind male, 40-50 yrs, who thinks, outside the box, to sample life's pleasures together. AD#1010

SERIOUS INTENTIONS

Single female, fit, full of energy, blonde hair, hazel eyes, seeks male, attractive, fit, 37-45 yrs, emotionally and financially stable AD#1398

SECOND CHANCES

Divorced Jewish professional female, 51 yrs, Eastern European background, speak Hebrew, loving, caring, romantic, great personality, sense of humour, family values, enjoys good conversation, walks, movies, theatre and travelling, seeking male, 51-58 yrs, with similar qualities and interests, for long term relationship AD#1323

MARRIAGE ONLY

Separated female, attractive, Hebrew teacher, with 5 yr old daughter, seeking only attractive, financially secure male 30-38, who wants quiet family life, must love my daughter and be ready to care her as a father AD#1229

TAKE A CHANCE

Single professional female, 43 yrs, with one 14 yr old daughter, originally from Eastern Europe, attractive, slim, enjoys dining, reading and long walks Seeking financially independent male, 45-55 yrs, with similar interests AD#1194

MY BEST FRIEND

Divorced Jewish professional mom, 43 yrs, 5'6", lives in Thornhill, seeks intelligent, stable, optimistic, happy, healthy and energetic single Jewish mensch, with family values, sense of humour, for long term committed relationship based on honesty and friendship AD#1133

MULTI-FACETED

Female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, unpretentious, fun loving, compassionate, of substance depth and soul, enjoys good food, conversation, walks, quiet times Seeking male, romantic, affectionate, gentle, emotionally/financially secure, with integrity, traditional values, style, who's ready and available to explore life AD#1170

SHARE LOVE AND LAUGHTER

Divorced Jewish female, early 50's, 5'6", attractive professional with 2 grown children, honest, sincere, romantic, enjoys opera, classical music, theatre, travel, dining, dancing Seeking male 45-56 yrs, same interests, caring, financially independent, respectful, fun loving, traditional values, for love and laughter AD#1242

LET'S CONNECT

Single female, 52 yrs, a high school teacher with 2 grown daughters, enjoy hiking, plays, sewing, music, gardening, Jewish studies, and computers Seeking kind, warm and loving male, who wants a real relationship, devoting time and energy to develop a connection AD#1225

MARRIAGE MINDED

Separated Israeli, female, mother of 1 child, 5 yrs, attractive, Hebrew teacher Seeks male, professional or self employed, handsome, 5'10" or over, non-smoker, non-drinker, fluent in Hebrew for serious relationship AD#1193

CLASSY LADY

Single Jewish female, 62 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, selective, enjoys music, the theatre Seeks male elegant, classy, for loving monogamous long term relationship AD#1054

FAMILY ORIENTATED

Single divorced Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm with great sense of humour Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat and respect a lady who was previously married and experienced family life AD#1396

ANIMAL LOVER

Single Jewish female, tall, with long dark hair and dark eyes, enjoys travelling, the outdoors, and loves animals Seeking a tall male, with a good sense of humour, who's easy to talk to AD#1387

LET'S LAUGH

Single female, 40 yrs, a beauty, zestic, fun loving, lives large and respects life Seeking nice Jewish male, 35-75 yrs, who's open hearted and minded, is financially secure for a wonderful friend and kind loving companion. AD#1392

FRIEND AND COMPANION

Single Jewish female window, 55 yrs, 5' attractive, intelligent, caring, raised with traditional values Seeking male, 55-65 yrs, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, to share laughter and more AD#1518

BE MY MENSCH

Attractive female, 5'8", creative, active, adventurous, youthful and elegant feminist Seeks emotionally available mensch, 50-56 yrs, to share arts, nature and more AD#1409

FRIENDS FIRST

Single mom, 40 yrs, attractive, slim, 1 ten year old son, university educated, employed, ambitious, outgoing, enjoys dining dancing, cooking, reading, long walks, sports, cross country skiing Seeks male, non-smoker, social drinker in the same age group with similar interests AD#1359

MUSIC LOVER

Divorced female, from the Hamilton area, originally from Montreal, vivacious, fit, attractive, early 50's, enjoys travel, dining and dancing, theatre. Seeks male, outgoing, financially independent, likes classical music and jazz good sense of humour, loves tennis for possible long term relationship AD#1605

COMPANIONSHIP

Female, 5'2", blonde hair with medium build, employed full time and works out at YMCA Seeking gentleman who's nice and honourable as a companion AD#1357

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Jewish female, divorced, 40 yrs, very attractive, well educated, physically fit, good sense of humour. Seeking male with same attributes, who's financially and emotionally secure, professional, honest, reliable, 40-50 yrs, and knows how to live life to the fullest AD#1642

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Divorced female, 40 yrs, with 10 yr old son, 5'3in, very attractive, slim, adventurous, university educated, employed, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys movies, sports, dancing and taking walks Seeking male who's university educated, non-smoker and drinks very little AD#1369

FAMILY ORIENTED

Single Jewish female, 37 yrs, brown hair, hazel green eyes, slim, cute, petite, honest, sincere, smoker, enjoys cooking, singing, dining and dancing, movies, walks, talks Seeking Jewish male, 35-43, spontaneous, romantic, ambitious, smoker, who's ready to settle down and have children AD#1428

BUILD A FAMILY

Single modern orthodox Jewish female, blue eyes, brown hair, beautiful, educated, tall Seeks male, caring, intelligent, healthy, tall, 36-48 yrs, ready to build a happy, loving family AD#1665

WAITING FOR YOU

Single Jewish female, 40 yrs, 5'8", brown eyes, tall attractive, honest, sincere, secure, enjoy dancing, sports, dining and outdoor activities. Seeking male 38-52 yrs, established, intelligent, romantic with similar interests and qualities AD#1730

GREAT PERSONALITY

Single female from Australia en route to England, 5'1", long dark curly hair, attractive, outgoing, feminine, fun loving Seeks male with similar qualities AD#1154

MAN OF MY DREAMS

Single Jewish female, petite, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, brown eyes, red hair, enjoy the theater, movies, music, travelling Seeking a Jewish male, 52-65, non smoker, financially and emotionally stable, honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests AD#1253

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WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single male, Shoma-Shabbas, professional Jewish educator, warm, caring, handsome, and eclectic, seeking Jewish observant, female, who's spiritual, with joie de vive, for love, marriage and children AD#1245

SUMMER ROMANCE

Divorced male, Jewish, 37 yrs, handsome, athletic, 5'10", no children, condo owner, enjoys tennis, squash, movies reading, dining and dancing Seeks female, Jewish, 32-42 yrs, slim, attractive for possible long term relationship AD#1160

LET'S CONNECT

Single male, 36 yrs, 5'7", blonde hair, never been married, fun loving, easy going, happy, with good sense of humour, enjoys sports oriented, activities, and going out to movies Seeking female of similar age AD#1422

LOVING GENTLEMAN

Single male, tall, youthful appearance, active, fit, loving, considerate, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks amiable female for companionship and friends first relationship AD#1086

HEART OF GOLD

Single senior gentleman, tall, youthful active, thoughtful, loving non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks female similar for companionship AD#1244

LET'S CONNECT

Single male, non-observant Jewish male, widow, 50 yrs, professional, no kids or other dependents, very fit, works out 4 times a week Seeking female, 45-50 yrs, with very similar attributes, for a relationship AD#1241

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, professional accountant, enjoys sports, long walks, dining and dancing, keeping fit, movies, reading travel Seeks female, with similar qualities and interests AD#1445

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Divorced male, 44 yrs, Toronto born and raised, 5'10", smoker, lived in Israel for 11 yrs, variety of interests, seeks female, sexy, attractive, adventurous, fun loving, for romantic relationship AD#1375

LET'S TALK

Caring nature, semi-retired, 67 yr old, professional male, non-smoker with many interests and hobbies, seeking easy going, down to earth female, who's slim, attractive, and fun to be with AD#1094

MARRIAGE MINDED

70 yr old, divorced Jewish male, honest and sincere, would like to meet marriage minded lady, in her 60's. AD#1182

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

Semi-retired male, 5'11", 165 lbs, slim, blue eyes, healthy, attractive, casual, romantic, enjoys intimate restaurants, sea, sun, walks on the beach sports, swimming, tennis, 60's music and kissing, seeking attractive female, caring, humourous, financially secure, physically and emotionally fit. AD#1524

POSSIBLE ROMANCE

Single male, 48 yrs, 5'10", 175 lbs, attractive, friendly, outgoing, romantic, passionate, straight forward, open-minded, employed, enjoy movies, dining, walks in parks, sporting events, golf, cuddling and watching TV. Seeking female with similar qualities and interests, for friendship and perhaps romance AD#1623

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people Seeks female similar qualities and interests AD#1388

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS

Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with AD#1038

WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family AD#1370

SPECIAL SENIOR DOLL

Single retired male, living in Toronto and Florida, seeking female, 65+, who's good looking, slim, and must have a good sense of humour, for meaningful relationship AD#1580

LOVE WAITS

Single male, 5'7", Greenish blue eyes, handsome, poor starving writer, reliable, enjoys sports, swimming, tennis, very down to earth, ready to start a family Seeks Jewish female, with similar interests AD#1195

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Single male, 34 yrs, seeking female with professional status, intelligent, good conversationalist, who enjoys movies, sports dining, dancing, walks, reading, having fun and tender moments AD#1190

IT'S SPRING!

Single male, 46 yrs, special education teacher, 2 grown children, 23 yrs & 21 yrs, romantic, self-confident, enjoys roller-blading, travel, country walks, have eclectic tastes, good sense of humour Seeks female with similar qualities and interests AD#1498

FAMILY MAN

Separated male, 50 yrs, 5'7", 160lbs, with 3 teenage children, family oriented, fairly intelligent and financially secure Seeking female who enjoys dining, theatre, movies, outdoor activities and welcomes anyone with family AD#1533

LOVE & LAUGHTER

Single Jewish male, 33 yrs, good sense of humour, honest, nice, intelligent, happy, warm hearted, energetic Seeks female, happy go lucky who's wants some good laugh AD#1442

TIMELESS LOVE

Single male, 49 yrs, 5'11", Brown hair Brown eyes, handsome, successful, caring, supportive, romantic, passionate, sensual, open honest with feelings, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cooking quiet evenings at home Seeks attractive female 35-45 yrs, affectionate, emotionally healthy, passionate about herself and the man in her life AD#1377

WANTS FAMILY LIFE

Divorced male, 53 yrs, a writer, no children good hearted, good looking, good humoured and good brain Seeking female to have children with and start a family AD#1151

TO SHARE LIFE

Single male, 41 yrs, seeks female who's attractive, nice, good sense of humour, lives in the Toronto, enjoys theatre, having a good time and the great outdoors to share my life with AD#1265

SCHOLARLY MYSTIC

Attorney and international entrepreneur, cultured, aereodite, talmud, chachim, kaballist, thaumaturical healer, violinist, poet, parachutist, scuba diver, wishes to a new period Seeks slender, intelligent, attractive, adventurous lady who's emotionally/financially secure as my queen AD#1386

WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS MOST

Single male, 47 yrs, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies-especially Hitchcock, and drives in the country. Seeking female, professional or non-professional, non slim okay, children okay, smoker on non-smoker, a basically nice, down to earth person AD#1055

GOOD IN EVERY WAY!

Divorced male, 53 yrs, no children, good hearted, good humoured, good looking Seeks female for loving relationship AD#1600

WARM & CARING

Single white male, 57 yrs, warm, caring, romantic, self-employed Enjoys travel, movies, quiet romantic evenings, good conversation Seeks female with similar interests and qualities AD#1565

LET'S HAVE COFFEE

Single male, young looking, 45 yrs, 5'11" brown hair, brown eyes, cute smile, university educated, employed professional good manners Enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, sporting events Seeks female 30-47 yrs, for casual relationship, possible long lasting relationship AD#1598

MARRIAGE MINDED

Single male, 35 yrs, 5' 10", honest, sharing and caring, down to earth, enjoys movies, dining, and dancing, concerts, quiet romantic evenings Seeks female with similar interests AD#1660

LOVE AWAITS

Single Jewish male, late 40's, 5' 10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, loving, good sense of humour Enjoys the theatre, long walks, bowling, tennis Seeks female 32-33 yrs, single or widowed orthodox preferred but not required, intelligent with similar interests AD#1161

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER

Single Jewish male, widower, blue eyes, brown hair, medium height good looking, non smoker, very fit, work out, enjoy movies, dining, travelling, beach holidays, skiing. Seeking a female, attractive, good natured, to enjoy life with AD#1393

GOOD MAN

Divorced male, 53, no children, good hearted, good looking, good sense of humour. seeking a female to share life with AD#1178

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Single male, unique and special, with traditional values, attractive, young looking, healthy, successful, enjoy life Seeking a female with similar qualities AD#1212

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, sincere, no children. Seeking a physically fit and sincere female, 25-35, for serious relationship AD#1189

WANT FAMILY LIFE

Single Jewish semi-retired business man in beauty supply, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, short dark hair, mustache, traditional, family oriented, enjoy swimming, bicycling, lot of educational reading Seeking a Jewish female to have children and a family. AD#1322

TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME

Single Jewish male, traditional, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, well educated, semi-retired, in the beauty supply business, handsome, short dark hair, mustache, enjoy swimming, cycling, educational reading, family life, ready for marriage and family. Seeking a single Jewish female, with similar qualities and interests AD#1008

LIVE LIFE FULLY

Single male, divorced, father of 2, 48, 5'7", slim, fit, generous, Family Physician, enjoy philosophy, cultures, Latin dancing cross country skiing Seeking a younger female, attractive, slim, highly intelligent, passionate, giving, sincere, emotionally and financially secure, likes children AD#1318

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Memories of Gold, Lizzies Old Timer looks back

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Set the controls on the Way-Back Machine to the 1920s, back before the NHL was a six-team league, back to when $2.50 and a free meal was a good pay day, back to when Babe Ruth was a young star recently traded to the New York Yankees.

That's how far back you've got to go to have seen Bill Gold in his prime, as a peach-fuzzed teenager playing hardball in the Elizabeth Playground and other playing fields in central Toronto.

Gold, who turns 95 in July, has seen it all. He can recall Alex Levinsky as a damn good baseball player, better on the diamond than on the ice with the Toronto Maple Leafs; he remembers major leaguer Goody Rosen as a young whippersnapper, always with a baseball glove on his hand; he remembers when weekends were for baseball and youngsters thought nothing of playing three games in a single day; and he remembers playing on all-Jewish teams and striking a blow against anti-Semitism by winning city and provincial championships despite the racist taunts he and his teammates endured.

On June 22, his old teammates will honour and pay tribute to him at the Lizzies Old Timers Association annual dinner in the Bob Abate Recreation Centre, 485 Montrose Ave.

Besides bringing together old friends, the dinner will raise money to support local athletes. (Call Norm Cornack at 416-749-6735 or Harvey Bronstine at 905-886-6580 for more information.)

In its heyday, which goes back to at least 1920 and runs until the war, the Lizzies was the quintessentially Jewish sports club, even though the man who founded it, Bob Abate, was of Italian descent, and even though non-Jewish neighbourhood boys were welcome to participate.

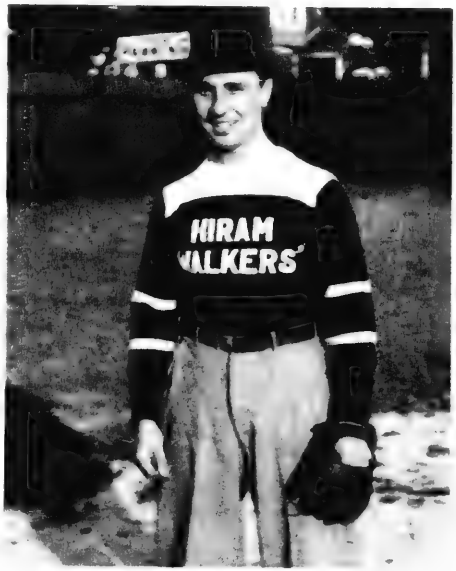
Still, look at the lineup of teams from the '20s and '30s and you'll see a host of Jewish names. Prominent among them, beginning around 1916, was Bill Gold.

As Gold tells the story, he was 10 or 11 when Abate gave him a football and asked to see him punt. He hit the ball so well it soared out of the playground and landed on the sidewalk, smashing four bottles being collected for deposit.

Abate paid the seven cents for the broken bottles and quickly recruited Gold for the Lizzies. By the time he was 14, Gold was a multi-sport athlete playing hardball, softball, basketball and hockey. In one year, the Lizzies won championships in hardball, softball, basketball and even quoits, which Gold describes as a form of horseshoes.

"I spent most of my time in the playground," he recalled. "That's why kids didn't get into trouble in those days. They were too busy stealing second instead of stealing cars."

With the solid grounding in baseball fundamentals he got at the Lizzies playground, Gold went on to a pretty solid softball career as an adult. In around 1930, as a member of Herzl Zion, an all-Jewish softball team, he won an Ontario championship.



In 1927, Bill Gold was a youthful 22-year-old infielder (top). In 1994, he and this wife, Lil, celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary (left).

About 3,000 mostly Jewish fans used to turn out at Bellwood Park, near Dundas, to watch them play, he recalled.

In road games, "we had to fight our way through every town we played ball in," he said. That didn't necessarily mean resorting to fisticuffs, but it did mean playing through taunts of "get the Jews," which were common in those days.

At five foot eight, 145 pounds, Gold was not big, but like others of his era, he was tough. When he was about 17, Abate started him in boxing. Gold occasionally fought in three-round matches that served as entertainment at men's stags. He got paid $2.50 and a free meal and thought he was in heaven.

As a featherweight, Gold won the Newsboy Tournament and the YMHA Tournament. His career came to an end after the City of Toronto finals. As he recalls it, he landed one good punch, but his opponent landed two and afterwards, he thought he might do better in other sports.

In hindsight, "I'm glad I got beat up because a lot of my friends who stayed in it are punch-drunk," he said. "The guy who beat me ended up in the nut house."

At about age 30, Gold gave up serious sports competition – other than some softball action at the cottage – and concentrated on business and raising a family.

He married Lillian Gallander and got into the hotel business, where he worked for 35 years. Eventually he owned several downtown establishments including the Barclay, which is today the site of a parking lot at Front and Simcoe.

Fifty years ago, the Barclay could attract some top notch entertainment, including singer/dancer Sammy Davis Jr. and comedian Alan King.

It also attracted its fair share of underworld figures. "I knew a lot of criminals but they were good with me… They were tough when they were in a group but I had no trouble with them."

Gold still likes to keep active. He plays the odd round of golf and he watches sports on TV. Today's athletes "are all overpaid," he maintains.

According to today's standards, "Conacher, Apps and Primeau would get $30 million a year," he said.

As for baseball players, don't get him started on that. "There are few Lou Gehrigs or Ty Cobbs left now. There are a few good ones… but they all get AA pitching."

Spoken like a true expert, like someone who's seen it all. After all, how many people today can compare Conseco to Cobb, or Arnott to Apps and say they've seen all the greats

'There are few Lou Gehrigs or Ty Cobbs now.'

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Stories that touch the heart

By ELI RUBENSTEIN ALEC GELCER

First Impressions

On a recent trip, we happened to meet the principal of an afternoon Jewish school in New Jersey. When the principal found out that one of us was the director of the March of the Living in Canada, she immediately remarked that many students from New Jersey had experienced terrible anti-Semitism on their trips to Poland during the March of the Living.

We shared with her that this was not our experience, and while Canadian students have sometimes encountered hostility, they have also been greeted by young Polish Christians who wanted to welcome our students to their country.

Part of the problem, we suggested, was attitude. If you go to Poland looking only for anti-Semitism, that's pretty much all you will find. If you enter Poland with an open mind, you may still encounter the hostility of some, but your eyes will not be shut to the welcoming gestures of others.

She then told us the following story:

Her afternoon school was being renovated, so she had to rent space in the local public school. The custodian was not very happy, because the Hebrew school would be using the building from 3 to 9 p.m., when the school was not usually occupied. This would double his workload – to be there in the morning and early afternoon for the regular public school students, and in the late afternoon and evening for the Jewish students.

The custodian was, moreover, a towering, gruff Ukrainian, who did not seem to take a liking to the principal or her Jewish charges.

One day, as the principal walked through the halls, she happened across the custodian standing outside a classroom, tears streaming down his cheeks.

She asked what had upset him. Perhaps, she pondered, one of her students had been rude to him, or had damaged school property.

He responded: "You see, those little boys and girls chanting the aleph-bais. I haven't heard that singsong in 60 years, since I was a child growing up in Ukraine.

"When I was a little boy, my best friends were the Jewish kids. We used to play in the streets, and when they had to go to their cheder, I would follow them to the doorway of their classrooms. There, I would anxiously wait outside, until they could come out and play again, all the while listening to them chant the aleph-bais.

"And then the Nazis came, and all my friends disappeared. After that, I never saw them again. And, when I heard your students chanting the aleph-bais, all of these memories from my childhood came rushing back to me. I'm sorry."

The principal told us the man became the best friend the school could ever have hoped for, and they are still in touch to this day, long after they left the premises where he worked. She added that he now lives in the United States.

Last year, she said, he returned to Ukraine, and when he came back to the United States, he brought a brick from the destroyed synagogue in his home town and presented it to the Jewish school.

"At least a small part of the synagogue should be near Jewish people again," he said.

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Combine all ingredients and freeze. Simple.
Yield: 10 servings.
This is good as a salad or as a simple dessert after a heavy meal.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My cousin Shulamit, her husband and their two children, eight and 10 years old, have decided to come for a visit from Israel for a couple of weeks this summer.

They were here a few years ago and I offered to let them stay with us then, as I thought it would work out well. We also have two children a bit older than theirs.

It was a disaster. They expected everything to be done for them. They wanted breakfast every morning, dinner every night and the use of our car in between. Their kids were horribly behaved, and my kids followed their example.

My husband and I work full time and don't have the time or the energy for a repeat of their last holiday.

How do you suggest I get out of this without insulting anyone?

No Welcome Mat

Dear No Welcome Mat

I understand this is a difficult subject to approach; however it must be done – and soon. Your cousins may be planning their whole trip on the assumption that they are staying with you. Don't let this get too far. Don't let them buy tickets and make arrangements only to find out things are not as peachy as they may have thought.

Explain to them that with the two of you working full time you find it too difficult to house them for two weeks, but you will be happy to enjoy their company when you are off work, for a few dinners, shows or other activities.

Suggest an alternative place for them to stay, possibly in the heart of downtown where they can enjoy many tourist attractions. Get them maps, rates, e-mail addresses. Do whatever you can to make the transition from your home to a hotel as easy as possible.

I'm not saying this will happen without any hard feelings, but it will be far worse if they book a flight and then find out your home is not available to them.

Their reaction will depend on their personalities. Do your best and don't feel guilty.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. *But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*

The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Hail to the Chiefs

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

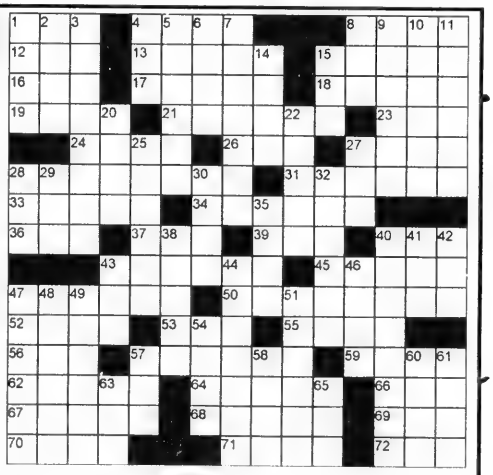
Across

1 Frankfurter's field
4 "Saturday Night Live" piece
8 Bridge statement
12 "Mazel tov!" in Madrid
13 "_____ talk?" (Joan Rivers catchphrase)
15 Elie Wiesel novel, in Yiddish
16 Former Foreman floorer
17 "And a lot of good ____ me!"
18 One of Dustin Hoffman's two
19 Carbonation
21 Municipal worker's job
23 Israeli machine gun
24 Half a Hawaiian fish
26 "Golden Girl" Arthur
27 PDQ
28 In the saddle
31 Scary snakes
33 Sean and William
34 Supplements
36 Bunch
37 "*Shavua ____!*" (Saturday evening greeting)
39 Actress Merkel
40 "Golden Girl" McClanahan
43 Wants more Time?
45 Sportscaster Musberger
47 Deep South port
50 Site of 1984-85's Operation Moses
52 Not worth ____ cent
53 "_____ was saying..."
55 Words to a traitor
56 Noise
57 Casual jacket
59 *My People* author
62 Nods off
64 Wow
66 Make it up
67 Graceland figure
68 Part of Louisiana's capital
69 Uganda's ____ Amin
70 Get control of, with "in"
71 Henpecks
72 Ripken or Thomas

Down

1 Be lazy
2 "_____ Need Is A Miracle"
3 Israeli President, 1948-52
4 ____-fi (Asimov forte)
5 Israeli President, 1973-78
6 Prefix with Chinese or European
7 It's smaller than a king
8 Mas' men
9 "J'_____!" (Dreyfus Affair headline)
10 Israeli President, 1963-73
11 Dons one's birthday suit
14 Singer Brickell
15 Egg ____
20 Newswoman Paula
22 Israeli President, 1978-83
25 Cheap lodging
27 HS tests
28 Make a choice
29 ____-Orthodox Judaism
30 Be thrifty
32 Soon
35 Oklahoma feature
38 Actress Tatum
40 Israel's government type
41 One, in combinations
42 Seventh Greek letter
43 Get ___ of (throw out)
44 Israeli President, 1993-present
46 Memorization
47 More ticked
48 Outfielder John Lowenstein, in the early '80s
49 Israeli President, 1952-63
51 Israeli President, 1983-93
54 Swedish wheels
57 Some Brandeis degrees, for short
58 "I could ____ horse!"
60 Verdi work
61 Simon of the stage
63 One, to Sholem Asch
65 Printer's measures

(Answers are on page 35.)



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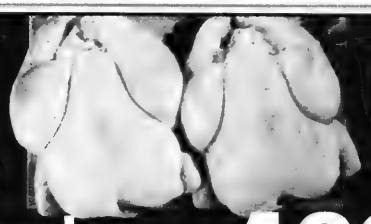

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This Week

National

No Jerusalem pavilion at this year's Caravan. *Page 3*

Beth Sholom honours Mayor Mel as humanitarian of the year. *Page 6*

On Campus

Waterloo University names Jim Diamond first chair of Jewish studies. *Page 22*

Health & Lifestyles

New group offers support to women with cancer. *Page 28*

Arts & Travel

Stormy weather makes a perfect accompaniment to Shlomo Simcha Sufrin and other cantors at concert. *Page 30*

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www.cjnews.com

Verdict expected July 1

Jewish Telegraphic Agency and CJN wire services

NEW YORK — The verdict in the trial in Shiraz, Iran, of the 13 Jews and four Muslims accused of spying for Israel is expected this Saturday, according to a report in the *New York Times*.

Trial of Iranian 13

Citing an Agence France-Presse report, the newspaper said that the trials had ended last Saturday and the verdict will be announced by the chief justice on July 1.

Shiraz' chief justice, Hossen Ali Amiri, said last week that the charge of "waging war against God and the country," which carries the death penalty, had been dropped for the 13 Jews.

Eight of the Jewish defendants have "confessed" to the spying charges, but their lawyer challenged the validity of the confessions. One of the accused claimed he had gathered but did not disseminate information.

Four of the Jews recanted their "confessions," charging that officials had elicited the admissions through coercion. Moreover, one of the Muslims accused of aiding the Jews refused to corroborate the charge.

Continued on page 24

BUSY WEEK FOR BARAK: Last week was yet another eventful week for Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak. He met in Jerusalem with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan one day after protesters noisily expressed their opposition to the government's peace policies. Also during the week, Barak orchestrated a last-minute solution to the coalition crisis with the Shas Party, thus saving his government from collapse.

[Isranet and RNS/Reuters photos]

Prozzäk: the cartoon rock band

By ANNA MORGAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Legend has it that sometime in the future there will be a great war. During the fiercest battle of all, two warriors are chosen to be transported to the present in a search for the key to their destiny – true love.

Simon and Jason

And so, Prozzäk, a rock band based on two cartoon characters – Simon and Milo – was born.

The legend and characters are part of a story portrayed in their first album, *Hot Show*, which has gone triple Platinum and was nominated for five Juno awards.

Jason Levine, as he is known in real life or Simon, as he is known in cartoon life, is working on the continuation of Simon's quest in Prozzäk's upcoming second CD, which they plan to release sometime in the fall.

"Prozzäk has evolved – we've become much better musicians and Simon, as a character, will be going into a much darker period. He'll be getting more cynical."

In the next album, for example, there will be a song titled *Pretty Girls Make Me Nervous* and in it there will be three professionals – a dentist, a doctor and a lawyer. These are the three professions I'm "supposed to feel guilty" about not being, he said.

"Simon is based on my own Jewish personality," Levine said.

Continued on page 31

Greater Toronto Area

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Seagram sale may bring philanthropic benefits — please see page 26

The News in Brief

CANADA

Teddy Libfeld Dies

TORONTO — Teddy Libfeld, one of Toronto's most prolific homebuilders, died recently at age 72. Libfeld and his four sons operated several companies, including the Conservatory Group, which developed condominiums, and Viewmark, which built low-rise homes. A child survivor of Auschwitz, Libfeld arrived in Toronto in 1951 and began building homes in 1957.

Family Seeks Help

RICHMOND HILL — The family of a 23-year-old employee killed in January in a botched jewelry store robbery has appealed to the public for help. Tzvi Erez and his sister Hila, have asked for help in identifying the occupants of two vehicles used to observe the shop in the days before the heist, in which Niv Erez was killed by gunshots and store owner Mark Lash was wounded. The first vehicle is described as a 1993 to 1995 Mercedes Benz, silver or grey, two-door convertible. The other vehicle identified is a 1999 Toyota 4-Runner. Niv Erez was a graduate of Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT). Anyone with information is asked to call police at 905-773-1221, ext. 7865 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Grant for Zareinu

THORNHILL — Zareinu Education Centre has been awarded a $181,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the MPP for Thornhill, Tina Molinari, announced last week.

Schipper Honoured

TORONTO — Lawyer Lionel Schipper was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Toronto's law school at spring convocation last week. A U of T alumnus, Schipper played a leading role in the creation of the Bora Laskin Law Library. He has also been a major contributor to the J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Chair in Jewish Studies in the faculty of arts and science, and to other chairs in the faculties of law and medicine.

Universities Partner

VANCOUVER — A new memorandum of understanding signed between Simon Fraser University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has formalized a growing partnership between the two institutions. The move recognizes the universities' commitment to joint fund-raising to foster a wide range of exchanges, study programs and field schools.

ISRAEL

'Ready to Die'

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian Authority's justice minister, Freih Abu Medein, said last week that Palestinians are ready to suffer "thousands" of casualties in the event of a military confrontation with Israel.

War Crime Arrest

JERUSALEM — The Simon Wiesenthal Centre here has applauded the recent arrest by German police of Anton Malloth, an alleged Nazi war criminal who was involved in the murder of Jewish inmates at the Kleine Festung (Small Fortress) in Theresienstadt.

WORLD

Petition for Iranians

NEW YORK — The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has launched a continent-wide effort to gather one million names on a petition calling on Iran to release the 13 Iranian Jews being tried for spying for Israel. As well, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, at www.wiesenthal.com, is organizing an Internet petition calling on Iran's leaders to intervene and release the Jews.

Cantor Bagley Feted

NEW YORK — Cantor David Bagley of Beth Radom Congregation in Toronto was honoured here this week by the Cantorial Council of America for his career in the cantorate. Four cantors from New York, Toronto and Montreal presented a musical tribute. The councils of chazzanim in Toronto and Montreal have also published a new volume of Cantor Bagley's compositions. As well, the council marked its 40th anniversary.

Group Recognized

MOSCOW — Russia's Interior Ministry has granted official recognition to the Chabad Lubavitch-dominated Federation of Jewish Communities. The move elevates the federation's status to that of its chief rival, the Russian Jewish Congress, and is expected to heighten tensions between the two groups.

UJC Budget

NEW YORK — The umbrella organization for North American Jewish federations, the United Jewish Communities, has approved a $41.7 million budget – $4.4 million less than its predecessor organizations spent before they merged.

Last Jew Dies

OSWIECIM — The last Jew living in Oswiecim, the town near the site of the Auschwitz death camp, died recently at 72. Shimshon Klueger had been living as a recluse.

Rabbi Faces Possible Death Penalty

PHILADELPHIA — Calling the move both "necessary and appropriate," local prosecutor Lee Solomon announced last week that a grand jury has returned a three-count indictment charging Rabbi Fred Neulander with capital murder, felony murder and conspiracy in connection with the Nov. 1, 1994 murder of his wife, Carol Neulander, in their Cherry Hill, N.J., home.

Solomon stated that his office would seek to have the rabbi held without bail.

Rabbi Neulander is currently free on $400,000 bail on charges of accomplice murder and conspiracy to commit murder – charges that carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment with no possibility of parole for 30 years.

The maximum penalty on the new charges is death.

The prosecutor noted that the matter had received "the same careful, deliberate review which is undertaken in all potentially capital cases."

The new indictment follows the guilty pleas of the two confessed hit men in the alleged murder-for-hire. Both men await sentencing in the Camden County Correctional Facility.

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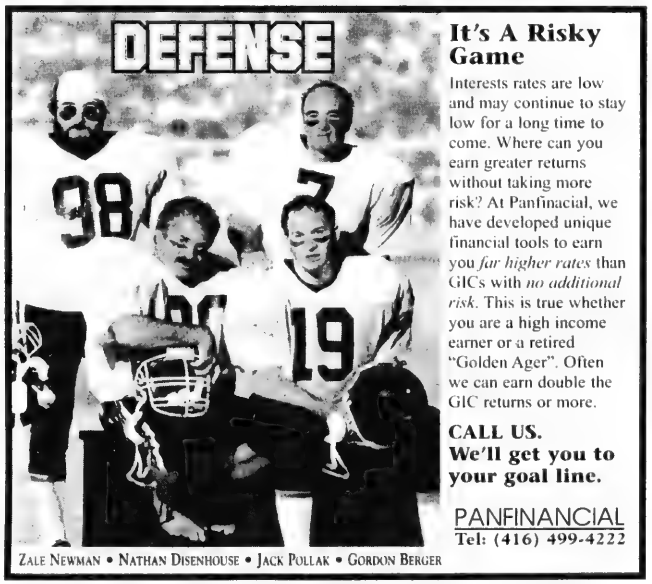
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No Jerusalem pavilion at Caravan

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For the first time in two decades, there is no Jerusalem pavilion at this year's Caravan, Toronto's annual multicultural festival.

"The only reason is that we couldn't locate a site," said Pearl Gladman, national director, centre for community action of B'nai Brith Canada, which has co-sponsored the pavilion with the Bloor JCC since 1980.

The Bloor JCC, longtime home of the pavilion, is undergoing renovation. "Hopefully, next year we'll be back with them," said Gladman.

Caravan 2000 opened on June 23 and runs until July 1. At least three other participants who joined B'nai Brith to look for a large joint location were unable to obtain a suitable site, according to Gladman. B'nai Brith also scouted other locations, she added.

This year's event features 20 pavilions, down from 30 last year. Locations should be accessible by public transit and near at least a couple of other pavilions so people can hit two or three in a night, Gladman said.

"It was very disappointing for us, because we wanted to be part of it," she said. "We were disappointed we weren't able to show the general public the fun side of Israel instead of the political side."

In past years the Jerusalem pavilion, which has won Caravan awards, featured Israeli entertainment, a *shuk* (market) and kosher food like hummus and pita. It was staffed by volunteers from B'nai Brith's dozen Toronto lodges.

At its height, said Gladman, thousands of visitors would pass through during the week. "Strange as it may seem, Saturday nights [when the pavilion would open only after Shabbat] were our busiest nights."

The pavilion's longest serving mayor and chair, Monty Mazin, who presided over the festivities for four years in the early 1990s, was sad to hear this year's news. "I really enjoyed what I did at Caravan," he said. "I loved it."

Mazon Canada hits new allocation record

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Mazon Canada continues to raise the bar on its bi-annual allocations, distributing a record $325,402 in the spring of 2000 to organizations that help feed the hungry.

That figure is up slightly from its fall 1999 allocation of $321,860, but is a marked increase over Mazon's early years. It took the organization, which calls itself the Jewish response to hunger, 6½ years – from 1987 to 1992 – to raise its first $300,000 in total.

"Although we are thrilled to be able to make such a meaningful contribution into the national fight against hunger, we are sad to say that the number of Canadians requiring our help has not declined despite the improvement in our economy. It seems that more and more families and individuals are in great need," said Jacqueline Kott-Wolle, executive-director of Mazon.

With the spring 2000 allocation, Mazon has transferred $2.7 million to hunger relief organizations since it was created in 1987. Mazon has succeeded in raising its profile in the Montreal and Toronto Jewish communities, generating a regular cash flow from the sale of its all occasion cards and from asking supporters to contribute three percent of their simchah food costs to the organization

In March, Mazon introduced its first-ever Kosher Food Fest in Toronto. Held at Roy Thomson Hall, it generated $80,000, Kott-Wolle said.

"Our gala was a tremendous success," she stated. "The next one is already set for March 26, 2001."

Modelled on the older, more established Montreal event, Toronto organizers hope to match the $200,000 raised last year in Montreal.

Altogether, 141 grass roots community or-

Continued on page 16

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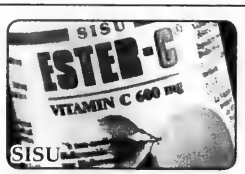
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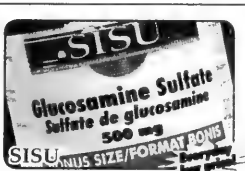
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Greater Toronto Area

Politics as usual, alas

From the editor's desk

The summer months yawn before us, inviting us to "slow down" a little, to take a break from the normally busy routine and to focus more on leisure than on treasure. Indeed, most of us would like to.

But there is a distraction this summer that is preventing many of us from "slowing down" in a manner commensurate with our needs. The distraction is, simply, the unignorable incongruity between the lazier personal pace that hotter temperatures demand and the heightened civic diligence that hotter political activities demand.

Thus far, merely one week into the summer, politics – at all levels, at home and abroad – has sizzled. No respite looms on the hazy summertime horizon. But we owe it to ourselves, our children and our society to maintain a "watch" on these developments. That watch, unfortunately, will militate against a substantially slower summer pace.

Many of us, erroneously but not surprisingly, tend to draw conclusions about the nature of the system based on the behaviour of some of the system's "leaders." We become cynical about the "overall design" when it is the "interior decoration" causing the dissonance.

No greater harm can result to a democratic design than the disenchantment and distancing of the governed from the system of their government that is spawned by recurring cynicism.

This is especially so when the youth of our society begin to dissociate and then to unattach themselves from society's institutions. For it is often true that the behaviour of the youngster often becomes the habit of the adult. And how devastating it would be for all of us if distrust of and apathy for our system of government were to become habitual among the adults of the next generation.

And yet, this is not an outrageous or far-fetched possibility in light of some recent political developments and behaviours. I will list only a few examples. The numbers, alas, are far greater.

• The Canadian Alliance leadership contest has been reduced to two candidates: Preston Manning and Stockwell Day. The runoff ballot will be held on July 8. The country eagerly awaits the outcome of the runoff because it is vitally important that there be a strong opposition in the House of Commons (indeed in every legislative assembly), something there has not been since the Reform party became a leaderless Alliance party.

But last weekend's leadership contest reminded us that there are abundant ideological and identity questions still hovering over the federal Alliance party and the federal and provincial Conservative parties, like a sticky, black cloud.

For example before he delivered his speech to party members, Day was introduced by Alberta's Conservative premier, Ralph Klein. Or, after the abysmal showing by Tom Long, federal Conservative leader Joe Clark issued a plea for "fiscal conservatives, but socially tolerant" Alliance members (*read here Ontario members signed by Long*) to return to the Conservative party fold. Or even further, Long was himself the key advisor to Ontario Conservative premier Mike Harris before he became a candidate for the Alliance leadership.

What does this easy, seemingly fluid interchangeability between parties and party loyalties say about the candidates, or, even more tellingly, about the true identities of the provincial premiers, their governments and the two federal parties in question?

What are observers, let alone voters, to think about the policy and other distinctions between parties and about the integrity of party leaders who make representations to voters based on the "selling" of policy distinctions, supposedly authentic, between the parties?

• Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has virtually announced the holding of a federal election in the near future. He "teases" the public with occasional hints and unveiled allusions to an imminent election as if the subject were nothing more than his personal plaything. When he adopts this coy almost mischievous demeanor, what impression does he convey about the seriousness of the matter?

In addition, last week he appointed two senators to the Upper Chamber. Setting aside the issue of the character, intelligence and suitability of the two appointees, the very fact of the appointments totally disregards the preference, especially in western Canada and probably among the majority of Canadians, for reconsidering the nature and role of the Senate.

Even though the issue of Senate reform is part of a much larger debate, and even though these recent appointments were part of a strategy to ensure the passage of the Clarity Bill through the Senate, the apparently cavalier disregard by the prime minister of the desire for Senate reform – as exemplified by his "routine" appointments – sends an unwelcome message to the public. Politics will always be as usual and not responsive.

• The near collapse of the coalition government of Prime Minister Ehud Barak before it was "rescued," literally, by last minute manoeuvres made some people shake their heads in disbelief and disgust.

Setting aside, again, the merits of the grievances of the government's Shas coalition partner, the fact of the bargaining and the manner in which it was conducted – brazen, totally in the public eye and based, it seemed, entirely upon self-interested financial considerations – regrettably, brought the entire system into disrepute.

Yes, it is summer. We should slow down; but the distractions are so many.

–MBD

SEE JN

ZAREINU MOVE-A-THON: It began as a cloudy, rainy day, but the sun eventually shone as well as hundreds of people, walking, biking and just having fun, recently raised funds for Zareinu, a school for children with special needs.
[Twins Photography photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Jews must unite to help brethren, says Hoenlein

By REBECCA NADLER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The challenge facing Jewish people in the 21st century is to work together to help Jews around the world, says the executive vice-chair of the Council of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.

To do otherwise, says Malcolm Hoenlein, is to invite discord and disunity which will destroy the Jewish community.

Hoenlein, who recently addressed an Aish HaTorah gala dinner honouring Herb and Joyce Green and the five rabbis who founded the organization in Toronto, called the Iranian situation a wake-up call to the community.

"Jews just don't get it...they don't realize what a difference a single person can make," said Hoenlein.

Hoenlein praised MP Irwin Cotler, who spearheaded Canada's role in opposing the imprisonment and espionage trials of 13 Iranian Jews.

Anti-Semitism, Hoenlein said, has not disappeared. He talked about last year's shootings in San Diego and Chicago, the anti-Semitic rhetoric that was common - place during the recent elections in Russia, and the right-wing parties that consistently attract 10 to 20 percent of the popular vote in many countries across Europe.

"What we thought exemplified the 19th century is with us in the 21st century," he said.

Hitler tested the world with Kristallnacht and by enacting the Nuremberg Laws, and the world reaction was silence, he said.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt was asked by the press for his reaction to the destruction and violence of Kristallnacht, said Hoenlein, his response was "We have no plans for the Jews."

When Hitler heard this, said Hoenlein, he understood that the world did not care about the Jews.

Hoenlein said that recent events show that little has changed.

"Where is the United Nations and Security Council when the people of Sudan, Rwanda and Zaire need them? Where is the outcry of the world?"

He praised the world community for their reaction to the trials of the 13 Iranian Jews. "They are guilty of nothing other than being Jews. They have been held for 16 months without a shred of evidence and their trials are behind closed doors. The trial judge is also the prosecutor and jury. Yet the outcry that has been heard worldwide has made a difference."

Because of pressure from the international community, he said, we have witnessed a number of firsts.

For the first time in Iranian history, the accused were allowed to have defence lawyers, though their access was limited; visitation rights were granted; kosher food was provided; and the Friday morning diatribes of Muslim clergy have been toned down.

"When I look back I know that there is not anything more that could have been done," Hoenlein said.

"This has become the number 1 human rights case in the world because people care. Sixty countries, including Muslim and Arab states spoke out against the trials." This could only happen when people stand together and help each other. Now all we

I LOVE ISRAEL: Bialik Hebrew Day School recently held its annual I Love Israel contest, which tests the knowledge of students from grade 5 to 8 on different dimensions of Israeli life, history and culture. The winners (from left) were Guy Benari, grade 8; Rachel Bayefsky-Anand, grade 7; Joseph Tobias, grade 6; and Shani Klachook, grade 5.

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Mayor Mel is shul's humanitarian of the year

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Mel Lastman's reward as mayor of Toronto is the daily gratification of making the city a better place, he told a capacity crowd last week as he was honoured by the brotherhood of Beth Sholom Synagogue.

"I do not feel entitled to receive awards for something I really love to do," he said.

Lastman became the 49th recipient of the Beth Sholom brotherhood's annual Humanitarian Award at a dinner June 20 attended by over 500 people. Previous honourees include Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Ontario's former lieutenant-governor Lincoln Alexander, immigration lawyer Mendel Green and theatre impresario Ed Mirvish.

From left, Paul Godfrey and Frank Cadesky look on as Mendel Green presents the Beth Sholom Brotherhood's Humanitarian Award to Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman. At right is Irving Ungerman. [Frances Kraft photo]

Lastman, 67, is respected by everyone, said last year's honouree George Cohon, who served as auctioneer for one of Toronto's herd of over 300 handpainted fibreglass moose.

Mel Moose, a creation of artist Charles Pachter sporting the chain of office, and metal coils representing transplanted plugs of hair, was sold for $24,000 to media.com. The money raised by moose sales goes to charity, noted Cohon.

The mayor had no reason to spearhead the moose project, other than that it is good for the city, said Cohon. "Smiles are good for everybody."

Among Lastman's other projects, he plans a massive waterfront redevelopment, tied in with Toronto's bid for the 2008 Olympics. But "with or without the Olympics, the waterfront is a must," said the mayor.

He also spoke of a deal to buy Union Station and make it "a gateway" to the city at no new cost to taxpayers. "This will happen and the waterfront will happen," he said.

The waterfront project will cost over $12 billion, over $7 billion of which will come from the private sector, Lastman said. The remainder will be paid by government funds over a period of 20 years. The acquisition of Union Station will not be at any new cost to taxpayers, he said.

Lastman will leave his mark on the city, said former award recipient and former Metro Chair Paul Godfrey, who praised the mayor for running the amalgamated city better than the chair and six mayors who, together, ran it previously.

The mayor has been a benefactor to all the ethnic groups, said former recipient Johnny Lombardi, founder of the multi-cultural CHIN radio station. Toronto, it was noted, is home to people from 169 countries, speaking over 100 languages.

Lastman was also praised for his task force on homelessness and his fight for federal and provincial funds to address homelessness issues. As well, he stimulated Toronto's economy with a three-year tax freeze, noted Jack Herson, brotherhood president.

Paying tribute to Lastman's business roots, Godfrey noted the mayor's creativity in his pre-politics days, when he followed ice trucks and sold refrigerators to those who used iceboxes.

After three decades in politics, Lastman is as popular as ever, noted Godfrey. "How many politicians in their 31st year are more popular today than when they first started?"

The mayor uses an iron fist to cut spending and ensure law and order, and a velvet glove with the homeless, the aged and the young, said Godfrey.

Despite his hard work, Godfrey noted, Lastman is a family man who has his priorities right.

Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich, Beth Sholom's spiritual leader, noted that Lastman even came to say Kaddish on his father's yahrzeit in the middle of an election.

In his own speech, Lastman paid tribute to Marilyn, his wife of 46 years, for her support. The couple have raised $1.4 million for the arts in the past two years, it was noted in the evening's program.

Dale Lastman, whose brother Blayne also spoke, said he learned from his father to be honest, sincere, tolerant, respectful and true to himself.

"I suspect I learned modesty and humility somewhere else," he quipped.

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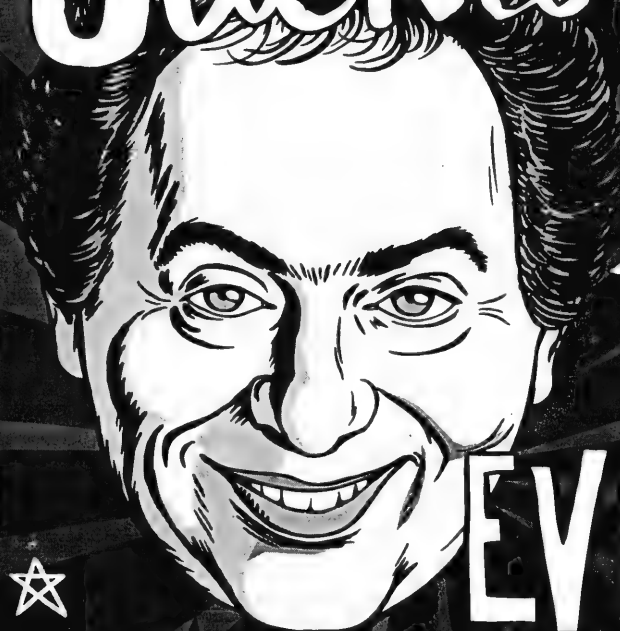

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A flame that must be extinguished

On motza'ei Shabbat, vandals believed to be Jewish smashed the windows of Kehillat Yaar Ramot, a Masorti (Conservative) synagogue on the northern hillside of Jerusalem and then threw burning rags inside the sanctuary, hoping, obviously, to set the house of assembly and worship ablaze. Some siddurim and chumashim were destroyed, as were some furniture and upholstery. The synagogue sustained smoke and water damage. None of the sifrei Torah, thankfully, were harmed.

But something else so very precious was indeed harmed by this uniquely craven and abusive act: the belief in the sanctity and sanctuary of a *beit knesset,* the belief in the inviolability, for all Jews, of the holy books and the belief that there were, in the hearts of all Jews, still some limits to the manifestations of disrespect and intolerance.

When the torches were tossed to set the synagogue ablaze, they also singed and blackened the steadfastness of our beliefs. It was the second time in three weeks that the synagogue had been attacked. Three weeks ago, vandals tried to set fire to the synagogue door and defaced it with graffiti.

Condemnations of the first attack may have been slow in arriving and perhaps relatively feeble, but there was no tardiness this time or equivocation by high and prominent officials.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak criticized the attempted arson as "a horrible act that chills the souls of all Jews. The act is especially shocking," the prime minister said, "having taken place in Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the state of Israel and of the Jewish people."

Diaspora Affairs Minister Michael Melchior said the "lack of tolerance that leads to violence is a disturbing symptom in Israeli society. Just as we condemn assaults on synagogues in the streets of Europe, we must display a redoubled vehemence in our condemnation of this act and explore all necessary means to bring the guilty to justice."

Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisrael Lau expressed his condemnation "of any act of violence, whether it is against a man's dignity, his property, not to mention his life, whether committed against a building, or a building designated for the prayer of the members of movements like this one or any other."

Rabbi David Bateman, the spiritual leader of the synagogue, wounded, outraged, made the statement, a deeply felt *cri de coeur* that reverberates in all our consciences: "It's hard to imagine that any other Jew could perpetrate this kind of act of vandalism and destruction against a synagogue."

The flame that was tossed into Yaar Ramot must be extinguished. It was a flame of hatred and contempt. In its place the torch of mutual respect, acceptance and tolerance must be tossed into the hearts of all Jews with the hope of igniting *ahavat Yisrael* among us all.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Teffilin, Omed Teffilin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

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Condemns minister's decision

I am shocked and saddened by the Jewish community's thunderous silence concerning the fate of Chinese refugees who have been returned against their will to their homeland. Surely, the parallels with Jewish refugees from Germany in the 1930s are not only clear but uncanny. Have Jews lost their moral compass? Have they become so morally myopic that only parochial ethical questions concern them? Shame.

Jews fleeing the barbaric totalitarian regime in pre-war Germany were denied entry by the Liberal government of the day. Canada, they said, would not be the dumping ground for the refuse of Europe. So these refugees were forced to return to Germany to face concentration camps or worse. Canadian Jews, since that time, have been unanimous and vociferous in condemning this callous behaviour of our government. How ghastly then is the irony we face in Canada today. Several Chinese refugees fleeing a barbaric totalitarian regime in China have been repatriated from Canada at the behest of Elinor Caplan. These unfortunate souls will face, as their Jewish soulmates did in Hitler's Germany, concentration camps or worse. Indeed, the *National Post* reported recently that one of these refugees has been sentenced to death. Callously, incredibly, indeed shockingly, Caplan declared that she was "unswerving" in her determination to not let Canada become the dumping ground for other such people.

I urge all Canadians, but especially Canadian Jews, to not let this happen again. People risking life and limb to flee a tyrannical country must not be turned away from our shores because they lack the "proper credentials." That a Jewish immigration minister is doing this, is shameful beyond expression. Jews, of all people, must not be silent in the face of this moral madness. Caplan must reverse her decision or resign. Honour and decency permit no other course.

Stephen Stern
Ajax, Ontario

***

Laments skepticism of fellow Jews

Earlier this year, as reported in the *CJN*, a Reform congregation from St. Catharines merged with a Conservative congregation from Niagara Falls. The inaugural Shabbat service was attended by Canadian Jewish Congress representatives including Michael Soberman, who praised the members for putting aside stereotyping and rather, working together to find common spiritual and liturgical ground.

It has therefore been both puzzling and disheartening that some persons have shown reactions to the merger best described as patronizing or disdainful. Phrases such as "That's bizarre," or "Yes, but how long will it last?" sadly reflect a xenophobia and parochialism from individuals who otherwise loudly profess a worldly concern for Jewish survival.

In the *Pirkot Avot*, Ben Zoma says: "Who is wise? The person who learns from all." Rabbi Meir writes: "Look not at the bottle, look at what is in it." Is it so difficult to comprehend the union of persons from disparate backgrounds in a lifelong partnership based upon caring and mutual respect?

Gary Berman
St. Catharines, Ont.

***

Hopeful signs in Catholic church

Your June 15th article "Rabbis, Priests discuss Marriage, Intermarriage" conveys well the good discussion and understanding that was promoted between the two groups.

Readers might be interested to know that the meeting was originally a Roman Catholic initiative of Rev. Damian MacPherson, director of the Archdiocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs, and reflects increasing Catholic desire to learn sensitivity around issues of concern in the Jewish community. Father MacPherson approached Rabbi Philip Scheim of the Toronto Board of Rabbis who responded with enthusiasm.

After the long history of persecution and ignorance on the Church's part, and some misunderstandings and misreading of each other's motives still today, we think it is important for *CJN* readers to know when there are hopeful signs in the Catholic Church.

Beth Porter
Member of the Archdiocesan
Interfaith Committee Toronto

* * *

The Rocket was just too fast

I was most touched by the editorial on Rocket Richard. (*CJN*, June 1)

A very close and dear friend of mine, Gerard Voileau was a friend of the Rocket before the Rocket joined the Montreal Canadians at the age of 22. Their first coach was a Swiss Jew who was amazed by the speed of the Rocket. He told Rocket Richard that he was just too fast for the game and it would be a good idea if he thought of doing another sport. He thought that the Rocket would either harm himself or someone else.

Donald J. Finn
Minden, Ont.

* * *

Disappointed with photo caption

I was terribly disappointed that in your caption (to the SeeJN photo in the issue of June 22) you chose the word "death" in association with the sixth yahrzeit since the passing of the Rebbe. In all printed material provided to *The CJN*, "passing" is the way I respectfully refer to the Rebbe. Why you elected to substitute a different word is beyond me.

Frankly it is disrespectful.

Zalman Grossbaum
Chabad Lubavitch
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

MORDECAI GEBIRTIG

Second part of a two part series.

By SIMCHA SIMCHOVITCH

As a result of the anti-Jewish policies of the Polish ruling circles in the late '30s, especially after the infamous pogrom in the town of Przytyk, in 1936, Gebirtig wrote his memorable song *Undzer Shtetl Brent* (Our Town Is Burning) in which he urged the people not to stand by idly "with folded arms" while the town is consumed by flames. The song ends with a desperate call for action before it is too late.

On fire! Brothers, it's burning!
If this town is dear to you,
take up the hoses, put out the fire,
douse it even with your own blood,
please show that you can do it.

Brothers, don't stand by calmly
with folded arms.
Don't stand by,
Brothers, put out the fire –
our town is burning!

This was a prophetic song which foretold the approaching destruction of Polish Jewry. A year later, the Germans entered Krakow and soon after confined the Jews into the ghetto.

For some time, Gebirtig, together with his wife and two of his daughters, was exiled to Lagiewniki, a village near Krakow. His third daughter, Shifra, managed to escape to Lvov, then under Soviet occupation. At the beginning of 1942, Gebirtig with his family returned to the Krakow ghetto.

On June 4, known in the annals of Krakow Jewry as "bloody Thursday," most of the Krakow Jews were transported to the death camp of Belzhets where Gebirtig's wife and two daughters perished. Gebirtig himself was shot by a German soldier on the way to the deportation train. Shifra, the third daughter, perished when the Germans broke into the Soviet Union in June 1941.

During the more than two years that Gebirtig lived under German occupation, and in spite of the terrible conditions in the ghetto, he continued to write and composed a series of songs that reflect the tragic reality of Jewish life of that period.

In the song *Zay Gezunt Mir Kroke* (Stay Well, Krakow) the poet takes leave of his beloved hometown where his ancestors are buried. In *S'tut Vey* (It Hurts) he pillories the Polish neighbours who draw satisfaction from the sight of Jews maltreated by the Germans. In a song titled *Minutn Fun Bitokhn* (Minutes of Faith), Gebirtig encourages the tormented ghetto-Jews to be patient and not lose hope that the war will come to an end and bring defeat to the enemy.

And in the song *Mayn Kholem* (My Dream), the poet paints a vision of the day the Germans will be defeated, the whole world will rejoice, and people will spit on the despicable enemy who destroyed the lives of millions innocent men, women and children. However, neither Gebirtig nor anyone in his family were destined to reach that day.

מרדכי גבירטיג

One day before the fatal deportation of June 4, 1942, Mordecai Gebirtig's daughter, Lola, handed over two folders with her father's ghetto poems and other writings to Julia and Hanka Hofman, the daughters of Gebirtig's friend, the musician Julius Hofman. The two women survived and brought the material to Israel where it was given to the Moreshet Archives of the kibbutz Givat Haviva. Later, some of these manuscripts were transferred to the Jewish Institute of Research (YIVO) in New York.

Right after the war, in 1946, the Jewish Historical Commission of the Central Committee of Polish Jews issued a small publication entitled *S'brent* (On Fire) which contained 15 poems Gebirtig had written during the ghetto period, with the addition of *Undzer Shtetl Brent* which he had written before the war, in 1938.

In 1948, the Educational Department of the Workmen's Circle in New York published the first full edition of Gebirtig's known poems with their musical score. Titled *Mayne Lider* (My Songs) it contains Gebirtig's collection of *Folkstimlekh* (1920), *Mayne Lider* (1936) and *S'brent* (1945), all originally published in Krakow. In 1986, the Peretz Publishing House in Tel Aviv reprinted this edition in a handsome book which is still available at the Tel Aviv publisher.

However, this is not the end of the story. In 1997, a new Gebirtig book appeared in Israel titled *Mayn Fayfele* (My Little Flute) which contains 80 never before published poems, culled from the manuscripts of the Givat Haviva Archive and the YIVO in New York. These unknown poems were published in a de luxe edition, with an introductory essay by the Hebrew writer Nathan Gross, illustrated with original drawings by Alexander Bogen.

Only 12 poems are accompanied by music of Gebirtig's composition, the rest are without musical score. Most of these poems belong to the pre-World War I period of Gebirtig's writing, only a few were written, but not published, afterwards. Most of these newly discovered writings do not reach the artistic quality of Gebirtig's hitherto known poems, and this may be the reason why Gebirtig did not include them in the two collections published during his lifetime. However, they are of great interest for us, because they reveal new aspects of Gebirtig's life and personality.

As a young man, before he fell sick, Gebirtig was a feisty champion of the worker's cause as well as a romantic suitor of women with whom he fell in love before he married Blumka.

At that time, Gebirtig was closely associated with the Jewish social democratic organization, the forerunner of the Bund in Krakow. We find therefore, in this edition, a number of socialist propaganda poems, some of them published in the Yiddish socialist press in Poland and in the United States. Such are the declarative poems *The General Strike* or *The First of May*.

In several poems about the Jewish holidays, especially Passover, Gebirtig stresses the plight of the poor who feel even more depressed because they lack the means to buy the necessary food or clothing for their wives and children. In another poem about Passover, the grandson refuses to listen to the grandfather's tale of the exodus.

Instead, he wants to hear of the plight of the oppressed and exploited of his time. This social consciousness goes hand-in-hand with the poet's anti-militarism. He raves against the war speculators who enrich themselves on the suffering of the hungry population, and he calls the medals upon the chest of the war hero "murderous signs of Cain."

In the new collection, the children's poems are less sentimental and nostalgic than in the previously published childhood songs. Here, he describes more realistically the plight of the Jewish child in the obscurantist traditional Jewish school, the cheder.

A real surprise is the cycle of love poems we find in *Mayn Fayfele*. In his hitherto known poems, Gebirtig tells mostly of the pain or disappointment of thwarted love in general, but not in personal terms. But here we find genuine poems of love and adoration, longing and disappointment personally experienced by the poet.

Two other themes occupy a prominent place in the newly found material. One consists of personal lyrical outpourings caused probably by the poet's health problems. His heart condition and other disabilities cast a dark shadow on his life and cause him to feel angst and the fear of death. Thus, he tells us in one poem that after his heart attack, he lay six weeks in bed. He is not yet fully recovered, but has to return to the shop in order to provide for his family. On the other hand, we find here poems of jubilation for life as well as vivid descriptions of nature in the different seasons of the year.

As I mentioned already, an amazing and wonderful metamorphosis of Gebirtig's work occurred after World War II. He was discovered by a number of Jewish and non-Jewish scholars and musicians who were inspired by his life and martyrdom and by his sincere, heart-rendering songs.

Partial translations of his lyrics and music appeared in Hebrew, Polish and English. However, two non-Jewish musicians ventured to publish full editions of Gebirtig's songs, one in Italian, the other in German.

In Italy, in 1977, a de luxe edition appeared of *All the Songs of Mordecai Gebirtig*, with the Yiddish texts in Latin transliteration, the music, and the Italian translation by Laura Mitzner, with an introduction by the renowned Italian singer, Rudi Asumina.

The German folksinger and composer, Manfred Lemm of Wuppertal, Germany became even more involved with Gebirtig. In 1967, his ensemble was invited to perform in Israel, and he began to incorporate Hebrew and Yiddish songs in his repertoire. He then discovered some of Gebirtig's songs and was spellbound by their genuine beauty. From then on, Manfred Lemm began collecting Gebirtig's heritage and researching his life.

This led him to Poland, Israel, England, and the United States, where he gathered material, performed, lectured and conducted seminars on Gebirtig. He and his ensemble also produced two CDs with about 50 songs of Gebirtig, all sung in Yiddish.

In 1992, he published a large and complete edition of all of Gebirtig's known songs. The book includes the Yiddish text, a transliteration in Latin letters, a free German translation, and music arranged by Lemm. In addition, Lemm composed music to 20 Gerbirtig poems that didn't have musical notes.

In 1995, Lemm visited Toronto and gave a Gebirtig recital at the Goethe Institute. I attended the concert and have kept in touch with him since then. It was he who encouraged me to translate Gebirtig's lyrics into English for a possible edition similar to the one he compiled in German.

We can, therefore, comfort ourselves that Gebirtig's honest and heartfelt songs did not die with their master. His songs live and resound, in Yiddish and in translations, in many parts of the world.

A martyr remembered

Anton Schmid was a member of the German army. For some years, he has been remembered on the Avenue of the Righteous in Jerusalem. I recall seeing the name there, but I had no real idea who the honoree was.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

It so happens that lately the name has made the news, and here are some of the details which I found most interesting.

Schmid was an Austrian by birth and after his nation joined Nazi Germany he was, like all other young men of his age, inducted into the Nazi army.

In the fall of 1941, his unit was stationed in Vilna. There, Schmid became a witness to the mass murder the Einsatzgruppen of the Wehrmacht committed when they executed thousands of Jews.

Sergeant Schmid was horrified by what he saw and secretly managed to help Jews hide themselves. Schmid also obtained provisions and false documents for them. In this fashion, he saved 250 Jews and organized their flight. But he was caught, and in January 1942, was arrested, condemned to death, and executed in Vilna in April.

Now, more than half-a-century later, he has also been honoured in Germany. A military barracks complex, formerly named after Gen. Guenther Ruedel, has been renamed after Anton Schmid. He has thus become the first German soldier martyred because of the Holocaust to be honoured, and in a military institution to boot.

General Ruedel's name was chosen for removal, not because he served in the First and Second World Wars, but because he had been a judge in the People's Court, which had routinely condemned opponents of the Nazi regime to death.

Although Ruedel, himself, had never committed physical violence against Jew or non-Jew, his agreement and participation in the court were reason enough to withdraw the honour that had been previously bestowed upon him.

Fritz Stern, an American-Jewish historian, has characterized the renaming of the military complex as another sign of the new German attitude to the Holocaust.

Germany's defence minister, Rudolf Scharping, supported the honouring of Schmid and the dishonouring of Ruedel. He did this not without opposition, but persisted in the face of it, and that deserves special note.

Scharping, himself, attended the renaming ceremony, which took place on May 8, the 55th anniversary of Germany's capitulation, ending the European conflict in World War II.

In Scharping's address to army recruits, he said that Germans could not choose the type of history they liked, but instead should identify with their best tradition.

Wild west nurtured women of valour

It sounds like "believe it or not" scenarios – a Jewish woman as millionaire entrepreneur, as "girl rabbi of the golden West," as consort of Wyatt Earp.

The West has produced many individuals who broke free of the restrictions that 19th and early-20th-century Jewish women encountered. Here are some of their stories.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

In 1863, Cecelia Davies came to Victoria, marrying businessman Francis Sylvester, the first Jew to settle permanently in Victoria (Jewish population of 242). Davies was a member of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the British Empire. She volunteered at the French Hospital and the Royal Jubilee Hospital, and also raised money for the building of Temple Emanu-el. She was an outstanding hostess and society woman.

Davies' energy was matched by Rachel Goldbloom's, one of Vancouver's pioneering Jewish women, whose home was a centre for the Jewish community in the first years of the 20th century.

The role of hostess, enabler and volunteer is familiar. But how about the "girl rabbi of the golden West?"

During the Rosh Hashanah of 1893, Rachel Frank, a reporter from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, was sent to Spokane, Wash. Finding no synagogue, she looked for the town's Jewish "leaders" who made her an offer.

They would organize the service if she would deliver the sermon. Done!

Her sermon catapulted her to fame as a lecturer across the Pacific as far northwest as Victoria, B.C., where she conducted High Holy Day services.

Having only one semester of study at Hebrew Union College, she sidestepped offers of teaching and permanent pulpit connections, building her reputation on a lively and intelligent understanding of Judaism. She ended her days in Urbana, Ill. where she supported Jewish students on campus.

Elizabeth Fleishman-Ascheim grew tired of the social life expected of young Jewish ladies in San Francisco and established the first X-ray laboratory in the West in 1896. Physicians and dentists consulted with her, as did doctors treating the wounded of the Spanish-American War. The surgeon general of the U.S. army rated her one of the best radiographers in the country.

Unfortunately, like Marie Curie, she was not protected from the dangers of the newly discovered technology, and she died of radiation poisoning. A Jewish woman scientist – what will they think of next.

The I in I Magnin stands for Isaac, but it was not the Dutch Jewish father who founded and ran the business, but his wife, Mary Ann née Cohen. A seamstress by trade and mother of seven, Mary Ann built the business (30 stores across the West) and ran it until her death in 1943 at the age of 95. As a daily visitor to their flagship store, she checked the counters with white-gloved hands and trained her sons to follow in her footsteps. From the steerage of an immigrant ship to the drawing rooms of the West, Mary Ann carried her family all the way.

Wyatt Earp connection? "Josie" Sarah Marcus moved with her family to San Francisco in 1869, where German Jews had built a thriving community. You get a glimpse of that community in *The Frisco Kid* starring Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford. At age 18, she ran away from home with a travelling band of actors, eventually meeting the famous lawman in Benson, Ariz. In the aftermath of the shootout at OK Corral, Josie and Wyatt began their wanderings through the West.

They eventually became rich through their canteen in Alaska and their copper strike in Nevada, and remained devoted to each other throughout Wyatt's long life. Josie wrote her memoirs and while her example is one many of us would not like our daughters to emulate, she certainly introduces an element of adventure into the history of the Jewish women of the West.

With thanks to the Women's League of Portland, Ore. for the information in this column.

Celebrate our leaders, volunteers

This column will no longer be written from one of, if not the most northerly Jewish communities in Canada. From now on, I will be corresponding from the most southerly of Jewish centres – Windsor, Ont.

Bruce Elman in Edmonton

Beginning in July, I am leaving Edmonton and the University of Alberta to become the dean of law at the University of Windsor. This was a bittersweet decision. I am excited about my new position and enthusiastic about the challenges and possibilities that go with it. I am extremely sad, however, to be leaving my longtime colleagues, my close circle of wonderful friends, my synagogue, my Shabbat Minchah havurah, and my community. I am hopeful that in Windsor I will be able to, at least partially, fill the void left by these losses.

On June 15, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton held its annual general meeting. As part of the program, the federation extended its thanks to four individuals for their longtime service to the community. Without checking the records for the accuracy of this statement, I believe that those four individuals – Steven Mandel, Len Dolgoy, Valda Levin, and myself – were the last four presidents of the Federation and the last four chairs or co-chairs of the United Jewish Appeal campaign. With the exception of Valda who becomes the past-president (the most sought after position in any Jewish organization) of the federation, the rest of us are leaving the federation board.

As I watched the presentations, I reflected upon the extraordinary character and ability of these three individuals. They have truly made a difference to Jewish communal life in Edmonton. As I thought about it further, I realized that they are not the only individuals who give their time, expertise, or resources for the betterment of the community. There are literally hundreds of volunteers in this community – and I assume in all communities – who, motivated by nothing more than their desire to make their community a better place to live, work tirelessly on behalf of their shul, their JCC, their children's school or youth group, their parent's old age or nursing home, and the like.

We do not do enough to recognize the contributions of these volunteers. I want to make it clear that this does not include me. My accomplishments (quite minor in my estimation) have been recognized and celebrated by my community to an embarrassing extent. I have been honoured on a number of occasions, but the efforts of most volunteers go unrecognized.

Unlike me, very few volunteers have had the good fortune to be acknowledged for their efforts. All of these individuals – not merely a select few – are special and deserving of honour and recognition. Frankly, we often adopt the contrary attitude towards our leaders and volunteers. Rather than show our appreciation to those who work for the maintenance and improvement of our community, we seem to revel in criticizing their efforts and denigrating their commitment. On all measures of ethics and morality, this is simply wrong!

A final observation: As someone who, in spite of my impending move, has, and always will have, a deep affection for the Edmonton Jewish community, I was thrilled to see a whole cadre of new leaders – both young and older – join the federation board. Under the direction of the president-to-be, Alvin Goldsman, and our new UJA chair, Ram Romanowsky, these individuals are now charged with the responsibility of ensuring the continued viability and vibrancy of the Edmonton Jewish community. I know the community is in good hands.

Coincidentally, this week we studied a passage in Pirkei Avot which (according to Rabbi Reuven Bulka) speaks of community leadership renewal: "Rabbi Yishmael says: Be compliant with your leaders, be pleasant with your youth, greet everyone in a cheerful manner." (3:16)

My hope for Edmonton is that, as a community, we can practice respect for our leaders, be pleasant with our young leadership, and develop a community that happily works for the betterment of Klal Israel.

Bruce Elman is Belzberg professor of constitutional law at the University of Alberta. On July 1, he becomes dean of law at the University of Windsor.

The Kirshner File

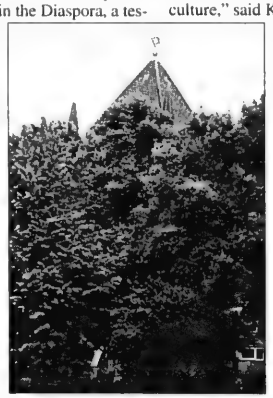
Ambivalence besets Jews in Germany

From the vantage point of a leafy park in central Cologne, the gray shingled roof of the Roonstrasse synagogue rises majestically above a grove of mature trees, revealing a plain Star of David piercing the sky. It is the only shul in this city not to have been destroyed by the Nazis during Kristallnacht, the 1938 nationwide pogrom which devastated Germany's Jewish community and set the stage for the Holocaust.

Sheldon Kirshner in Germany

In symbolic terms, the sight of a Magen David affixed to the spire of this imposing shul, a blend of Romanesque Revival and Moorish design, is revealing. Fifty five years after the collapse of the Nazi regime, Jews in Germany have risen again in a remarkable comeback.

In 1945, after his liberation from the Theresienstadt concentration camp, Rabbi Leo Baeck, a revered figure in German Jewry, declared, "The era of Jews in Germany is finished forever." But five decades on, reinforced by an influx of tens of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union, Germany is home to the third largest community in western Europe and the fastest growing one in the Diaspora, a testament to the Jewish spirit of resiliency and Germany's transformation into a democratic, prosperous state.



Cologne's Roonstrasse synagogue [Sheldon Kirshner photos]

By all accounts, there are 80,000 registered and an estimated 20,000 unregistered Jews in Germany today, scattered throughout 80 communities from Frankfurt to Hamburg and from Stuttgart to Halle. On the eve of Germany's reunification in 1990, the figure was about 30,000, consisting mainly of eastern European Jewish Holocaust survivors. It was an aging, declining community with a somewhat uncertain future. "People were sitting on their suitcases," said Salomon Korn, 56, the scion of Polish Jews, as well as the president of Frankfurt's community. "They postponed their emigration."

Moishe Waks, 47, tells a similar story. "We intended to leave Germany," explained Waks, a property manager and vice-president of Berlin's community who was born in a displaced persons camp in Fohrenwald. But, as in the case of many others who were stranded here after World War II, a combination of personal and economic circumstances kept them in Germany.

"We never imagined we would stay on," said Charlotte Knobloch, Munich's communal leader. Now 67, she has lived in Germany all her life. Hidden by a German farmer during the darkest days of the Nazi tyranny, she intended to settle in the United States. "We wanted to get away. No one thought Jews had a future in Germany." But after three pregnancies, she changed her mind, and settled in.

It is a truism that Jews live in Germany with a gnawing sense of guilt, even of angst. Although they have set down roots, they have definitely not reconciled themselves, psychologically at least, to living permanently in Germany. "I feel at home in the German language and culture," said Korn, an architect whose wife was born in the Warsaw ghetto. "But I don't regard Germany as my homeland. After the Holocaust, I would never admit to being a German."

Charlotte Knobloch

Instead, the vast majority of Jews consider themselves "Jews in Germany" rather than "German Jews," a definition which underscores an abiding alienation. "There is a sense of feeling different," said 36-year-old Michael Brenner, who teaches Jewish studies at Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich. By the same token, this is no longer a transitional "liquidation" community. "Jews are buying property and putting their trust in bricks and mortar," said Rabbi Walter Rothschild of Berlin, who spoke of a flowering of Jewish culture in Germany.

And yet, as Michael Wolffsohn – a historian at the German Armed Forces University in Munich – acknowledged, Jews in contemporary Germany are consumed by a deep ambivalence. A self-styled German patriot whose parents returned to Germany to reclaim expropriated property, he said, "It's a crime to live in a society with which you can't identify. If I felt this is a hostile place, I would have left. As soon as we're German citizens, we're Germans, full stop. If we define ourselves, objectively, as non-Germans, we're conveying the wrong impression to Germans." In this connection, he feels betrayed by Ignatz Bubis' decision to be buried in Israel rather than in Germany. Bubis, the former chair of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, died last August after seven years at the helm.

Born in Palestine, and a soldier in the Israeli army from 1967 to 1970, he readily concedes that his views are unrepresentative. But Wolffsohn, 53, is a member of a minuscule minority in more ways than one. In a community composed primarily of Jews of non-German origin, he is heir to a tradition almost eradicated by Adolf Hitler. It is a tradition which reached its apotheosis during the Weimar Republic, when roughly 600,000 Jews, many thoroughly assimilated, resided in Germany.

By sharp contrast, 70 percent of Germany's Jewish population today consists of former Soviet Jews, most of whom are detached from their Jewish background. "The central problem we face now as a community is how to absorb these Russian Jews," noted Waks, whose parents hail from Lodz, Poland. In addition, the community is short of teachers, rabbis and cantors. "It's hard to convince a rabbi to come to Germany," said an informant who preferred not to be identified. "For instance, it took more than two years to fill a rabbinical position in Berlin." And, he added, the general level of Jewish knowledge remains abysmal.

Nevertheless, the community is currently experiencing something of a cultural renaissance, as new schools, clubs, institutions, cafes, book shops and summer camps open to serve a growing population. But, as Knobloch warned, a shortage of funds for infrastructure projects is hampering development.

Torn by serious divisions and rivalries, this is a nominally Orthodox community. However, it is gradually becoming more religiously pluralistic, said Toby Axelrod, assistant director of the American Jewish Committee office in Berlin. Liberal Judaism is making inroads, a congregation in Oldenburg employs a female rabbi, and the Berlin community has decided in principle to hire Germany's first woman cantor after she completes her studies abroad.

Rabbi Walter Rothschild

The community, too, is on the cusp of a major intergenerational transformation, as Rabbi Rothschild observed. The post-war survivors are passing from the scene and being replaced by a generation more, though not completely, at ease in Germany. Apart from Waks, two such persons are his boss, Andreas Nahama, a history professor whose recently deceased father was a cantor; and Georg Heuberger, the director of Frankfurt's Jewish Museum.

Fairly typical of the second Jewish generation, Waks, Nahama and Heuberger appear comfortable as Jews in Germany (where the intermarriage rate surpasses the 50 percent mark, even though most Germans will never meet a Jew). Jews like them are reasonably integrated into German society, and do not view anti-Semitism, such as it is, as a day-to-day problem. But in the shadow of the Holocaust, Jews have yet to reach a state of normality.

"I'm afraid of blunt philo-Semitism or blunt anti-Semitism," said Esther Kontarsky, a 31-year-old Berlin translator. "It's difficult to lead a normal life here." Her acquaintance, Bernard Lerner, 43, though worried about Germany's xenophobic streak, which usually expresses itself in neo-Nazi attacks against visible minorities, is more optimistic. "Germany," he said, " is a democratic nation where Jews can lead secure lives, as in any other European country."

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Jewish Life

Parshat Shlach

Rabbinic Reflections

By RABBI MENDEL KAPLAN

And HaShem spoke to Moshe, saying, "Send, for yourself, men, and have them scout the land of Canaan." Twelve individuals noted for their piety, propriety and prominence were dispatched by Moshe Rabbeinu.

Forty days later they returned. After delivering a glowing description of Eretz Yisrael they stated, "mighty are those who inhabit the land, and the cities are greatly fortified." They then concluded, "We are unable to go up against the nation for they are more powerful then we are."

The reaction of the people is swift and unequivocal, "would we have died in the land of Egypt ... why does HaShem bring us into this land to fall by the sword ... let us return to Egypt."

Initially, God's response is that the Jewish people are deserving of annihilation. Only with Moshe's intercession does God relent, vowing however, that this generation will not enter the Promised Land. For forty years they will bear their iniquity, as they wander in the barren desert.

The entire episode seems enigmatic. Why does God allow Moshe to send the spies? Having been sent, what is the parameter of their sin, their report is seemingly entirely truthful!

The celebrated Lubavicher Rebbe of sainted memory (whose sixth yahrzeit will be marked this Thursday) once explained; God created a world in which nature reigns supreme. God doesn't perform unnecessary miracles; we may not depend on dismemberment of the nature's law and order for success. Accordingly, spies must be sent to ascertain the most effective route military conquest need take.

However, depending entirely on our own efforts and the framework of nature is equally unacceptable. To assume that the key of achievement rests solely in our own hands is a serious error. Instead, we must view our handiwork as a vehicle for the manifestation of the Divine blessing. Simply stated, we must do our best and trust that God will crown our efforts with success.

The wayward spies reported truthfully about the strength of the Canaanites and their powerfully fortified dwellings. However, they committed a cardinal crime by drawing their own conclusions about the chances of a successful invasion. The question never was if, the question was how.

The modern message of this ancient story reverberates with great force today. A short half-century ago, prophets of doom predicted the demise of traditional Judaism by the end of the millennium. But that was never our question. Although North American soil didn't seem that fertile for the replanting of Torah Judaism, visionaries like our beloved Rebbe only pondered how, not if Yiddishkeit would prosper.

When the Rebbe talked about reaching out and educating Jews immersed in the secular society, most people laughed saying it couldn't be done. The bridge was too wide, the gap too vast. Instead of being fazed, he set in motion the most powerful wave of return our people has ever seen.

And today nobody is laughing. Instead, everyone has embraced his holistic and loving philosophy of caring and sharing. Because the question never was if Torah could survive in the new world, only how long it would take. So take heart, a messianic universe of peace and prosperity is on the way, the question is only when.

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan is the rabbi at Chabad @ Flamingo, the Ernest Manson Lubavitch Centre.

Is Smoking Kosher?

Comparative Law

According to Health Canada, Canadians will suffer 46,910 deaths attributable to smoking in the year 2000. Studies have linked smoking to a variety of illnesses, including heart disease, lung cancer, emphysema, and bronchial disorders. The health risks smoking presents pose a halachic question – does Halachah permit smoking?

In Judaism, health is a religious concern. Maimonides notes that a sound mind requires a sound body, and for this reason it is a religious obligation to take care of one's health (*Hilchas Deot* 4:1).

There are many halachic regulations enacted for health purposes (see Shulchan Aruch YD 116). In general, health regulations are treated with greater stringency than any other section of Halachah (Hullin 9b).

While health and safety are halachic obligations, it does not mean that every health and safety risk are prohibited. It is normal for people to accept certain safety risks in the course of their regular activities. Regular activities such as driving, flying in a plane or giving birth to a child entail some risk. What needs to be determined is which risks are considered to be halachically acceptable and which are not.

The crucial text for determining the criteria of acceptable risk is found in Yebamot 72a. The Talmud states in the name of Rav Papa that even though there is an obligation to avoid danger, when many people ignore a specific type of health hazard, it is halachically permitted to ignore it because "the Lord watches the simple" (Psalms 116:6).

There are several interpretations of Rav Papa's statement. To some, this means that even a demonstrated health hazard may be ignored if most people ignore it as well (Ritva s.v. "Shomer").

This interpretation sees acceptable risk as subjective and socially determined; I cannot be more reckless than most other people in my society. One can conclude that according to this view, if large groups of people ignore the health risks of smoking, it is not halachically prohibited.

A different interpretation is offered by Rabbi Yaakov Etlinger (Binyan Zion 137). He explains that there is a difference between behaviour that presents an immediate danger, and behaviour that may present a future danger. An action that presents immediate danger, such as entering a burning building, is prohibited. Something that may turn dangerous in the future, such as a long boat trip, is allowed because "the Lord watches the simple."

Some argue that according to Etlinger's opinion, smoking, which does not present immediate danger to the smoker, would be permitted.

Others take a different view of the text. They say the dispensation of "the Lord watches the simple" only refers to cases where the danger is extremely small (Achiezer 1:23:2) or cases where the danger is "well known," but there is no empirical, scientific evidence to substantiate it (Tzitz Eliezer 15:39; cf. Beit Yoseph YD 262).

According to this interpretation, any scientifically demonstrated health hazard is absolutely prohibited. Because of this, Rabbi Eliezer Waldenberg prohibited smoking, saying that there is unambiguous scientific evidence that cigarette smoking is dangerous. Rabbi Waldenberg says those who do smoke must make every effort to quit smoking.

More controversial is the view of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (Iggrot CM II:76; dated June 10, 1981). While Rabbi Feinstein strongly discourages smoking, he writes that since many people who smoke do not suffer any health problems, and most who smoke are not endangered by it, one may say that smoking is permitted because "the Lord watches the simple."

Due to Rabbi Feinstein's authority, many rabbis are loath to prohibit smoking. However, a recent ruling by the Rabbinical Council of America (available at: http://www.rabbis.org/ publications/smoking.pdf) which Rabbi Feinstein's son-in-law, Rabbi Moshe Tendler, co-authored, argues that in light of recent studies demonstrating the widespread danger cigarette smoking presents, and the fact that there are considerably fewer smokers today, Rabbi Feinstein would today reverse his position and prohibit smoking.

Like many questions in Halachah, there is more than one opinion about whether smoking is permitted or prohibited. However, all authorities agree that taking good care of one's health is an important religious value, and may not be overlooked.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz is the rabbi of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal.

Jewish Life

Are religious cults dangerous?

***Mystics and Messiahs – Cults and New Religions in American History* by Philip Jenkins, Oxford University Press, $44.00.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Are religious cults dangerous? Do they engender mass suicides, doomsday fears and sexual abuse? Do they engage in brainwashing and mind-control? Do they prey on the young and uninformed?

Should Jews be concerned? Estimates vary widely, but polls indicate that perhaps 20 percent of Hare Krishnas are Jewish, and that Jews constitute as much as 30 percent of the Divine Light Mission membership. There are also many Jews involved in scientology.

"Jews for Jesus" which proclaims Jesus as messiah while retaining Jewish customs and rituals, has been particularly condemned by Jewish organizations.

The overall threat to Judaism by cults is probably exaggerated. Surveys of rabbis find little evidence of widespread defections or conversions, but the cult issue does focus attention on what many Jewish spokespeople feel is an ongoing threat to Jewish well-being – if only a minor one.

Cults themselves often suffer from wild, unfounded accusations including ritual murder, as well as bizarre rites and rituals. The author reports that the media discovered the phrase "ritual murder" in 1913, while reporting anti-Semitic trials in Czarist Russia. Over the next decade or so, the term exclusively implied a Jewish context.

Human sacrifice tales revived in the early 1930s during an upsurge of popular anti-Semitism, at a time when Americans feared the renewal of mass Jewish immigration. For the fascist right wing, the Lindberg baby murder of 1932 was certainly a Jewish ritual murder, supposedly carried out at the Feast of Purim (sic).

Philip Jenkins, professor of history and religious studies at Penn State University, argues that what we label as cults are often nothing more than the beginning of new religious thinking or organizations which are significant social and cultural contributors to the healthy development of society. Present-day groups should be seen in historical perspective because they have their core beliefs rooted in 19th- or early-20th-century movements.

These new beliefs develop because the needs of people are not being satisfied by the established churches. The religious mainstream reject the new groups because of their own fears of the new, of the other, and of competition.

Jenkins points to the astounding growth in size and respectability of such sects as the Church of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), Baptists, and Pentecostals – all of whom were considered insidious in their early years but are now mainstream religions.

Without denying that many new religious groups have engaged in morally suspect or legally questionable activities, Jenkins maintains that these have been a small minority.

Some religious traditions – once vehemently condemned – have grown both in numbers and social acceptance in recent times. An example has been the expansion of American Islam since the 1960s, to the extent that there will be more Muslims than Jews in the United States within a decade or so (in this case, much of the growth is attributable to immigration rather than domestic conversions).

Not long ago, Islam was regarded as a highly deviant belief-system for Americans, but today it is a well-established component of the religious scene.

The modern story of American Buddhism is quite as impressive. A century or so can make all the difference between renegade status and widespread acceptance.

Mystics and Messiahs deals with an astonishing variety of cults and imparts interesting and little-known information about them. Scholarly, but always lucid and readable, this engaging description of recent American religious history is essentially the story of how once marginalized groups eventually found a respectable place in the religious establishment.

Jewish genetic disorders

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Over the past couple of weeks, we have looked at information about Jewish genetic disorders on the Internet. While the Internet may be the best place to find that information, it is important to remember that the Internet should not be considered a substitute for trusted medical advice.

The best place to start is at the National Foundation for Jewish Genetic Diseases Web site **[http://www.nfjgd.org/]**. The foundation supplies online information and weblinks about the genetic diseases more common among Jews such as Bloom's syndrome, canavan disease, familial dysautonomia, fanconia anemia, Gaucher's disease, mucolipidosis IV, Niemann Pick disease, Tay-Sachs disease and torsion dystonia.

For a good explanation of how diseases are inherited, I recommend the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network Web site **[http://www.einstein.edu/jewishgenetics/].**

Less well-known is a connection between schizophrenia and the Jewish community **[http://www.med.jhu.edu/epigen/ashkenazim.htm]**. The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine wants to identify the susceptibility to schizophrenia among Ashkenazi Jews and develop new treatment.

Why study Ashkenazim? The site explains that "Jewish individuals are in a unique position to assist scientists in the understanding of genetic disorders. Due to a long history of marriage within the faith that extends back thousands of years, the Jewish community has emerged from a limited number of ancestors and has a similar genetic makeup. This allows researchers to more easily perform genetic studies and locate disease causing genes."

The site explains that the risks for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder seem to be about 1 percent for any population. Some studies have suggested an increased risk in the Jewish population but those studies have been inadequately substantiated at this time.

Research is also being done into a recessive gene found in Ashkenazi Jews which is likely to be a source of hereditary deafness **[http://jewishaz.com/1998b/981127/deafness.shtml]**. Researchers stress that the frequency of deafness is not higher in the Jewish population. Bronya Keats, director of the Molecular and Human Genetic Centre at the Louisiana State University Medical Centre points out, "It's just that in the (Ashkenazi) Jewish population, many profound hearing impairments are due to a certain gene mutation."

Among Sephardi Jews, research is continuing into familial Mediterranean fever **[http://www.acponline.org/journals/annals/01oct98/medfever.htm]**.

FMF is a recessively inherited disorder characterized by episodes of fever with abdominal pain, pleurisy, or arthritis that affects Sephardi Jews, Turks, Armenians and Arabs. I particularly like the Bnai Sepharad FMF site **[http://members.tripod.com/BnaiSepharad/]** because it is a grassroots effort. There are messages from people in Amsterdam, Turkey, Italy, Kuwait, Las Vegas, Cape Town, Stockholm and Israel – all sharing questions, concerns and expertise about a relatively rare disorder.

Another excellent way to learn more about rare Jewish diseases is to meet others who are facing similar challenges. You can join that worldwide community through e-mail lists such as the genetic disease listserv **[http://sargon.mmu.ac.uk/genetic.htm]** and the Genetic Disease E-mail Discussion List **[http://www.gaucherdisease.org/list.htm]**. You must supply your name to join the discussion list but that information will be kept confidential.

Hopefully, the silent genetic links that join people from around the world will now be better understood thanks to links created by the Internet.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway.@home.com.

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Rabbi Shimon Aisenbach (right), director of Canadian Friends of Cuban Jewry, in Havana with a member of Cuba's 1,000-member Jewish community.

Friends reach out to Cuban Jews

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Among the Toronto Jewish community's plethora of "Friends of" groups is one that brings direct aid and comfort to Jews in one of the world's last Communist bastions.

Set up here nearly a year ago, the Canadian Friends of Cuban Jewry (CFCJ) has an ambitious mandate: to raise the spirits of Cuba's remaining 1,000 Jews, in a time marked by economic hardship and political uncertainty.

Actually, the Canadian Friends have been around since 1993, with a branch in Montreal, which itself was an outgrowth of the New York-based Chabad Friends of Cuban Jewry.

Over the past six years, the CFCJ has visited Cuba 56 times, coinciding with Jewish holidays. In the spirit of Chabad's aggressive style of outreach, the group not only brings tons of kosher foodstuffs, but also tfillin, prayer books and mezuzot – all designed, as director Rabbi Shimon Aisenbach says, to reinforce Yiddishkeit in a place that has been officially atheist for 40 years.

While anti-Semitism is virtually unknown in Cuba, members of the Jewish community are subject to the same hardships as other Cubans, says Rabbi Aisenbach.

"They're going through a difficult time, together with everyone else. Remember, [Cuba] used to get billions of dollars from the Soviet Union. Now, everything is rationed."

Rabbi Aisenbach himself has been to the island a dozen times, most recently on Shavuot, when Spanish-speaking Chabad shlichim (emissaries) brought over 1,000 cheese blintzes and other traditional holiday food.

The Friends' work is not to be confused with the efforts of the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress, which has been shipping Passover foods and supplies to Cuba for 30 years.

This past spring, for the first time, the Cuban government itself aided CJC's campaign. Cubana, the state-owned airline, agreed to ship 4,000 kilos of kosher-for-Passover matzah, wine and canned goods free of charge, and another 6,000 at a greatly reduced rate.

Passover was also a busy time for the CFCJ. Shlichim made sure every family received matzah and wine. They also officiated at a huge public seder, at which shmurah matzah was distributed, as was a special edition Spanish Haggadah with explanations and illustrations. Chabad representatives went door to door throughout the holiday.

The Friends also run a Jewish summer camp for children and to date, have arranged with the government to allow six young men to study at foreign yeshivot, mainly in Argentina. Of the six, three have gotten married to Jewish women.

From Canada, Chabad emissaries travel to Cuba in pairs, helping to affix mezuzot to over 170 homes so far, and aiding in the increasing number of circumcisions being performed, including on older boys.

But problems remain, says Rabbi Aisenbach. Kashrut is one, as there is no full time shochet. (One is brought in periodically.) The government, Rabbi Aisenbach notes, has allocated a number of cattle to the Jewish community.

Havana's relations with Israel are officially non-existent, but the Jewish population seems hungry for spiritual renewal, Rabbi Aisenbach observes. Services at the capital's main synagogue, the Adath Israel, are well-attended.

People eagerly snap up the many colorful explanatory brochures the Friends produce, and avail themselves of the three small libraries Chabad has founded where Jews can learn about their heritage.

Next on the Jewish calendar are the High Holidays and the Friends are already making plans to deliver lulavim and etrogim for Sukkot.

The group also provides ongoing humanitarian aid, shipping shoes, clothes and medicine to the community. It relies solely on donations.

For details, call the Friends at 905-707-6452.

Making Holocaust studies relevant to students

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — All eyes in the classroom are focused on the television screen as the video tape of Adolph Eichmann's 1961 testimony in Jerusalem is being played.

"He knew what he was doing," explains Jessica Myers, reacting angrily to Eichmann's excuse that he was just following orders when he arranged for the transport of millions of Jews to death camps.

Lewis Fried, the teacher, says that these are the types of responses students have presented during the year-long Twentieth Century Holocaust Studies course at Thornhill Secondary School, one of three Ontario public high schools offering a Holocaust course.

There is an estimated Jewish student population of 65 percent at Thornhill and Fried says that has kept enrollment in the course high since its inception in the early '90s.

"We underestimate kids' desire to engage in discussions on racism…morality and human nature. [This course] gives them a place to do that," Fried says.

Saul Bancroft, a student in the class, says it may be even more useful for non-Jewish students to take this course. "People who don't know about the Holocaust are the ones who should be taking this course," he says.

But Fried says attracting non-Jewish students to the course is difficult.

"When a lot of non-Jewish kids see the title Holocaust Studies, they decide not to take it because they see it as a Jewish course. That's a real problem in the public school system," he says, noting that Vaughan Secondary School and Westmount Collegiate Institute, the other schools with Holocaust courses, both have large Jewish populations.

"If we repackaged this [course], and called it Genocide in the Twentieth Century, I'm willing to bet we'd get…60 students signing up."

Heart of Darkness, Genocide in the Twentieth Century is the title of the Holocaust course offered at Vaughan Secondary School. Stephen Bloom, the teacher, says on average, non-Jewish enrolment in the course is only 10 to 15 percent.

In an effort to make the course relevant to everyone, Fried and Bloom both say that they refer to other genocides.

In Bloom's class, students must do an independent study project that is not on the Holocaust, but must be on another example of a genocide, such as in Rwanda or Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Unfortunately, Bloom says, "the perception is that…it is specifically angled at [Jewish] kids."

Bloom says occasionally the classroom environment has been tense because some non-Jewish students do not have the same sensibilities towards the Holocaust as Jewish students. He recalled this past semester,, a non-Jewish student who "asked questions that [may] have offended many kids. She said 'wasn't Hitler just being efficient or why didn't the Jews stand up for themselves?' "

The new curriculum, which entered Ontario high schools last September, does not offer a Holocaust specific course, but does outline several aspects of Holocaust education which must be addressed in grades 9/10 history, Grade 10 civics and Grade 12 world history.

For example, curriculum for Grade 10 history says students must "produce a timeline that charts and identifies significant historical events related to the Holocaust…such as anti-Semitism, the rise of Nazism, Kristallnacht, the establishment of ghettos…and death camps." How much time a teacher spends on this material is at their discretion.

Heather Henricks, a history teacher at Stouffville District Secondary School, a school with a tiny Jewish population, says she spends about five days on the Holocaust, as part the World War II unit in Grade 10 history.

But Fried says time constraints often limit how much time teachers can devote to the Holocaust. "It's generally rushed over in a day, maybe a day and a half," he says.

Jessica Melanson, one of two non-Jewish students in Fried's class said one of the reasons she took the Holocaust course was because of the lack of material in the Grade 10 history course.

"The Holocaust is always brushed over…[because] a lot of teachers dance around sensitive issues," she said. "Mr. Fried is not like that."

Fried said delving into disturbing aspects of the Holocaust is difficult for some students. On the first day of class, he shows a three-minute video of Auschwitz and invites students to speak with him individually if they feel the course may be too emotionally or academically intense for them to handle.

Fried and Bloom have found teaching the Holocaust course quite rewarding, but they may not have the opportunity to teach the course much longer. Students graduating in 2003 will have one less year of high school, which may result in the scrapping of optional courses currently offered, like the Holocaust.

Garfield Newman, a curriculum consultant with the York Region Board of Education says the only way to keep Holocaust courses around is for teachers, students and school administrators to "convince the ministry [of education] there is a specific local need." A petition would have to be submitted to the ministry to show there is a demand and need for the course.

Fried is worried that the ministry will not offer these kinds of courses, but he points out that the new textbooks for the Grade 10 history and civics courses have focused on the Holocaust as "*the* case study for human rights."

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Record for Mazon

Continued from page 3

ganizations based in Canada received funds from Mazon in its latest round of allocations. The funds went to food banks, church and synagogue groups, summer camps and other relief programs.

In the past two years, Mazon has begun to fund community garden projects. Run by social service agencies and church groups, the program sets aside city and church land for communal gardens. Fruit and vegetables are planted in the spring and those in need benefit at the end of the growing season with fresh produce as well as food for preserves, Kott-Wolle said. Mazon funds the cost of the seeds and tools.

A second innovative project funded in part by Mazon is a "gleaning" program operated by the Jane and Finch Community Ministry, a church and community centre in Toronto. The program buses pregnant women to farmers' fields in York Region, north of Toronto, where they can pick fruits and vegetables. The program is geared towards providing pregnant women with their extra nutrition needs, Kott-Wolle said. Mazon funds the $1,520 transportation cost. Two thousand people are expected to benefit from this year's program.

Mazon has also allocated $3,000 to a Toronto street relief program run jointly by the Native Men's Residence and Ve'ahavta, a Jewish volunteer group.

The program provides food, clothing and personal hygiene items to between 250-300 street people each night.

Mazon also allocated $2,000 to the Canadian Red Cross for Ethiopian Famine Relief while in 1998, it transferred $6,441 – some of which was raised by the First Narayever Congregation in Toronto – for North Korean famine relief.

The vast majority of Mazon's allocations, however, are earmarked for Canadian groups, including the Saskatoon Food Bank ($2,000), Pantree of Life, Montreal ($4,000) and Bikur Cholim of Toronto ($6,000).

Kott-Wolle said Mazon has established a committee to discuss ways of increasing the organization's profile in Jewish communities outside Toronto and Montreal. Mazon will probably identify a target city, create a relationship with a group of volunteers and promote Mazon's work there, she said.

Mazon has also announced creation of the Dodo Heppner Volunteer Award of Excellence.

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דער קאָנצערט פֿן מאָראָנטער יד. פֿאַלקס כאָר

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

„יִדיש איז מײַן לשון" איז דאָס אויסגעפֿיר־לידּ פֿון דעם כאָר. עס איז פֿון א פֿאַעמע פֿון ז. ווייַנפֿער מיט מוזיק פֿון **משה ראָוך**. עס הייבט זיך אָן מיט: „לשון מײַן איז יִידיש / פּול מיט פּשטות / און רחבותדיק נגידיש, / וואָרעם ווי די זון. / המשך איז מײַן זכיה / קיום איז מײַן ליד, / מײַן געזאַנג עליה / צו דעם מענטש און יִיד. . .". מער ווי אַלע מאָל איז דאָס ליד פֿאַסיק היינטיקן יאָר, ווען יִידיש טאָראָנטאָ און אַנדערע יִידישע ישובים וועלן אָפּפֿייַערן „1000 יאָר יִידיש". דער „מאָראָנטער יִידישער פֿאָלקס כאָר" קען זיך שטאָלץ מיט זייער חלק, וואָס זיי האָבן צוגעמראָגן צום אינפֿאָרמאַלן דאָס יִידישע לשון.

דער עולם האָט הנאה געהאַט פֿון קאָנצערט. מיר וויסן דאָס, ווייל מענטשן האָבן דאָס אונדז געזאָגט. מען האָט עס אָבגעזען אויף זייערע פּנימער. מיט איינעם האָב איך געהאַט אַן אינטערעסאַנטן ווערטער־אויסטויש. אויף מײַן פֿראָגע צי ער האָט הנאה געהאַט, האָט ער געענטפֿערט: „יאָ, אָבער. . ." דאָ האָב איך שוין פֿאַרשטאַנען, אַז ווען ס'איז דאָ אַן „אָבער", קומט א קריטיק. „יאָ, אָבער, ס'איז א יִידישער כאָר, זיי דאַרפֿן זינגען אַלץ אין יִידיש".

איך האָב אים געגעבן צו פֿאַרשטיין, אַז בײַ אונדז, יִדן, איז שוין אזוי. אָט האָבן מיר מאַי א *„יִידישן פֿלום פּעסטיוואַל"*, ווו 95 פּראָצענט פֿון די פּלעמער זיי־נען נישט אין יִידיש. אין נאוועמבער וועט אין טאָראָנטאָ זיין דער *„יִידישער בוך־יריד"*, אַן איד וויסט זייער גוט, אַז כּמעט 100 פּראָצענט פֿון דער אַרטשעשטעלטער ליטעראַטור, פֿון די לעקציעס אַן דיסקוסיעס, זיינען נישט אין דער יִידישער שפּראַך. דאָס זעלבע איז מיטן *„יִידישן מחיה־חודש"*, מיטן *„יִידישן כּור אויסצי־כּערונגן"* אַן אַנדערע עולמיקע אונטערנעמונגען. אָבער די טעמאַטיק, וואָס פֿאַרבינדט זיי אַלע, איז יִידישקייט. פֿערזעלבן, האָב איך אים צוגעגעבן, וואָלט איך געווען א סך מער צופֿרידן, ווען סיואָלט געווען מער מאָמע־לשון בײַ די אַלע אונטערנעמונגען.

צוריקגייענדיק צום „טאָראָנטער יִדישן פֿאָלקס כאָר" איז טאַקע אמת, אַז זיי זינגען נישט בלויז אין יִידיש, נאָר אויך אין העברעיִש, ענגליש, פֿראַנצויזיש אַן אפֿשר נאָך אין אַנדערע שפּראַכן. דאָס באָוויזט די פֿאַר־שידנארטקייט פֿון כאָר. דאָך ווען מען גיט א קוק אויף די לידער, וואָס זיי האָבן געזונגען בײַם לעצטן קאָנצערט, וי אויך בײַ אַנדערע קאָנצערטן, זעט מען, אַז זיי זינגען אַלע „יִדיש". פֿון „דאָס גזאַנג פֿון יִידישע שקלאַפֿן" פֿון ווערדיס אָפּערע; „גיך אַהיים" פֿון דוראַראָקס סימ־פֿאָניע „פֿון א נייער וועלט"; „א היפּן צו פּריהיים" פֿון באָוסטאָן קאָנצערט מחיקער אסקאר פּעטערסאָן; בײַ צו „ראָשיתקעס מיט מאָנדלעך" פֿון אברהם גאָלדפֿאַדן, זינגען דאָס לידער פֿון האָפּענונג, ארבעט, פּריהיים, שלום אַן אַזאָלן ישׂו. דאָס זינגען די טרימפּע אַן פֿאַראַנגען פֿון יִידישן פֿאָלק אויף זיין לאַנגן גלות־וועג.

אַן אָוודאי קען מען הערן דעם נעשרי פֿאַר שלום איך דער נייער וועלט־פּרעמיערע פֿון *„א פּיסט אין אמעל נעווען אַן אפֿעוע האָנט"*, קאָמפּאָניירט פֿון דעם בריטמן קאָנדוקטאָר מחיקער אלכּסאַנדער בּען שטיינבערג, בא־זיץ אויף די אינטערנאַציאָנאַלע פֿאַעמעס פֿון ישׂראלדיקן דיכטער **יהודה אַמיחי**.

חשובע לייַנערס, צום טוף א פֿראָגע: צו וועמ איך געווען בײַם לעצטן קאָנצערט? אויב יאָ, האָט איך זיכער נעמאָט פֿאַרגעסן. אויב נישט, איז א שאַד. איך האָט דוד־כּבֿוד־לאָזט א גוטע געלעגנהייט צו פֿאַרברענגן א שיינעם נאָכמיטאָג מיט א יִדישן כאָר, וואָס זינגט שוין 75 יאָר בי אונדז אין שטאָט. מאַכט זיכער, אַז איר האָט בילעטן פֿאַרן קומעדיקן יאָר. דער „טאָראָנטער יִדישער פֿאָלקס כאָר" איז ווערט מען זאָל אים הערן אַן אונ־טערשטיצן. דעם כאָר וויטשט מיר נאָך לאַנגע, שפּעדישע יאָרן.

Investors get chance to participate in Israeli economy

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Canadian investors have the opportunity to participate in the Israeli economy as individual investors, says Paul Morton, chair of the Canada-Israel Opportunity Funds.

The Funds, formed in 1995, established three limited partnerships which are now valued at more that $45 million.

Morton says that the Funds' Israeli investment managers, Shrem, Fudim, Kelner & Co. Ltd. (SFK), have provided Canadian investors with some of the best returns in Israel's high-tech market.

SFK, one of Israel's leading independent investment and merchant banking groups, also engages in direct investment funds management, consultancy and portfolio management, management of mutual funds and venture capital funds, and the underwriting and management of public offerings.

Morton said that to date, Fund 1 (the first limited partnership), has produced increases in assets of more than 400 percent, and Fund 2 has produced increases of 300 percent.

Fund 1 is in the midst of realizing on its investment and has returned in excess of investors' original investments. Fund 2 has returned 40 percent of investors' capital and is expected to return the balance in the next several months.

Paul Morton

Itschak Shrem, chair of SFK, says that "With the success of Funds 1 and 2, it was appropriate to offer our investors another vehicle for continuing their investment."

Morton recently announced that Fund 3 Limited Partnership has raised $13 million to date.

"We are pleased with the continued support of both our company and the Israeli high-tech industry and economy," says Shrem. "We are also pleased that many of the earlier investors have increased their investment commitments and that several new investors have come on board."

Morton attributes the success of the Funds to SFK's ability to invest at early stages in companies.

"Usually, direct investments in private companies are reserved for institutional investors. However, through our relationship with SFK, we have been able to offer the same investment opportunities to our Canadian investors. Many of them count our Funds as their most successful investment to date."

Morton adds that the Funds also invest, to a lesser extent, in publicly traded Israeli companies listed on both the Israeli and U.S. stock exchanges.

The Canada-Israel Opportunity Fund 111, says Morton, will remain open to investors for the next several months on a limited basis.

Investors in the Canada-Israel Opportunity Funds come from across Canada. The Funds hold annual conferences in either Toronto or Israel.

They are in the process of creating their own Web site which will highlight their investments and other related items.

Family gathers for 55th reunion

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO —The ruach and camaraderie at the Rose family gatherings would have made Beryl and Mintzi proud.

Beryl Rose formed the Rose Family Club before his death in 1945. He told his family it was so that "cousins won't pass in the street and not know each other."

Beryl and Mintzi Rose (Temnograd) taken in 1928.

Recently, more than 130 members of the Rose family, some fourth and fifth generation, gathered in Toronto for the family's 55th anniversary reunion weekend.

"One special element that adds meaning to our reunion," says Sara Belmont, a fourth-generation member of the planning committee, "is that it was planned primarily by fourth-generation Roses. This is a large step toward ensuring the continuation of the Rose Family Club, its history and tradition."

The clan is now 13 branches strong. When the family members gathered at the Borochov Centre for a banquet and other activities, they recalled the lives of Russian-born Beryl and Mintzi, whose name was Temnograd. The name was changed by an immigration officer in Halifax in 1922, who wanted to give them "a good honest name." So he gave them his own name – Rose.

The Masters of Ceremony, fourth-generation Brian Belmont and Lisa Rodin-Gardner made their entrances dressed as their great-grandparents in period dress.

Third-generation Anna Mae Belmont and Sippy Rodin, also dressed as Beryl and Mintzi, performed a skit reflecting the family history.

A book, titled *MGM II* (My Guntze Mishpocha), an update to the first *MGM* published five years ago for the family's golden anniversary reunion, was distributed.

The book contains an article titled, *The Early Years of the Rose Family* as told by the late Bella Rose Marcus in an interview with her daughter Joyce Mundel. There are photos, stories, thoughts, and reminiscences dating back to 1861, as well as current family addresses.

Participants also came from the United States, including California, Connecticut and Texas.

"We look forward to celebrating our 60th anniversary," Sara told *The CJN*.

"It was a great opportunity for cousins

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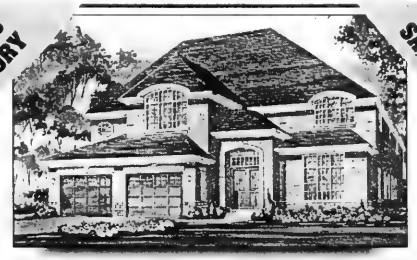

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE IN EARL BALES PARK
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NEWS FLASH ... NEWS FLASH

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 26 is deadline for July 6 issue and Tuesday, July 4 is deadline for July 13. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Saturday, July 1

WHAT MUST JEWS BELIEVE

In observance of the first yahrzeit of Rebbitzen Ruth Kelman, **Dafna Siegman,** curricular director for Melton School, Hebrew University, speaks on What Must a Jew Believe? Controversy over Principles of Faith. 7:30 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

Sunday, July 2

CANADA DAY - ALL DAY

A fun-packed day of activities in celebration of Canada Day at the Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum in the Bathurst Jewish Centre 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ice cream making, clown show, flag making, sidewalk art, face painting and more, 636-1880, ext. 456.

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Whole Woman by **Germaine Greer** is discussed by the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, 2 p.m., North York Community Centre, 505 Lawrence Ave. W. (basement). **Ruth Goldsmith** 782-6414.

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer**. Come listen, come tell. All are welcome. Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave., 7:30 p.m. 699-8914.

Monday, July 3

SINGLES 35 PLUS

Horse racing and slots, 11:30 a.m. Second Cup, Lawrence Plaza. Carpool to Woodbine. $2 each to Heart and Stroke Fund. (free admission, betting optional) 635-6489.

Wednesday, July 5

EVENING OF SWEET SONG

An Evening of Sweet Song, featuring world-renowned cantors **Naftali Hershtik** of Jerusalem Great Synagogue; **Arie Braun,** chief cantor of the Israeli Army (Ret.); **Chaim Adler**, chief cantor of Tel Aviv; **Aaron Bensoussan,** Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue; **Louis Danto**, cantor emeritus of Beth Emeth. Performance includes cantorial, chassidic and ladino renditions as well as opera and musical theatre, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth. For tickets 633-3838.

And What Else Is New

HEBREW COURSES

Looking forward to improving your Hebrew language skills this summer? Canadian Zionist Federation presents **Chana Sargon** leading its Hebrew Language Studies daily July 17-20 and July 24-27 at 9:30-11:30 a.m. Information/registration, call CZF 633-3988. Classes held at 3995 Bathurst St., Suite 300.

ART IN THE PARK

Register now for an outdoor art class for adults interested in drawing, sketching, and painting in Earl Bales Park, Mondays 1-3 p.m. beginning July 10 for 8 weeks. 338-4386. For information 395-7873.

JF & CS WORKSHOPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Teena** 638-7800, ext. 212.

Parenting Can Be 1, 2, 3 Magic begins July 11 for 3 mornings or evenings.

Mothering Your Teenage Daughter, for mothers to examine relationships with their teenage daughters, setting limits, independence, sex, drugs. Begins Oct. 10.

Successful Parenting of Children with ADHD. Learn what ADHD is, coping strategies, medication, treatment modalities. Learn how to

Continued on page 19

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Part 2: Tuesday July 11 at 8 pm

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What's new on the Internet?
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

at www.cjnews.com

What's New

Continued from page 18

maintain an effective treatment plan and how to become a successful advocate for your child. Begins Wednesday, Sept. 27.

VENDORS WANTED

Vendors are wanted for a garage sale/flea market/craft sale in Earl Bales Park Sunday, July 9. For a vendors package, call 395-7873.

RESOURCE CENTRE

The Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

New drop-in hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sundays, closed.

On Wednesday, July 5, 10 a.m. to noon, **Sandy**, public health nurse, discusses Safety in the Sun.

Drop-in programs and summer workshops continue. **Bernice Friedman** 905-882-8509.

SUPPORT GROUP

Jewish Parents and Families of Gays and Lesbians meetings are on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Jewish Family & Child Service, Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 6th floor library. For information call 763-9111 or 961-9344 and ask for **Nurit**.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama July 5 and 19; trip to Catskills Paramount Hotel July 23-30; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23; Line dancing every Tuesday morning during July and August. 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club:*Damn Yankees* at Drayton Festival Theatre Aug. 22. Painting classes every Wednesday 1-3 p.m. **Lena** 785-5773.

LZA Seniors Club: *Fiddler on the Roof* at Stratford Sept. 13, tickets available; dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. and Cultural Club Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Pythian Lodge #52 regular monthly meeting Wednesday, July 5, 8 p.m., Adath Sholom Synagogue. Closing banquet July 30, **Ed** 665-9266.

Young at Heart Seniors: vacation at the kosher Raleigh Hotel July 28-Aug. 6, everything included. Double occupancy $1,365 Cdn, single $1,620 Cdn. Cancellation included. Accepting deposits now. Partners available. **Helen** 635-6343.

New Image 50 Plus dance for single seniors, Saturday, July 1 at Earl Bales Community Centre. **Mollie** 733-3634.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Canada Day, Thursday, June 29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., speaker, clowns, barbecue, children's games, entertainment. **Irina** ext. 123 or **Lily** ext. 103.

Being-Belonging-Becoming summer learning series. For information, **Sheila Zane** ext. 133.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. July 4, movie; July 11, trip to Unionville; July 18, lecture; July 25, summer party. **Anna** ext. 110.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

The BJC's Centre Camp still has some spaces for its July and August sessions. Call the camp office, ext. 378, to register your children. Swimming, wall climbing, roller skating, drama, arts, music, nature, sports, special events, Judaica. Busing included, optional lunch available.

Pre-natal classes July 24-Sept. 11 (no class Aug. 7 and Sept. 4.) Mount Sinai instructor at the BJC's location. Free health club membership included in the fee for the 6-class session. For information/registration, ext. 229.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Summer programs and day camps July 3-Sept. 1 for tots to preteens. Creative arts, sports, sailing, outings, swimming, science.

Seniors Club: Thursday, June 29, picnic at Ward's Island and stroll along the boardwalk. Leaving Bloor JCC 10 a.m. or meet at Ferry Docks at 10:45. Bring your own lunch.

ABOUT PEOPLE

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Canadian Region, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has presented the first annual Ateret Kavod (Crown of Honour) Awards to three outstanding honourees. They are **Cantor Louis Danto,** cantor emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Congregation; **Marvin Miller,** of Toronto, past president of the former Ontario region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and past president of Beth Tzedec Congregation; and **Rabbi Lionel Moses** of Montreal, a Toronto native and currently rabbi of Shaare Zion Congregation, Montreal. The award reception was held June 28 at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

MR. PRESIDENTS

Bradley Fox, left, and **David L. Smith** were recently installed as co-presidents of The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation. Each has previously served as chair of the organization's New Leadership division, which sponsors annual golf tournaments and ski days among other events. Outgoing president is **Bernard G. Abrams.**

JEWISH BOOK FAIR CHAIR

Adam Fuerstenberg has been appointed chair of Jewish Book Fair. An adjunct professor at Ryerson Polytechnical University, he is editor of *Parchment* and director, Committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation. This year's Jewish Book Fair runs Nov. 4-12.

Adam Fuerstenberg

OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPISTS: Joey and Toby Tanenbaum were named Outstanding Philanthropists for the Year 2000 for their ongoing support of psychiatric research, as well as hospitals and the arts, both in Canada and Israel. The award was presented by the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives at an award luncheon held at Metro Toronto Convention Centre recently. Making the presentation is Hal Jackman, chancellor, U of T.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: Pictured at Toronto Hadassah-WIZO's recent Volunteer Recognition Evening are (from left) Joanna Slone, treasurer/financial secretary; Sharon Kroft, immediate past president; Beverley Crackower, vice-president; Anne Golden, president, United Way of Greater Toronto; Carol Lou Spiegel, president; Audrey Steinhauer, corresponding secretary; and Judy Zelikovitz, recording secretary.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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Greater Toronto Area

Northern Israeli kids get chance at 'normalcy'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — From the vantage point of his northern Israeli town bordering south Lebanon, Tel Aviv seems as though it's in another country entirely, according to the former mayor of Metulla.

Yossi Goldberg

Yossi Goldberg, 58, expects about 1,000 families from northern Israel to leave the area permanently this summer, following Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon, he said on a recent visit here, speaking to staff members at UJA FEDERATION.

"Some mothers ask, 'How can I not give my kids [the opportunity] to grow as normal kids in Haifa, Tel Aviv or Jerusalem?'" he said

Goldberg's priority now is to offer normalcy to youngsters and families of northern Israel.

Metulla's Canada Centre – a UIA Federations Canada-funded sports and recreation facility which Goldberg serves as chairman of the board of governors – plans to host 30,000 children from the region on their summer vacation this year.

"With your special project, you change completely life in the north," he said. When taking part in Canada Centre activities like hockey or swimming, kids "feel they are in Miami Beach or Toronto – but through the window you can watch the Hezbollah attack."

Goldberg intends to stay in Metulla. He believes there will be peace, but achieving it "will be a matter of some years."

His wife Galia, who accompanied him, told *The CJN* she remembers thinking, when their son was born 26 years ago, that he would not have to fight in the army. She also recalled lying on top of their three children (now university students in Jerusalem) "many times" to protect them during Katyusha attacks.

Life was not always stressful in Metulla, noted her husband in his talk. His paternal grandfather was one of the early settlers of the town, which was founded in 1896. At that time, during the Ottoman Empire, there was "not any border, not any problems, not any conflict," said Goldberg.

Despite border conflict in recent years, there were "many years" of co-operation with the Lebanese, he said.

Following Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon, Metulla residents became directly involved with Lebanese refugees. A neighbour stayed at Goldberg's home overnight, turning his own house over to 40 of the 6,000 South Lebanese refugees, he said.

Until recently, it was "no big deal" to cross the border into Lebanon, said Goldberg. But now the border's Good Fence has become an off-limits army zone and the former South Lebanese security zone has become Hezbollah land, he said.

Goldberg expects attacks on northern Israel to continue for a number of months. Speaking days before Syrian president Hafez Assad's death, Goldberg said the key to peace is an understanding with Syria.

Northern Israelis will not be pushed out of the area, he said. "We will protect the border, and we will build a normal life under the conditions we have."

CHAT expanding into Richmond Hill

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — To paraphrase a well-known slogan, "Go north young man [and woman]!"

The Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) announced this week that, in partnership with UJA FEDERATION, it is leasing the former Richmond Hill High School as a second campus.

Some 200 students who live north of Steeles, about half of the incoming Grade 9 students, will be what headmaster Paul Shaviv called in a press release "the pioneering founding grade."

For the first year, they will be bused at no charge from Thornhill.

The school will eventually house all grades.

Richmond Hill High School, on Wright Street between Bathurst and Yonge, a little north of Major Mackenzie, has a capacity of 700 students. It was closed as a cost-cutting measure by the York Region Board of Education this month.

The release said that the board of CHAT had decided to establish a second campus as part of the Jewish community's new York region expansion project, but needs an interim location to help alleviate overcrowding at the Wilmington campus.

CHAT president, Baila Lubek said in the release that the new location will permit "a grade of comfortable size, but still large enough to generate a great social milieu," access to a fully equipped building, including a gym and field, and "full administration and support services."

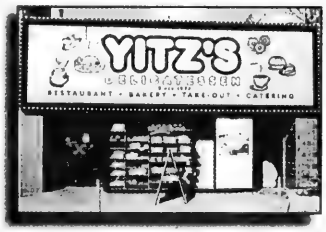
Students will have their own extra-curricular programs, but will also be able to join their Wilmington classmates in "appropriate events and activities."

Full story next week.

THE DINING GUIDE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Yitz's Delicatessen



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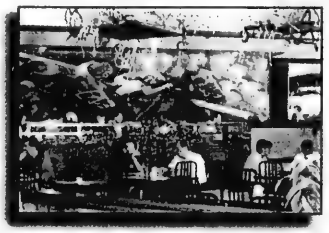

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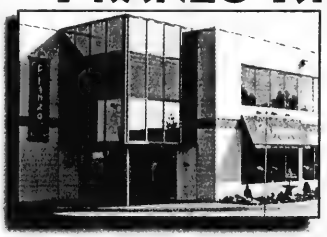

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On Campus

Waterloo U gets Jewish studies chairholder

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The University of Waterloo has named its first chairholder and professor of Jewish studies.

The appointee, James (Jim) Diamond, is a lawyer and the son of Holocaust survivors.

A 1978 graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School, Diamond is a specialist on the philosopher Moses Maimonides and on Jewish biblical interpretation during the medieval period.

He has published in various scholarly journals, and is looking forward to taking up his position at Waterloo, Ontario's fourth largest university, in September.

"It affords me the rare opportunity of conveying the beauty of the rich Jewish intellectual traditions to others of all backgrounds in an academic setting and in a particularly vibrant campus," he said.

Paul Socken, a professor of French at Waterloo who helped start the Jewish studies program, said great things are expected of Diamond.

"His profound religious background, as well as his academic credentials in history and philosophy, make him uniquely qualified to teach Jewish studies as a chaired professor at a major Canadian university."

Diamond will teach a variety of courses, ranging from medieval Jewish philosophy to a thematic introduction of the Bible.

Socken said that the courses will also appeal to students who have no background in Jewish studies.

Born and raised in Toronto, Diamond, 47, attended Eitz Chaim and Ner Israel Yeshiva. In Jerusalem, he studied at Bet Hatalmud Yeshiva. Subsequently, he attended the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall and New York University's law school.

Diamond said his parents, who hail from Eastern Europe, have had an enormous influence on him.

"My inspiration has always been the strength shown by my parents' generation in not allowing themselves to succumb to hopelessness and despair and in overcoming the horrors of the radical evil perpetrated against them," he explained.

"They passed on to me a solid Jewish education and a Judaism that is not marked by victimization, but rather one that has contributed a profound intellectual and spiritual ethos to mankind."

Diamond practised law for some 20 years, but was always fascinated by the Jewish literary tradition.

"There was never a 'switch' to Jewish studies, just a natural transition into an area I felt most at home," he observed.

Diamond said his scholarly career really began when he won first prize in the Bora Laskin Competition on Jewish Law while attending law school in Toronto.

"Laskin's congratulatory note inspired me to continue with scholarly pursuits."

He and his wife, Florence, have three children.

The University of Waterloo decided to establish a Jewish studies program after the dean of the faculty of arts, Brian Hendley, saw the movie *Schindler's List.*

"He was so moved by it that he asked me to start the program," said Socken.

The university has raised $1.5 million toward a $2 million endowment for a chair in Jewish studies. It will be named after Joe Lebovic, a Toronto businessman and major donor, and his brother.

Socken said the Jewish studies program is a major development at Waterloo, which is known for its courses in technology, but whose arts faculty is still the biggest one on campus.

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Bar-Ilan launches fellowship program

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — After nine years as national president of Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University, Phil Schwartz is stepping down.

The Toronto private investment banker was honoured recently by the organization at a tribute brunch held at the Village Shul; at the same time, a new fellowship program was established at the university.

The Canadian Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence program will fund three PhD students, one each in the fields of humanities, social sciences and Jewish studies. Each of the three fellowships is worth about $54,000 Canadian.

The qualifying students are obligated to complete their doctorates within four years, said Canadian Friends' national executive director Jerry Tollinsky. Fellows have not yet been named, he added.

The fellowship was an "excellent" idea, said Schwartz, crediting the committee that planned his tribute.

At the event, he spoke about issues of tolerance, democracy and working together.

"I'm very much a believer in the bringing together of science and religion, and I'm very much a believer in tolerance and working with all kinds of Jews. That's what Bar-Ilan stands for," Schwartz told *The CJN.*

The university, which was founded in 1955 and serves over 26,000 students, "by its definition" focuses on building bridges between religious and non-religious students, said Schwartz.

An alumnus of the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall, where he obtained his LL.B., Schwartz has also been involved with Toronto's Board of Jewish Education, Bnei Akiva Schools (of which he is a founder), and Sunnybrook Health Science Centre.

Schwartz also has a more personal connection to Bar-Ilan. His son David heads its information systems division as well as its Virtual Jewish University.

In fact, three of Schwartz' four children live in Israel. He and his wife Faygie have 20 grandchildren.

Here in Toronto, Phil Schwartz expects his involvement in Canadian Friends – which has offices in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver – will continue on a more informal basis.

"Guys in my age cohort must start turning things over to younger leadership," he stressed, adding that he's prepared "to do anything they ask of me that's reasonable."

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CUBANA

Que. judge urges action against domestic violence

By MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

MONTREAL — "The fight against domestic violence must remain in the public eye and continue to be a government priority," said Quebec Superior Court Justice Herbert Marx.

Marx, who as Quebec's minister of justice in 1986 brought in legislation mandating a "zero tolerance" policy toward perpetrators of domestic violence, was speaking at the recent annual general meeting of Auberge Shalom...pour femmes, the Jewish shelter for women and their children in abusive relationships. The meeting was held at Cummings House and attracted a large turnout.

Marx pointed out it is only in the past 60 years that women in Quebec have incrementally achieved full rights of citizenship, including the right to vote in 1960 and to sit on juries in 1971.

Women, he said, were legally subordinated to their husbands "who had some sort of right of property" over their wives. Only in 1961, he added, were married women allowed to enter into contracts without their husband's signature.

Despite the legal progress of recent years, "power differentials still prevail" between men and women, Marx said.

In Quebec, 10 percent of women have been victims of domestic violence and children in these homes "grow up to believe that violence is a normal way to control women," thus perpetuating the cycle, Marx said.

Only one in 10 cases are reported

Marx looked back on the attitudes that prevailed prior to the introduction of the "zero tolerance" policy in 1986. "Courts then rarely convicted wife batterers," he said. One justification for legal inaction was that "imprisoning an abusive husband would deprive his wife of financial support."

Marx said since 1986, the justice system has taken a different approach. Domestic violence is now treated as a crime and investigated and prosecuted as such. Even in cases where an abused woman will not testify against her husband, common-law husband or boyfriend, crown prosecutors are obligated to pursue cases when police can assemble independent evidence.

Marx said it is "important to remove an abuser from the family home" and that those who have been charged and prosecuted "are less likely to repeat their offence."

Marx cautioned, though, that the criminal justice system is not a panacea for all problems of domestic abuse. It does not, he said, "deal with psychological and economic abuse."

And despite the progress of recent years, Marx estimated only about one in 10 cases of domestic violence in Quebec are reported. Women's shelters, he said, are only able to reach about 15 to 20 percent of victims. As well, Crown prosecutors complain of meager resources in their efforts to bring perpetrators before the law.

Marx stressed teaching children how to act in relationships was of paramount importance in stopping the perpetuation of domestic violence.

The meeting also heard reports by Jill Martis, president of Auberge Shalom, and executive director Diane Sasson detailing many of the educational, advocacy and outreach programs aimed at ending cycles of conjugal violence in the Jewish community and in the greater society.

In the past year, services were provided to 114 women and 114 children at Auberge Shalom and to more than 500 women who called the 24-hour telephone line. Since opening in 1989, more than 900 women and 1,000 children have found shelter there.

Special presentations were made to Auberge Shalom's founding president Miriam Charron, and to Bina and Leonard Ellen, who provided funding for the purchase of the house that is home to the shelter.

CORRECTION

The article titled Nurses and doctors wanted (*CJN* June 15), contained an inaccuracy. Operation Abie is named for Abie Nathan, an Israeli pioneer of humanitarian aid to needy populations worldwide. Information received by *The CJN* referred to him as the late Abie Nathan. He is very much alive and living in Israel. We regret the error.

***

CLARIFICATION

In the story titled Continuity, values, knowledge said goals of Jewish education (*CJN*, June 8), the reason for the saying of tehillim for Harry Korolnek was unclear. Korolnek was seriously injured in an automobile accident.

Scene in Ottawa on page 36

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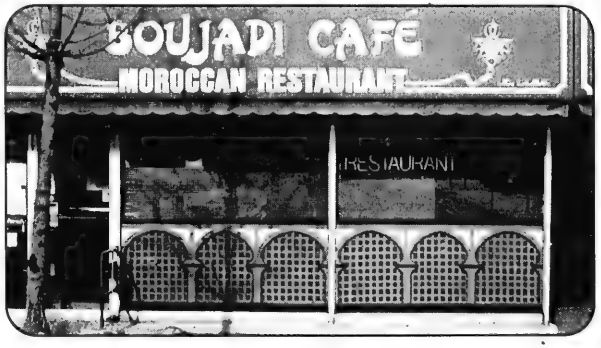

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See Page 30

Israel, PA said close to summit agreement

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Public Security Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami said, last Saturday, that "the Israeli and Palestinian positions have never been so close, and we are coming close to forming a basis for a summit."

Ben-Ami, who heads the Israeli negotiating team dealing with the framework agreement which will form the basis of a permanent status agreement, added: "We are doing all the clarification work and clearing up misunderstandings now to enable the Americans to convene such a meeting."

A senior political source in Jerusalem recently said that the Palestinians were showing "a greater readiness...to take part in a three-way summit." Until now, they rejected a proposal by Prime Minister Ehud Barak for a summit with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Israel has proposed July 5 as a possible date for the summit. The source, who is involved in the talks with the Palestinians, said "they too understand the importance of the summit. The agreement is as vital to them as it is to us, and they prefer, as we do, to utilize the trust that has evolved with Clinton, and not to start from zero with the new president."

Ben-Ami believes that such a three-way summit will create "a new political energy" that will compel the leaders to make decisions while the world looks on.

The Americans, however, do not believe the time is right yet for a summit. Sources say that both sides want to reach agreement on all the issues currently outstanding, even the toughest ones, such as Jerusalem and the refugees.

The only article of the agreement over which there is no dispute is the establishment of a Palestinian state with Israel's recognition. However, Israel wants a declaration by the Palestinians that the conflict between the two nations has ended and a pledge to solve future conflicts peacefully.

According to Ben-Ami, the Palestinians will not agree on the end of the conflict unless they receive a stake in Jerusalem. Barak announced that he would only discuss Jerusalem at a summit.

Ben-Ami said there have been no negotiations over the capital, but other sources claim that the idea of hoisting the Palestinian flag on the Temple Mount and other sites was raised during informal discussions, as was some form of Palestinian sovereignty (possibly municipal) over Arab quarters of Jerusalem with a corridor between Abu Dis and the Old City.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was scheduled to join Ross in the region on Tuesday for a lightning 24-hour visit to talk with Arafat and Barak. After that, she is expected to recommend to Clinton whether or not to set up the three-way summit meeting.

Israel readies for Iran missile

By AMIR OREN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israeli intelligence assessments assert that Iran is planning a second test launch of its Shihab-3 surface-to-surface ballistic missile in the coming weeks.

The preparations under way in Iran for the launching of the missile, whose range is estimated to be 1,300 kilometres, have caused anxiety in Israel and the West.

The first test launching of the missile, whose range covers all of Israel, was carried out in total surprise in July 1998.

The steering committee for arms control, headed by the acting chief of the National Security Council, Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Gideon Shefer, met recently to discuss the developments. The committee includes representatives from the intelligence community, the IDF, the assistant to the defence minister for special assignments, the Defence and Foreign Ministries, the Atomic Energy Commission and the defence industries involved in the development of the anti-ballistic missile system, the Arrow.

During the meeting, military intelligence presented its assessment that Iran is moving rapidly toward making its long-range missiles operational. While the missiles will not be operational by western standards, not having entered into regular production, for Iran's needs it is significant that its enemies know that it possesses such capability.

Military intelligence stresses that the significance of the second Shihab-3 launch is strategic, not operational or tactical. Iran is believed to be at least five years away from fitting a nuclear warhead to the Shihab-3.

The ballistic missiles are expected to give Iran the status of a power in the same league as surrounding countries such as Pakistan, Iraq and Israel.

According to military intelligence, Russia is exercising a policy of aiding Iran, directed by the Minister of Atomic Energy, Evgeny Adamov. This includes help in nuclear energy.

One of the sensitive issues discussed by the steering committee is the balance between stressing the dangers inherent in the development of the Iranian ballistic missile program, in an effort to attract greater U.S. support, as against the possibility of causing panic among the Israeli public.

Verdict expected July 1 for Iranians

Continued from page 1

It's unclear whether the primary judge in the case, who also acts as the prosecutor, is truly labouring over his verdict, or is carrying out a ruse to give the veneer of judicial consensus and the impression that he has not judged alone, said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which has lobbied on behalf of the Jews.

"This is the game they play, to keep delaying it and delaying it," Hoenlein said. "The reason this time may be because they are waiting for a political decision" on what verdict to render, "rather than a judicial decision."

According to the report in the *New York Times*, many people in Tehran's legal circles have said that the charges in the trial that opened on April 13 behind closed doors are weak. They predicted that the verdict will reflect this.

To keep up the pressure on Tehran, Hoenlein's organization and the Simon Wiesenthal Centre are circulating a petition in which they hope to collect one million signatures demanding the freedom of the Iran 13.

Regardless of the verdict, sometimes noisy protests in the United States and international condemnation may generate some positive, albeit unintended, consequences within Iran.

In the Iranian parliament, known as the Majlis – recently reconfigured and now dominated by reformists – reformists have introduced a number of proposals to amend the country's press law.

One proposal would allow foreign media and observers into future court trials, according to Hoenlein, who noted that the reformists did not specifically mention the trial of the Iranian Jews.

The policy of closed trials, the legislators say, has severely damaged the nation's international image.

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Israel experiencing growing wave of violence

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — A toddler was beaten to death after he "interrupted" a relative watching a soccer game on television. A fight over a beach chair ended in murder. A man killed a stranger in a road rage incident. And a Haifa man killed his wife, then committed suicide.

These four incidents, which all took place last week in Israel, highlight the growing wave in acts of violence rocking the country.

There have been four rage-related murders in five days. In each of the cases, the attacker has asserted his rights through violence.

Haifa sociology professor Arye Ratner says the recent spate of violence is part of a trend.

"There isn't necessarily a connection between the recent homicide cases, however it is part of a trend that the Israeli society is undergoing in the last decade," he told Israel Radio.

Ratner said that in 1990 there were 276 violent offences per 100,000 people as compared to 588 cases per 100,000 people in 1999. While these figures do show a rise, Israel's overall murder rate is very low compared to other countries.

Still violence, as a response, should not be taken as a surprise.

"Israel, since its establishment, is a society that has all the ingredients to become a violent society. It's a society with conflict, with tension, with cleavages," said Ratner. "All of these ingredients are operating at the same time and are turning us into a more violent society."

Hebrew University professor of social work, Rami Benbenishty, agrees.

"We're facing difficult issues in terms of one nation. The [recent coalition conflict with] Shas shows we find it difficult to unite on any one issue," Benbenishty told the *Canadian Jewish News*. "I think we all feel Israeli society is becoming weaker in terms of social cohesion."

Over the years, the social cohesion that kept Israelis together – due to security issues or wars – is now declining and violence is erupting.

The recent murders, say Ratner and Benbenishty, are a result of spontaneous violence. "I think we've learned in recent years to use violence as a result to conflicts," Ratner told Israel Radio. "The use of violence is becoming more and more legitimate."

Last week, State Attorney Edna Arbel called on the government to change its priorities and invest more resources to battle violent crime.

"I intend to place this serious matter on the government's agenda," said Arbel in a statement released to the media. "We, as a society, and the government as our leaders, must determine our priorities. We must make courageous decisions and allocate resources accordingly."

Benbenishty reiterated that "many people feel they need to be cared for much more than they are." He said if there is a further weakening in Israeli society of social cohesion, then it is certain that the "sense of deep discomfort" will strengthen – and violence as a reaction will continue to brew.

Britain warned against Holocaust-denial law

By RICHARD ALLEN GREENE
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Passing a new law outlawing Holocaust denial is not the best way to combat the problem, says a panel of British lawyers.

The recommendation came about two months after British Holocaust denier David Irving lost a multimillion-dollar libel case against American historian Deborah Lipstadt in London.

Holocaust denial is "fanciful, inconsequential stuff," said Anthony Julius, who chaired the panel of experts and led Lipstadt's legal defence.

"The present risk that Holocaust deniers pose can best be dealt with by education," he added.

The Institute for Jewish Policy Research delivered the report to British Home Secretary Jack Straw earlier this month – on the same day London's Imperial War Museum opened a new permanent exhibition on the Holocaust.

Straw welcomed the report, calling it "very helpful" and promised to look carefully at its recommendations, which include a call for a "drive to raise public awareness of the Holocaust."

The report, the result of 18 months of work, argues that outlawing Holocaust denial "could be seen as an illegitimate infringement on the right to freedom of expression."

It also points to the problem of adequately defining Holocaust denial, and observes that there is no evidence that legal prohibitions in countries that outlaw denial have had an impact on the problem.

"Notwithstanding the harms inflicted by hate speech, freedom of expression is a primary right in a democratic society and applies especially to speech that is offensive, disturbing or shocking," the report says.

The report recognizes that Holocaust denial is "not offensive solely to Jews," but "to all who are informed about the facts of the Holocaust," and that "Holocaust denial has an implicit intent to engender hatred."

Education stressed

At the same time, the authors of the report say Holocaust denial is not a significant problem in Britain, despite the publicity surrounding the Irving trial.

On the contrary, "there may have been a slight decrease in the distribution of Holocaust-denial material in the United Kingdom in the 1990s," according to the report.

British law prohibits inciting racial hatred, but "no one has been prosecuted specifically for producing or disseminating Holocaust-denial literature," according to the report.

(The report, *Combating Holocaust Denial through Law in the United Kingdom*, is available at http://www.jpr.org.uk/publications/reports/civil_society/No_3_2000/index.htm)

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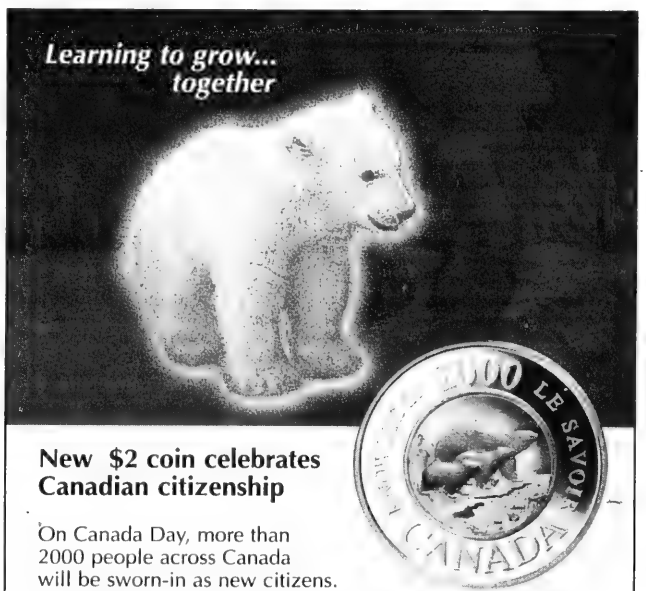

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On Canada Day, more than 2000 people across Canada will be sworn-in as new citizens.

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A WORLD OF VALUES

Charities may benefit from Seagram sale

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The name Bronfman means "whiskey man" in Yiddish.

But the Bronfman family – whose members have given millions of dollars to Jewish causes around the world – is severing its generations-long connection to whiskey and spirits.

And this may give them more cash to spend on Jewish causes.

Edgar Bronfman Sr. and his brother, Charles, are among a handful of mega-philanthropists in the Jewish world, and they have each given millions of dollars to established Jewish organizations, as well as to their own Jewish ventures.

Last week, the Bronfmans sold their multibillion-dollar business, Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, to Vivendi, a French media company. The whiskey company was bought by Edgar and Charles' father, Samuel, in 1928.

Neither Edgar nor Charles agreed to be interviewed, citing the advice of their attorneys.

Samuel Bronfman (bottom row, second from left) and his family became well known for their generosity on behalf of Jewish causes.

But observers of their philanthropic habits predict that the sale of the family's stake in Seagram – valued at $6.8 billion according to the *New York Times* – can only be good news for the family's Jewish communal beneficiaries.

"It will give them more financial resources," said David Mersky, a senior lecturer in Jewish philanthropy at Brandeis University's Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service, who noted that the Bronfman philanthropy is "legendary.

"Would that there were 34 more people like them to give like they do," he added.

"They give not only a lot, but creatively and in a way that encourages others to do likewise. They've been responsible for bringing other mega-donors to the table and they're outstanding leaders in addition to being great philanthropists."

According to Jonathan Sarna, Braun professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University, the sale may leave more of the assets ending up in the hands of the Jewishly committed elder Bronfmans than had the money remained tied up in the business.

Sam, the Bronfman patriarch who died in 1971, was also known for his Jewish philanthropy. The child of Russian Jewish immigrants, Sam was a longtime president of Canadian Jewish Congress and active in the Jewish federation world, said his biographer, Michael Marrus.

"Was he a learned or sophisticated Jewish leader? Absolutely not," said Marrus, who is dean of the University of Toronto's graduate school. "But he set new standards for Jewish philanthropy. The pressure to give until it hurts – that had Sam's stamp on it."

The sale of the company may give the current senior Bronfmans additional time to devote to philanthropic causes, suggested Jeremy Burton, associate executive director of the Jewish Funders Network, of which both Charles and Edgar are members.

"If, in fact, they are no longer going to be in the day-to-day management of the business, we may see a period where they are giving even more of their time to their philanthropic passions and leadership," said Burton.

Edgar, 71, is president of the World Jewish Congress, where he led the battle to reclaim dormant Holocaust-era Swiss bank accounts for survivors and their heirs. He is also chair of the board of governors of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and most recently partnered with two other philanthropists to form an organization promoting synagogue transformation and renewal.

Charles, 68, is chair of the newly formed federation umbrella organization, United Jewish Communities (UJC), and founded Birthright Israel together with hedge-fund manager, turned philanthropist, Michael Steinhardt.

Birthright this year began sending young Jewish adults on free 10-day trips to Israel. So far 8,000 participants have benefited from the trips, and the program recently snagged over $200 million in financial commitments from additional philanthropists, the Israeli government and the UJC.

Charles was also one of the founders of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, a foundation providing seed money to new Jewish day schools.

The third Bronfman generation, including Edgar Bronfman Jr., who ran Seagram for the past six years, during which time he added Universal Studios and Geffen Records to the company's portfolio, has been far less visible in Jewish philanthropic circles than the older Bronfmans.

Jack Wertheimer, who is provost of the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary and has written on Jewish philanthropic trends, said the Bronfman brothers have been particularly notable in their Jewish giving because of their focus on "here and now projects – identifying what are some of the most pressing areas of Jewish need" as opposed to long-term endowments.

Wertheimer also said the two are distinctive in their "willingness to work in partnership with other large funders."

Samuel Bronfman

Sarna noted that the Bronfman brothers are also unique in that the two have both donated through foundation giving and have "elected to operate within existing institutions of the Jewish community, like the World Jewish Congress and United Jewish Communities.

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The Week in Israel

June 19

• A delegation of Israeli officials traveled to Turkey to look into purchasing water to avert what experts warn could be an unprecedented shortage. The trip was criticized by Environment Minister Dalia Itzik, who said Israel must not be dependent on foreign sources for water.

June 20

• Israel proposed a three-way summit for July 5 with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PA President Yasser Arafat, to hammer out an outline of a final peace accord.

June 21

• The IDF plans to issue riot-control gear to soldiers guarding Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. A military source confirmed reports that the army would soon distribute tear-gas canisters and rubber-coated metal bullets to troops protecting the 145 Jewish communities.

June 22

• The government was saved from collapse when the Shas Party withdrew its resignations less than an hour before they were to take effect. While agreeing to remain in the government, Shas made it clear they would not automatically support Barak in the peace process. The last-minute resolution was made possible by the resignation from the government of three Meretz Party cabinet members.

June 23

• Foreign investment in Israel totaled $4.31 billion (US) during the first five months of the year, compared with $2.06 billion in the same period of 1999, according to the Bank of Israel. For all of last year, foreign investment totalled $4.85 billion.

Files from JTA

Yemenite advocates want full disclosure on kidnappings

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When he was a kid, Moshe Behar spent a lot of time in the shower scrubbing his dark skin to make it as light as that of his parents. Even as a child, it struck him as odd that he didn't look anything like his parents.

Now he knows why.

Behar's biological parents were Yemenite Jews but at a very early age he was snatched away from his mother and put up for adoption. At around 10 his parents told him he was adopted, but it took another 30 years for him to track down and meet his biological mother.

For all that, Behar, who now lives in Toronto, is one of the lucky ones, at least according to advocates for kidnapped Yemenite children.

Today, 50 years after the fact, hundreds if not thousands of Yemenite parents still don't know what happened to their children and the government of Israel has been of little help in helping to reunite the families.

Worst still, it was the government itself and Jewish agencies helping to absorb Yemenite immigrants that kidnapped the children and placed them up for adoption in the first place, asserts Moshe Nahum, president of The International Federation for Yemenite Community and head of The International Federation for the Missing Children (OHALIVA).

Nahum, who lives in Rehovot, was in Toronto recently where he described developments in the Yemenis' longstanding dispute with the Israeli government.

After 50 years, the government continues to place obstacles in the way of full disclosure. The Yemenite community wants Israeli officials to reveal what really happened and it also wants an accounting of valuables like gold, embroidered clothing and holy books that were taken from the olim, he said.

More importantly, the Yemenite community wants to know what happened to the children. Some parents had two or even three taken from them, including children up to five years old. "How do you want the parents to feel? To sit quiet? You tell me," Nahum said.

Moshe Nahum

At the time, parents were told their children had died in hospital but not one death certificate was ever issued and some coffins that were supposed to contain children's bodies were opened and found to be empty. It was just a subterfuge, a scheme to keep the parents quiet while the children were sold abroad, at about $5,000 apiece, Nahum asserted.

Despite the severity of the allegations and the personal pain experienced by Yemenite Jews, the vast majority are still fervent supporters of the State of Israel, Nahum stated.

For his part, Behar too harbours little animosity towards the government. A former parachutist in the Israel Defence Force, Behar maintains "I'm an Israeli. I love Israel. It's my country."

He speculates about the kidnappers' supposed motives – some sort of paternalistic social engineering scheme to take Jewish children from families that had six or seven youngsters and give them to childless couples, many of them Holocaust survivors – and he said he can even understand that way of thinking.

But is he resentful at all?

"When I find out the truth, I'll make a decision about that," he answers.

Many Yemenites are running out of patience, Nahum stated. Faced with government silence and three investigatory commissions that still have not uncovered the truth, some are advocating drastic steps.

"I don't want to embarrass the Israeli government abroad but some 250 Yemenite families want to fly to New York, go to the United Nations and have a hunger strike in front of the building to expose the situation," Nahum said. "I'm trying to stop that so as not to destroy the government we are [relying] on."

Nahum would like to see Diaspora communities use their influence with Israel to urge the state to reveal all it knows about the kidnappings.

"I know very little about the issue" said Moshe Ronen, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, but "I would have no hesitation" about getting Congress involved. "This is a time for openness, for coming clean in many areas...Congress would certainly consider getting involved if we're asked."

In Israel, political pressure from the Yemenite community has prompted the establishment of three distinct inquiries. Nahum dismisses them as whitewashes.

Currently, a state committee of inquiry, which includes Supreme Court judge Yaacov Kedmi, has been investigating the question. It began its work in 1995. The committee has questioned 1,000 witnesses, including 900 family members of "absentees" and 100 absorption and immigration employees.

The committee stated on its Web site (www.tayman-child.gov.il) that it has looked into the disappearance of 816 children (Nahum says the number is much higher) and it believes it "can supply the parents with answers concerning the fate of about 680 absentees."

Its main difficulty is that the archives from immigrant camps, nurseries, hospitals and burial societies "were lost, in whole or in part," the committee stated. It called on the public to help in locating people of Yemenite origin who grew up in non-Yemenite families.

Snatched from his mother's arms

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ever since he learned at age 10 that he was adopted, Moshe Behar lived believing his biological parents were dead and that he'd have to get on with his life. Although he had a troubled youth – running away from home for three days, being sent to a kibbutz when his adoptive parents couldn't control him – he straightened himself out, found a good job, married a Canadian tourist and moved to Canada.

In 1989 he travelled to Israel to obtain a copy of his medical records. He was stunned when a social worker told him that according to her records, his biological parents were still alive.

Behar recalls he was shocked by the news and "felt a strong desire to find out what's going on."Six years later, Behar returned to Israel to finally meet his biological mother.

The meeting in the Children's Aid offices in Yaffo was emotional and memorable. "My mother hugged me, she kissed me and then she fainted.

"We spoke for quite a while. I had lots of questions to ask. She told me about her life."

Behar's mother was an orphan in Yemen. When Yemenite Jews were airlifted to Israel, she, her sister and brother-in-law joined the modern day Exodus.

"But the plane couldn't take off, so all the gold, the bibles, the books were left behind in baskets," Behar said. The olim were told their property would follow on another flight. They never had their property returned.

Biological father did not want to meet with him

When his mother got to Israel at age 13, her brother-in-law arranged a marriage. Before the wedding, the prospective groom got Behar's mother pregnant and then abandoned her. "My mother and her sister decided to keep the baby," Behar said and at 48, he now knows he was born in a hotel where his mother worked as a cleaner.

"Big people came and took you away. I didn't even give you milk," his mother told him.

She was later told her son was taken to a hospital and that he died there.

"She told me she went everywhere and tried to locate me. They went crazy, they yelled and screamed. But there was nothing they could do about the 'big people'," Behar said.

Behar hired a private detective to locate his biological father. But the man didn't want to meet his son, fearing Behar was after his money. He threatened to tell the family of Behar's mother about her youthful indiscretion if Behar pursued it.

Today, Behar, who works in the electronics industry, lives with his wife, Lauren Torbin and daughter, Brittany, in mid-town Toronto. His ex-wife and two other daughters live in London, Ont. His adoptive parents, natives of Turkey, have died.

Behar harbours little ill-will towards the Israeli government. He's even turned down numerous lawyers who want to take his case to court. "One lawyer told me there's no monetary price if someone takes you away from your own family," he said.

But right now, "what I really want is for all truth to come out," he said.

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New group offers support to women with cancer

L'Chaim cancer support group for Jewish women recently held a gift bag assemblage party.

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – "We are your Jewish sisters. We've been there and we care" is the motto of L'Chaim, a new group offering support to women recently diagnosed with cancer.

Everyone involved is a cancer survivor.

Spokesperson Clara Shore said that "many women who find out they have cancer feel that they have nowhere to turn. There is a great feeling of isolation."

To lessen this hardship, the group is creating a database, which includes the name of each volunteer and what kind of cancer they had.

"We will make this database known to the community, so that when someone is diagnosed or needs help, we can put them in touch with someone who had the same thing," Shore said.

A training day in May with professionals from Jewish Family & Child Service taught the volunteers how to speak compassionately with people dealing with this difficult situation.

Elizabeth Erlich, who is co-founder of L'Chaim, is a strong proponent of the telephone support buddy. "Many people [diagnosed with cancer] feel it is a very private matter. They want to talk to someone, but at the same time they want it to remain private."

L'Chaim is not stopping at providing a friendly voice on the phone. The organization has created a kit for those newly diagnosed with cancer. It will include information on coping with cancer, support groups, Internet sites, books, and genetic testing, toiletries and a book of humour.

There is also what Erlich and co-founder Marci Tenenbaum call "Jewish specific content." This will talk about Jewish Family & Child Service, the community chaplaincy service, and such special things as meals of thanks and the healing project.

The kit includes a coupon for that most effective of Jewish all-purpose remedies – kosher chicken soup.

There is also a special packet for young mothers and information about how to observe the mikvah.

Shore noted everything in the kit, including the binder itself, has been donated. (Those who wish to donate will be issued tax receipts through Meoroth.)

To contact L'Chaim call 633-0409. Mailing address is 21 Midvale Rd., North York, Ont. M3H 3H8.

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Academic acupuncture clinic opens

TORONTO — Traditional Chinese medicine merged with modern western medicine recently, as Mount Sinai Hospital and The Michener Institute opened the first academic acupuncture clinic to be based in a Canadian teaching hospital.

Acupuncture will be offered as a method of treatment in the hospital's Wasser Pain Management Centre which delivers comprehensive care for chronic pain. The acupuncture treatments will be administered by certified Michener staff and senior students who will also use the opportunity as a teaching tool.

"The expansion of alternative medicine has raised many questions from Canadians about the effectiveness of acupuncture. It makes sense that we join forces with The Michener Institute to pioneer this field in Canadian medicine by exploring the benefits of acupuncture and its potential to improve the health of our patients," said Mount Sinai Hospital president and chief executive officer Ted Freedman.

The new program extends a long history of collaboration between the institutions, dating back more than 35 years. "It was in 1965 that Dr. Harry Strawbridge, our chief of pathology became the founding governor of The Michener, then called the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology," said Mount Sinai Hospital board chair Bernard Ghert.

In 1997, The Michener Institute established a full-time, four-year acupuncture program in response to the growing public interest and recognition of traditional Chinese Medicine and healing techniques.

The program is one of the first in Canada to successfully combine the teachings of eastern and western medicine. Fully qualified acupuncturists will begin graduating from the institute in the year 2002.

"This clinic will allow us to share our expertise in TCM with one of Canada's leading health care providers," said Renate Krakauer, president and chief executive officer of The Michener Institute.

Mount Sinai plans to introduce an endowment for research in traditional Chinese Medicine later in the year, to be based out of the Wasser Pain Management Centre. This research endowment will be funded in part by proceeds raised from the Chinese community at the hospital's Pacific Bridge Gala Dinner in the fall.

Acupuncture as a profession is more than 5,000 years old. It involves the insertion of hair-fine needles on the surface of the body to stimulate an individual's natural healing energy and to bring Yin and Yang back to balance based on the meridian theory of traditional Chinese Medicine.

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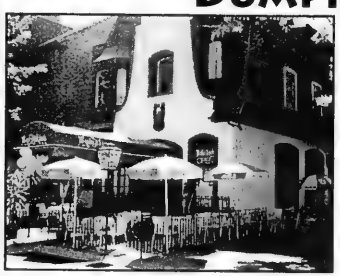

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Stormy weather a perfect accompaniment to concert

By MORDECHAI BEN-DAT

TORONTO — Thunder rolled outside, and shards of lightning lit up the furiously clouded, dark sky outside. It was a dramatic and surreal background to the Third Annual Cantorial Concert on the evening of June 14 at the Shaarei Shomayim.

Nature's stormy accompaniment merely added to the electric feeling that filled the sanctuary of the synagogue as four stellar cantors treated the full-house audience to what was truly billed as "an unforgettable evening of Broadway, cantorial, chassidic and operatic music."

The musical anchor of the evening was Cantor Yaakov Motzen of the host synagogue Shaarei Shomayim.

He is a fifth-generation chazzan. And it showed. A master of technique and a moving purveyor of the power of liturgy both through the poetry of the prayer and the spirituality of the music, his tenor voice is distinguished by a deep, velvety, comforting gravity.

Hosted by Motzen were Moshe Schulhof, of the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Centre Beth Jacob of Miami, Benjamin Moshe Warschawski of the Ner Tamid Greenspring Valley Synagogue in Baltimore and Cantor Shlomo Simcha Sufrin, the chazzan sheini (second chazzan) of the host Toronto synagogue, Shaarei Shomayim.

The four men combined for a unique musical event in a 20-performance repertoire – solo, duets, and tous ensemble – that offered a diverse range of auditory pleasures and evoked abundant emotional responses.

Schulhof's voice, sweet, piercingly gentle, brought many to tears in his heartwrenching rendition in Yiddish, of the famous song by Mordecai Gebertig, *Moishele Main Fraind*. The way he lingered over the lyrics, especially the recurrent line "How do we retrieve the years gone by," was a veritable union with the poet's sense of plaintive cry.

Sufrin sang two nigunim/tefillot in the modern "Yeshivish" style, popularized by singers such as Mordechai Ben-David, inheritors all of the Shlomo Carlebach embrace of traditional liturgy.

With mike in hand, Sufrin left the loftier perch of the sanctuary bimah, to bring the song "closer" to the audience. His high energy level and ability to range high into the upper octave level of the music caused the audience to sway and clap and even sing along with him in enthusiastic appreciation.

The big surprise of the evening was the introduction for the first time in a Toronto venue, of young Benjamin Warschawski. By physical stature and musical preference he was pure opera.

Shlomo Simcha Sufrin, second chazzan of Shaarei Shomayim.

Four of the five songs he sang solo were traditional opera arias, a selection which highlighted his considerable musical skill ranging from the tearful pleading of *Core N'grato* by Cardillo to the lovelorn melancholy of Bizet's *La Fleur Que Tu M'avais Jetee* and the fluffy frolic of *La Danza* by Rossini.

Warschawski has a powerful presence and a rich, superb voice that will season and mellow and become even more poignant over the years through the insight that follows inevitable hurts and pains that life visits on us all.

Beautiful harmony

Among the most moving moments from the many such moments that evening were a particularly lovely and delicate rendition of *Shma B'ni* that featured a duet "conversation" between Motzen and his son Shmulik, the beautiful harmony in the prayer for *Tal* sung by cantors Motzen and Schulhof, and the ensemble medley of *Ani Ma'amin*.

The combined artistic force of the four chazzanim in the medley was like watching the gliding movements of a sailing schooner skimming across the sun-sparkled waters of a vast ocean: Motzen's voice, the rudder, providing direction, Warschawski's sonorous tones the ballast, and the soaring voices of Schulhof and Sufrin, the wind in the sails.

The evening's program also featured the fine piano accompaniment of Cantor Daniel Gildar of Philadelphia, who was often called upon to perform arduous flourishes and passages, especially in the mellifluous *Tal* duet, and the steady voices of the Shaarei Shomayim choir under the direction of Stephen Glass from Montreal.

Saxophonist blows patriotic note

By ADAM BELLO
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Toronto concert saxophonist Daniel Rubinoff will be setting concertos aside this coming holiday weekend to play a more patriotic note.

Making his own contribution to the final Canada Day of the 20th Century, Rubinoff will premiere *The Canada Song* before audiences at Nathan Philip Square on July 1 at 1 p.m.

Receiving sponsorship from the City of Toronto for its launch, the award-winning Jewish Canadian classical performer says he hopes the piece will inspire other musicians to further develop a genre for nationalism.

"It really is far and between that we [as Canadians] have any songs of a patriotic nature, and I feel there should be something new musically in this area to mark the millennium," says Rubinoff, who co-wrote the song with his wife, songwriter Heidi Schwartz.

"It was written with choir performance in mind, so it's great for audience participation. We made the lyrics simple for children to learn *(Nation Young/Still planting seeds/And growing with her people's needs/This Canada can be in us/Canada can live in us)*, and I think it will help those new to our country understand some of the fundamental values we hold as Canadians."

Later that day, the choral group the Jubilaires of Peterborough, Rubinoff's original hometown, will perform their rendition of *The Canada Song* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

The Canada Song is an advance single for his next studio album, *The Music of Daniel Rubinoff*, currently in production. Rubinoff says a French language version of the song will also be recorded for its completion.

Daniel Rubinoff

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1 R	2 I	3 G	■	4 S	5 H	6 O	7 D	■	8 S	9 T	10 R	11 A	12 U	13 S
14 A	C	E	■	15 L	A	M	E	■	16 W	E	A	L	T	H
17 B	I	N	■	18 A	L	E	C	■	19 E	X	I	L	E	S
20 B	E	T	21 T	Y	F	R	I	22 E	D	A	N	■	■	■
23 I	S	L	A	S	■	■	■	24 W	E	S	■	25 G	26 A	27 D
28 S	T	Y	X	■	29 C	30 A	31 P	E	S	■	32 S	A	T	E
■	■	■	33 C	34 A	I	N	E	■	■	35 D	A	M	O	N
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40 G	U	I	D	E	■	■	41 C	O	V	E	T	■	■	■
42 E	Y	R	E	■	43 S	44 T	I	N	E	■	45 I	46 S	47 A	48 S
49 T	S	E	■	50 S	P	A	■	■	■	51 U	N	I	T	E
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Arts & Travel

Artist's blindness drives him to new creative goals

By JOYCE SINGER
Special to The CJN

"I see the arts not for purposes of entertaining, but for purposes of educating." – Ronald Satok.

TORONTO — Muralist Ronald Satok, so far in this life, has been a son, husband, father, artist, jazz buff, dancer, raconteur, motivator and highly respected teacher.

He is the spirit and the soul of the non-profit Satok School of the Arts, whose mandate is to "break the boundaries... and enrich the lives of the so-called disabled, disadvantaged and able-bodied communities through their involvement in... and production of high quality works of art."

Ronald Satok

At 68, Satok continues to work at his craft, albeit with some adjustments. You see, since 1978, he has been blind as a result of glaucoma. He professes, in his classes and seminars, that nobody should be limited to society's preconceptions, regardless of whether they have special needs, that life is to be lived to its fullest and every moment savoured, whatever the age or circumstance.

Like Ludwig von Beethoven, who composed his most famous works after he became deaf, Satok's so-called handicap has not hindered him. Instead it fuelled him to re-evaluate his situation, propelling him to search for new ways to be creatively productive.

He is thus a living example of what talent, ego, sheer determination, devoted family, good friends and a noble heart can accomplish.

He has worked with painting, drawing, mosaic tiles and sculpture, and his thematic periods have encompassed influences from the Japanese (Sumo), sacred Jewish art, and the progressive stages of life from birth to death.

Originally trained in Art Education, his time spent as an instructor and art therapist in 1964 at The Children's Village, a residential treatment centre for boys in Dobb's Ferry, N.Y., foreshadowed his current vocation with the Satok School of the Arts.

It is a renowned summer program where students are introduced to the visual arts via music, movement and other forms of innovative self-expression.

"No matter how talented or imaginative people are, you've still got to catalyze them," Satok says. "The whole school came into being because I wanted to work with kids. Some of the kids that come here are disabled, some not. I usually think of a project that excites me, and then the fund-raising begins."

His Cabbagetown home houses the school and the gallery. Impressive paintings, sculptures and photographs from various eras of Satok's career up to the present time, adorn the walls.

Curious visitors who dare to venture into the backyard will discover an elephant, a giraffe and a lion! But the neighbours don't complain, because it's a virtual zoo of brightly coloured sculptures placed there to captivate and motivate his students.

As well, there's a makeshift studio, which provides even more creative space where the children can work.

Prior to losing his sight, Satok left his artistic imprint, through his murals and sculptures, in Jewish community centres, synagogues and temples throughout North America. Major collections graced such far-flung international venues as the Golda Meir Collection in Israel, The Atelier Mourlot in France and the Museum of Sumo in Japan. Notable fans have run the gamut from his buddy, jazz great Dizzy Gillespie to the luminous Jackie Kennedy.

Five years ago, he launched an exhibit of new works he created after losing his sight – Sight Unseen: The Satok Experience, which was received to great acclaim. Last year, he inspired the Art For Everyone Festival, which featured his Star of David theme.

"The Art For Everyone Festival... took many minds, hands and artistic skills to develop the whole process, which began with my drawings," Satok says.

Among his many helpers were John Holt, an engineer/carpenter who translated Satok's drawings into an eight-foot-high sculpture; longtime friend Garth Haines, who collaborated on the elaborate colour schemes; Gillian Dempsey, an Art history major from U of T, who fashioned a template for it; and Ronald's son, Michael Satok-Wolman, who visited frequently with constructive comments on its progress.

Photographer Susan Pollack (chair of the board of the Satok School of the Arts) photographed the colourful sculpture against a white wall, with a white floor covering beneath it, creating the feeling that it was suspended in space. The lower triangle points towards earth, while the upper triangle points towards heaven.

In concert with these and other talented friends, Satok created his new sculpture, *The Star of David*, bringing his latest artistic vision to light.

Simon's quest begins with Jason Levine

Continued from page 1

"The whole concept of Prozzäk is like a play – we're always playing characters. We can be as shmaltzy as we want to be – with no pretences.

"In a way, we don't have to worry about being cool – you can be influenced by Neil Diamond without being laughed at.

"It's so ironic," Levine said, "that by creating a character that isn't real, I'm allowed much more freedom to be myself.

"The creation of characters is normal in every other art form – film, theatre. Yet, for some reason in music, there's a feeling that you have to be *super real* or you're not cool.

"That's a phony notion," he said. Prozzäk's fans know that the characters aren't real, but they really connect with the whole story.

"An integral part of our act is our Web site [www.prozzak.com], and fans write to us, they send us pictures and drawings. They want to know how and what Simon would feel in different situations.

"Simon has his own personality and we really want to stick close to the program.

"The great thing about cartoon characters is that they never age."

When Levine was younger, his first band played at his brother's bar mitzvah.

His brother, John, is now a member of the band, The Philosopher Kings.

Levine remembers playing an AC/DC song at the bar mitzvah. It was pretty radical at the time, but it didn't bother me, he said.

"For me, being Jewish isn't about being religious, it's about a strong sense of culture and identity.

"A lot of the drive I have is related to my being Jewish."

After graduating from Thornhill Secondary School, Levine went to McGill University to study psychology. From there, he joined The Philosopher Kings, where he met James McCollum, who plays Milo in Prozzäk.

"One day, when we were on tour, McCollum and I started to write together. We made a recording at Sony and put it on our A & R's [artists and representatives'] desk.

"He really liked it, and so the concept of Prozzäk got off the ground.

"Initially," Levine said, "I thought I would do this as a cathartic release and develop this character as psychotherapy for myself.

"That part of it really worked, As soon as I invented this character, my own personal life really changed.

"Even my parents are proud of me. Now, it's all right that I'm not a lawyer," he said. "It started to be all right about four years ago."

Levine and McCollum have also moved into writing and producing other artists. Their production company, LeftHook Productions wrote and produced b4-4's recent hit single, *Get Down*.

Prozzäk is also currently working towards morning cartoons, and there are plans for a feature film, Levine said.

"My ultimate goal," he said, "is to have Simon do a duet with Barbara Streisand. I think her husband might be jealous – of Simon, of course, not of me."

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FOLKSINGER CONTEMPLATES MUSICAL ABOUT TEREZIN

Folksinging legend **Janis Ian**, who was born Janis Fink, is working on a stage musical about the Terezin concentration camp that she hopes to bring to Broadway.

Cultural critics either loved or hated last year's comic film, *Life Is Beautiful*, by **Roberto Benigni**. What many may not have anticipated is that the award-winning film, which used Auschwitz as the backdrop for a humane comedy, was the "thin edge of the wedge" — the vanguard of many more Hollywoodized and theatrical treatments of stories using Holocaust themes and motifs.

In a recent interview with the *London Jewish Chronicle*, Ian said of her new project: "I want people to walk out of the theatre the way that I want to walk out of the theatre, shattered. Or if it is a musical, I want to have at least one of the songs still running in my head."

As she conceives it, the musical would have to open "with a big bang, not some stupid song about a train and how much they're going to get to pack." And "it has to be done in a way that isn't all like 'save the whales.'"

This comes from the author of *At Seventeen*, the hit song whose lyrics sensitively and poignantly captured the pain and angst of being a teenager. Before that she also wrote *Society's Child*, and was publically feted at age 14 by **Leonard Bernstein**.

"Being Jewish is important to me," she told the *Chronicle*. "It is one of the few things I'd be prepared to die for." She said that her family lost everything "to either the Cossacks or the Germans."

Eye on Arts
By Bill Gladstone

Ian is a resident of Nashville, where she recently recorded a new CD, *God and the FBI*. She does not know when, or if, her planned show will ever reach Broadway.

* * *

Five Cantors in Concert: Five renowned cantors join in An Evening of Sweet Song this week at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. The five are: **Naftali Hershtik**, cantor of the Jerusalem Great Synagogue; **Arie Braun**, chief cantor of the Israeli Army (retired); **Chaim Adler**, chief cantor of Tel Aviv; **Aaron Bensoussan**, cantor of Beth Emeth; and **Louis Danto**, cantor emeritus of Beth Emeth.

The performance includes cantorial, chassidic and Ladino renditions as well as opera and musical theatre. 100 Elder St., North York. July 5, 7:30 p.m. $36, $54 & $72. 416-633-3838. Tickets also available at Aleph Bet Judaica, 3453 Bathurst St. **Choral Music: The Elmer Iseler Singers** present an evening of Canadian liturgical music, anthems and congregational hymns, plus tributes to the late composers **Lou Appelbaum** and **Harry Somers**, as part of the HOT (Historic Old Toronto) Music Festival.

St. James Cathedral, 65 Church Street at Queen. Free. July 30, 8 p.m. Call for tickets and information about other events. 416-826-6639.

* * *

Theatre & Comedy Notes

• *Breaking Legs!*, a new comedy by **Aphra Zimmerman**, relates the comic misadventures of seven theatre artists as they attempt to put together a show. Zimmerman, whose play is being produced as part of the Fringe Festival, is a York University theatre graduate. Poor Alex Theatre. $8. July 7 to 15. 416-862-2222.

•**Lowell Schrieder**, a former BBYO youth trainer who attended York Mills C.I., performs as a comic occasionally for television's Comedy Network, where he works as a publicist.

•Local 58 of the International Atliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) has bestowed an honourary gold card on **Garth Drabinsky** for being an "outstanding member of the performing arts community." Drabinsky joins such previous honourees as **Harold Ballard**, **Ed Mirvish**, **David Mirvish** and **Celia Franca**.

2000 Toronto Fringe Festival the biggest one yet

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

TORONTO — Over 100 independent theatre companies are participating in this year's Toronto Fringe Festival running July 6 to 16 in nine indoor venues in the city.

Carol Lempert

Among the plays this year are: *Clever Evelyn (Or Mrs. Pickles and the Guide to Good Vacuuming)*; written and directed by **Katrine Raymond** and featuring **Nick Gunz**, **Julie Bowring** and nine-year-old ***Holly Skabarnicki-Scavone***. A girl encounters many quirky characters on a fantastic journey in a fairy-tale world. At the Palmerston Library Theatre, 560 Palmerston Ave.

Julie Tepperman

Susan Freedman writes and performs in *Fifty Seven and Still Lying About My Weight*, directed by **Jan Kudelka**. In this 45-minute play, Freedman chronicles the ups and downs of the 50-something generation. At the Helen Gardiner Phelan Theatre, 79A St. George St.

Thornhill resident and George Brown Theatre School student **Julie Tepperman** adapted *The Young Visiters*, a 19th-century novella, for the stage. Tepperman narrates this story of a young girl who observes adults as she eagerly awaits the day she can discover love and romance as only she could imagine. At the St. Vladimir Theatre, 620 Spadina Ave (south of Harbord).

Breaking Legs! is a wry comedy about what goes on behind-the-scenes at the theatre. Written by **Aphra Zimmerman**, the play follows the misadventures of a company of seven theatre artists attempting to put together a production.

Also starring **Tom Albrecht**, **Valeska Gonzalez** and **Richard Cronin**. At the Poor Alex Theatre, 296 Brunswick Ave.

Susan Freedman

That Dorothy Parker's star **Carol Lempert** returns to The Fringe for *The Camino: Walking the Pilgrim Road*, the true story of a Toronto woman who – forced to take early retirement – walked 1,000 miles from Vezelay, France to Santiago, Spain on the legendary pilgrimage of St. James. Directed by **Catherine Hayos**. At the Robert Gill Theatre, 214 College St.

Alphonse, featuring **Alon Nashman** is especially suited for children. This award-winning play is about a boy who embaks on a coming-of-age pilgrimage. Written by **Wajdi Mouawad** and performed and directed by Nashman. The Courtyard Playground of the Bloor JCC, 750 Spadina Ave.

Amy Marschak

Matt Steinberg's play *Prime Targets* explores the reaction of a town and a country to a school shooting. Steinberg has just graduated from high school.

At the St. Vladimir Theatre, 620 Spadina Ave.

Monolith by **Hart Massey** explores life without faith. In the aftermath of a California earthquake a small island emerges. To secure peace and equality, cultural and religious identity are forbidden.

At the Ham Theatre at Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St.

Amy Marschak performs and stars in *An Angel Cried A Tear Last Night*, a one-woman play abut a Jewish girl's life, her optimism, her secret and surviving against the odds stacked against her.

Alon Nashman

Glen Morris Studio, 4 Glen Morris Street.

For a complete list of plays and showtimes visit the Fringe Web site [www.fringetoronto.com]. Call The Fringe hotline for information at 416-966-1062. For advance tickets call 416-862-2222.

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By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ruth Stein, a spry, 91-year-old grandmother, sewed dresses on Spadina Avenue and can now see herself featured in the film *Needle 'n Tread*, which the Toronto Jewish Film Society showed recently.

Born in Sachavola, Lithuania (now part of Poland), Stein had no idea that one day she would represent Spadina as it used to be. The five-minute documentary preceded the society's main attraction, *Uncle Moses*, featuring Maurice Schwartz.

Stein, who went to work on Spadina in 1926, still gets a pension of $9.95 a month from the Union of Needle Trades, Industrial and Textile Workers, and still owns a Singer sewing machine circa 1920.

With the aid of a walker, she goes up and down Eglinton Avenue from her retirement home in Pine Villa and comments perceptively on what she sees. But Stein can't recall the name of her first employers.

She expressed pleasure at seeing her image in the documentary made by David, her 30-year-old filmmaker grandson, who got the idea while working on an as-yet unfinished feature-length film, *Neshoma*, about the revival of Jewish culture everywhere.

In *Needle 'n Tread*, there are archival shots of Spadina Avenue sweatshops of the kind Stein worked in, but the film also has modern day scenes of her working in her beloved garden at her home on Joicey Boulevard, where she lived until congestive heart failure forced her to seek a retirement home in March this year.

Continued on page 33

Ecology and architecture combine in sunny Arizona

By SHEILA DROPKIN
Special to The CJN

SCOTTSDALE — Arizona is known for its many natural wonders, including its breathtaking mountains, a desert landscape with a wide variety of cacti and palo verde and olive trees, and delightful weather.

Among its manufactured wonders are the Cosanti and Arcosanti developments of Paoli Soleri, who is a native of Italy and resident of Arizona since 1956. Soleri is an architect, urban planner, lecturer and a noted designer of windbells, including a line called Cause Bells.

The bells are built, displayed and sold at Cosanti, a combination residence and craft centre located in the heart of Scottsdale's Paradise Valley, just north of Phoenix.

Soleri's home and studios are earthformed concrete architectural structures artistically placed here amidst courtyards, terraces and garden paths. A striking array of bronze and ceramic windbells is suspended throughout the area.

In the sales room, purchasers are invited to Ring a Bell for a Cause, from a display of close to 40 designs which represent issues of either national or global concern. Sixteen dollars of the retail price of each bell is directed to a specific cause selected by the customer from the posted list.

The causes are varied and include such diverse interests as the local United Jewish Appeal and Jewish Family and Child Service, Ronald McDonald House, an AIDS hospice, the Sierra Club, a literary group and the Arizona Save the Arts Foundation.

Every piece in the Cosanti collection is designed by Soleri and embellished by specially trained artisans. Visitors are encouraged to wander the grounds and watch the artisans at work.

The bronze windbells are created using the traditional bronze casting process enhanced by design techniques developed by Soleri. An aluminum bell pattern is packed in molding sand in a specially engineered box. When the pattern is removed, a bell impression is left. An original design and Cosanti Hallmark are then pressed into the sand mold.

Some of the bronze bells are life-size and affixed to special stands. Others are hung from hooks and trees. All of them are truly beautiful.

The ceramic windbells are made from a mixture of Arizona clay, commercial stoneware and water placed into Soleri-designed molds. Each earth-cast bell takes with it a little of the mold, which adds unique colour and texture. These, too, are displayed throughout the complex.

The bells make a unique conversation piece for any home or business. Many of them seem to cry out "touch me" and even the more conventional designs have an air of "aren't I special?" Which they are.

Prices are varied and the staff is very helpful. Bells are carefully packed for shipment to avoid breakage or scratching.

Arcosanti, a town now under development about 97 kilometres north of Phoenix, is Soleri's newest project. Archology is a term coined by the architect to describe his concept of architecture and ecology working together as an integral process to produce new urban habits.

When completed, Arcosanti will house 6,000 people by combining compact urban structures with large-scale solar greenhouses on 25 acres of a 4,000 acre preserve. In the artists' renderings, it looks like something out of the most futuristic movie imaginable. Proceeds from the sale of the windbells are being used to help fund the development.

While still in the early stages of construction, the Arcosanti concept and site have been around since 1970. In that time, thousands of students and professionals have attended seminars and workshops conducted there by Soleri and his staff.

The Music Centre is operational and offers a program of performing artists. Some overnight accommodations are also available, but since it's a short drive from Phoenix or Sedona, staying there is not necessary for the casual visitor.

Cosanti has been declared an Arizona Historic Site and *Newsweek* magazine has called Arcosanti "probably the most important experiment undertaken in our lifetime" as urban architecture.

Large turnout for Yiddish celebration

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Nearly 1,000 people celebrated 1,000 years of Yiddish in the world at a concert of Yiddish music and humour at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue recently.

The sanctuary was full and the balcony nearly so, as cantors, singers and comedians combined to entertain an audience who relished each *Yiddishe vort*.

The concert, co-sponsored by the congregation and UJA FEDERATION, drew such a large crowd because the Yiddish language is reminding Jews of their heritage in extended families, said concert chair Deanie Rumack.

The combination of traditional songs with the lighter touch provided by comedian Michael Lebovic and singer/actor Gloria Valentine was the key in attracting so many people, Rumack told *The CJN*.

Most of those attending were grandchildren of Holocaust survivors who have learned to appreciate Yiddish from their bubbies and zaydes, Rumack said, but there were a significant number of survivors as well.

The seats were filled long before the concert began with Yiddish folk and popular melodies by the Zemer Chorale led by Charles Heller.

Cantor Louis Danto, cantor emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, was the next performer and his four selections alternately brought tears and smiles of recognition.

The same was true of songs by Cantor Aaron Bensoussan, the synagogue's chazzan, who served congregations in New York prior to coming to Toronto in 1999.

Despite his relative youth, Lebovic has mastered the inflections of the Jews who lived around him in Brooklyn. His performance of *Der Briev Treyger* by Dzigan and Schumacher, and *A Briev fun Menachem Mendel* by Sholem Aleichem underlined this ability.

As always, Valentine delighted with her singing of *Shviger* and other songs from Second Avenue and the Yiddish theatre. Her rendition of numbers by the Bagelman sisters (the Berry sisters of TV fame) brought a strong response from the audience.

Needle and Tread documents life on Spadina Avenue

Continued from page 32

She is also seen doing aerobic exercises at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, where she went by bus every day until she broke a knee two years ago.

The film opens with Adrienne Cooper of New York singing *My Resting Place* while the music of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer band and their version of the *Three Seamstresses* fills the soundtrack.

Stein's activities and work are contrasted with those of an Asiatic woman who now does the kind of work on Spadina Avenue that Stein did so long ago.

The documentary, sponsored by Friends of Yiddish among others, has been shown on Bravo TV and at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival last year.

David said that in preparing for *Neshoma*, he has so much good Toronto footage of the Ashkenaz parade and of the show *Ghetto Tango* that he could make four or five films.

"I'm still wrestling with how *Neshoma* will turn out, but it will be completed," he said.

Three years ago, David and his younger brother Eric, 27, leader of the klezmer band Beyond the Pale, visited and photographed his grandmother's home in Sachavola, and some of the footage will be in *Neshoma*.

They also did filming at Auschwitz and in their grandfather's home town. (Stein's husband, a cabinet maker, died in 1991.)

David describes *Neshoma* as a labour of love that he started with a grant of $4,000 from UJA, supplemented by $15,000 raised privately. It will feature some Toronto Holocaust survivors. He can be reached at 416-638-1373. Karen Shopsowitz is the co-producer.

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SJF, 40, 5'9, professional, attractive, slim. Seeks established & honest SJM for serious relationship. Call 416-636-3831.

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

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JEWISH CAMP
An anonymous donor has given a full scholarship to camp Gan Israel - a Jewish camp for boys and girls, ages 5-13. If you know of a Jewish girl who is presently not attending a Jewish school in Ottawa, and would like to attend camp this summer, please call Devora Caytak at 613-729-7712, ASAP.

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330 OBITUARIES

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330 OBITUARIES

BELFER, Bella - on June 8, 2000, late of 299 Homewood Ave.

KAREFF, Katie - on June 8, 2000.

PONTE, Esther - on June 8, 2000, late of 10 Laurelcrest Ave.

KASMAN, Gertrude - on June 10, 2000.

WINE, Rose - on June 10, 2000, late of 131 Torresdale Ave.

SAPOZNIKOV, Mania - on June 11, 2000, late of 6250 Bathurst St.

PISAREK, Sabina - on June 12, 2000, late of 20 Alexis Blvd.

AARONS, Lillian - on June 13, 2000, late of 2 Stubbs Dr.

GLIKSMAN, Szaja - on June 13, 2000.

LIEBERMAN, Max - on June 13, 2000, late of 115 Stafford Rd.

CONSKY, Sharon Theresa - on June 14, 2000, late of 63 McMorran Cres.

GOLDSTEIN, Mina Roma - on June 14.

KAPLAN, Sarah - on June 14, 2000.

MALIS, Raezelle - on June 14, 2000.

UCHITEL, Anna - on June 14, 2000, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ESTHER GOLDREICH ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, July 2
10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Lipsker Young Men's Section #39 relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MARTHA TENEN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, July 2nd, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Stashiver Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

SUBSCRIBE TO The Canadian jewish news

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

HARRY ZWILLING ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, July 2nd, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Farband Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

Coast to Coast

Desperation usually brings mistakes

Last week, Canadian political news was dominated by one issue. The report, amplified in the media every day, concerning the revelation and subsequent fallout regarding the Canadian Alliance's (CA) overly aggressive membership recruitment drive in Quebec.

As the story unfolded, Tom Long came forward with a mea culpa and apologized for the 'zeal' displayed by his Quebec campaigners. However, much harm was already done.

Long's personal credibility as a leadership candidate was damaged as was the entire process surrounding the Canadian Alliance's leadership race.

Thinking themselves the prime beneficiaries of the CA woes, federal Tories watched from the sidelines and smiled gleefully. Those smiles faded when accusations began to surface suggesting that in part, Quebec Tories had a hand in the mess. This conspiracy theory sounded especially plausible since Tom Long had hired the head of Tory Senator Pierre Nolin's Quebec election team to lead the membership drive in La Belle Province.

All of a sudden, Tories now found themselves compelled to vindicate their actions in connection to a leadership race in the camp of their most bitter rival.

Not to be outdone by the inept Tories, Preston Manning plunged in head first, seemingly oblivious to the mounting storm around him.

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

The media revealed instructions from Manning to his Ontario campaigners to sign up as many new members as possible – even if they had no intention of supporting the Canadian Alliance in the future.

All three, Long, Nolin and Manning are victims of the same virus… desperation. And, as a result, all three ignored the self-evident truths within the media reports.

If one may be so bold, your faithful scribe has a suggestion for the Jewish community: learn the three-fold lesson of this news story.

The less than judicious political actions of one element within the Jewish community are bound to affect the credibility of the entire group. The inability to properly assess the impact of a political development will render the community unprepared to manage that development when it comes to visit its doorstep. Finally, the refusal to learn important lessons from a distance will result in paying the price up close.

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To respond to an ad, Call: 1-900-451-4552 Ext. #65

LET'S CUDDLE
Single Jewish female, petite, brown eyes, red hair, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, enjoy theatre, movies, music, travelling, walking and playing bridge. Seeking Jewish male, 55-65 yrs, non-smoker, financially/emotionally stable, who's honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests. AD#1333

SUMMER LOVE
Single female, mid 40s, tall thin, model-esque, seeks male, widower, under 50 yrs, 6' or taller, thoughtful, kind, gentle, lives in the 416 area. AD#1023

LOVE TO LAUGH
Single attractive female, with blue eyes, black hair, very romantic, loves to laugh, with a wonderful sense of humour, seeking attractive male, who's honest, sincere and loving with a great sense of humour. AD#1096

SERIOUS INTENTIONS
Single female, fit, full of energy, blonde hair, hazel eyes, seeks male, attractive, fit, 37-45 yrs, emotionally and financially stable. AD#1398

LOVE LIFE
Single female, very attractive, fit, no children, loves life, seeks male handsome, financially and emotionally stable, single Dad's or divorced okay caring honest down to earth, clean shaven, well groomed and loves life. AD#1331

FREE SPIRIT
Single female, Jewish, 38 yrs, 5'6", slim, pretty, fit, Dr. of natural medicine, teacher, open minded, spiritual, fun loving, dancer, writer, artist, actress, emotionally stable. Seeking male, fun, fit, romantic, easy going, good communicator. AD#1550

HAPPINESS IS KEY
Female, 41 yrs, green eyes, auburn hair, pretty, fun loving, kind, humourous, open minded, love for humanity and animals Seeking kind, open hearted, generous gentleman, age/height/weight not important, financially secure, similar qualities, who'll treat me with respect and kindness AD#1507

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Retired female, successful Jewish business, professional, widow, 52 yrs, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, caring, fun loving, positive, passionate, and looking for excitement in life Seeking successful, tall, Jewish, businessman, or professional 50-62 yrs. AD#1118

LOVE'S LIFE
Single Jewish female, slim, young looking, attractive, kind, warm hearted, outgoing, enjoys theatre, reading, nature walks, art, movies, tradition, travel and dancing Seeking male, 49-59 yrs, with similar interest, who's ready to share life to the fullest. AD#1215

SERIOUS COMMITMENT
Attractive Jewish female, 59 yrs, sincere, compassionate, fun loving, selective, and unincumbered, enjoy bridge, tennis, jazz, books, movies and dining Seeking handsome male, who's elegant, intelligent, independent, and non-smoker, to share the best years of life. AD#1332

LASTING RELATIONSHIP
Single Eastern European, born female, 55 yrs, 5'7", independent, intelligent, and a smoker, seeks male for a loving and lasting relationship AD#1432

SHARE LIFE
Female, with many interests, enjoy theatre, movies, dining out and quiet times at home, seeks male 65+ to share interests with. AD#1230

LIFE'S PLEASURES
Attractive single professional female, educated, independent, compassionate, imaginative, athletic, sensual and vibrant, enjoy nature, the arts and enlightened conversations. Seeking cultured, witty, literate, accomplished and kind male, 40-50 yrs, who thinks, outside the box, to sample life's pleasures together AD#1010

SECOND CHANCES
Divorced Jewish professional female, 51 yrs, Eastern European background, speak Hebrew, loving, caring, romantic, great personality, sense of humour, family values, enjoys good conversation, walks, movies, theatre and travelling, seeking male, 51-58 yrs, with similar qualities and interests, for long term relationship AD#1323

MARRIAGE MINDED
Separated Israeli, female, mother of 1 child, 5 yrs, attractive, Hebrew teacher. Seeks male, professional or self employed, handsome, 5'10" or over, non-smoker, non-drinker, fluent in Hebrew for serious relationship. AD#1193

CLASSY LADY
Single Jewish female, 62 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, selective, enjoys music, the theatre. Seeks male elegant, classy, for loving monogamous long term relationship AD#1054

FAMILY ORIENTED
Single divorced Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm with great sense of humour. Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat and respect a lady who was previously married and

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Men seeking Women

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WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single male, Shoma-Shabbas, professional Jewish educator, warm, caring, handsome, and eclectic, seeking Jewish observant, female, who's spiritual, with joie de vive, for love, marriage and children AD#1245

SUMMER ROMANCE
Divorced male, Jewish, 37 yrs, handsome, athletic, 5'10", no children, condo owner, enjoys tennis, squash, movies, reading, dining and dancing Seeks female, Jewish, 32-42 yrs, slim, attractive, for possible long term relationship AD#1160

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 36 yrs, 5'7", blonde hair, never been married, fun loving, easy going, happy, with good sense of humour, enjoys sports oriented, activities, and going out to movies. Seeking female of similar age. AD#1422

LOVING GENTLEMAN
Single male, tall, youthful appearance, active, fit, loving, considerate, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks amiable female for companionship and friends first relationship. AD#1086

HEART OF GOLD
Single senior gentleman, tall, youthful active, thoughtful, loving non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks female similar for compassionship AD#1244

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, non-observant Jewish male, widow, 50 yrs, professional, no kids or other dependents, very fit, works out 4 times a week Seeking female, 45-50 yrs, with very similar, attributes, for a relationship. AD#1241

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, professional accountant, enjoys sports, long walks, dining and dancing, keeping fit, movies, reading travel. Seeks female, with similar qualities and interests AD#1445

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Divorced male, 44 yrs, Toronto born and raised, 5'10", smoker, lived in Israel for 11 yrs, variety of interests, seeks female, sexy, attractive, adventurous, fun loving, for romantic relationship AD#1375

LET'S TALK
Caring nature, semi-retired, 67 yr old, professional male, non-smoker with many interests and hobbies, seeking easy going, down to earth female, who's slim, attractive, and fun to be with AD#1094

MARRIAGE MINDED
70 yr old, divorced Jewish male, honest and sincere, would like to meet marriage minded lady, in her 60's. AD#1182

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Semi-retired male, 5'11", 165 lbs, slim, blue eyes, healthy, attractive, casual, romantic, enjoys intimate restaurants, sea, sun, walks on the beach sports, swimming, tennis, 60's music and kissing, seeking attractive female, caring, humourous, financially secure, physically and emotionally fit. AD#1524

POSSIBLE ROMANCE
Single male, 48 yrs, 5'10", 175 lbs, attractive, friendly, outgoing, romantic, passionate, straight forward, open-minded, employed, enjoy movies, dining, walks in parks, sporting events, golf, cuddling and watching TV. Seeking female with similar qualties and interests, for friendship and perhaps romance. AD#1623

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people Seeks female similar qualities and interests AD#1388

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography. Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with AD#1038

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family. AD#1370

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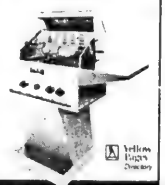

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By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The annual YMHA/Max and Rose Rady Jewish Community Centre's dinner, turned out to be the most successful in its 28-year history, thanks in large part to its star headliner, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.

"We had 1,300 people at the dinner, and I would say the speaker had the most to do with it. We just happened to be in the right place," said Ken Kronson, chair and co-founder of the dinner.

Winnipeg sports fans turned out in record numbers to hear the Hurricane and to honour outstanding local athletes. Carter was a professional boxer whose career was cut short by a lengthy jail term for a crime he didn't commit. The story of his successful struggle for justice was told in the Academy Award nominated movie, *Hurricane*, which starred Denzel Washington.

Another evening highlight was selection of the athlete of the year. This year's winner of the Idy and Max Nusgart Memorial Award is top-ranked judoka Olia Berger. This is Berger's second time in the winner's circle; she also won the award in 1997.

Berger is the daughter of judo master Mark Berger, a Russian immigrant to Winnipeg who is also her coach. This past year, the younger Berger won the 2000 Canadian Senior championships. She also won the bronze medal at the United States Open Championship and placed seventh at the Belgian Open.

Leible Hershfield at bat in St. Paul, Minn. in 1933. [Photo JM1678(a) courtesy of Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada]

The other nominees were hockey players Aaron Shibou and Josh Hechter, and 11-year-old squash and badminton star David Glass.

In recognition of Y2K, the dinner committee announced two other awards: the Manitoba Jewish Builder and Athlete of the 20th Century. Among the nominees in the latter category included Mark Berger; championship curler Terry Braunstein; recently retired international racquetball star Sherman Greenfeld; former Winnipeg Blue Bomber centre George Druxman; blind athlete Shep Shell; basketball Manitoba Hall of Famer Gail Winston-Kendall; field hockey player Paula Parks; early 20th century boxer Abe Mantel; and sprinter Laurie Cohen.

The winner, Leible Hershfield, who died last year at age 89, was a dominant presence in Jewish athletic activities for much of the 20th century. In 1969 he was named the best Jewish athlete of the half century.

In high school, he was a track and field star, and in the 1920s, '30s and '40s, he built an impressive career in softball and soccer. He was also an accomplished gymnast, coached volleyball and basketball, and was a qualified swimming instructor. For decades, he was a fixture at the YMHA.

The builder of the 20th century winner was Sam Katz, founder, president and owner of the Winnipeg Goldeyes of the Northern Baseball League. In 1994, the club won the league championship in its inaugural season and it has made the finals every year since, even as the league has grown to 16 teams.

Katz was also involved in founding the Winnipeg Cyclone with Earl and Cheryl Barish. Earl Barish, one of the nominees in the builder category, is president of the International Basketball Association, the Cyclone's league, and is a pitcher in the B'nai Brith Men's Slow-Pitch League.

The other nominees in the builder category were Ben Hatskin, founder of the Winnipeg Jets of the old World Hockey Association (and a former Winnipeg Blue Bomber player) and Barry Shenkarow, president of the NHL Jets; G. Sydney Halter, the first commissioner of the Canadian Football League; Abe Kovnats, a longtime CFL official; Max Freed and Mark Danzker who brought the first Goldeyes baseball club to Winnipeg in 1954; Charlie Krupp who was involved in a wide variety of sports and has a local baseball field named after him; Dr. Neville Winograd who was a longtime member of the Blue Bomber executive and served as president of the CFL; and Ernie Nairn, a CBC sportscaster who has contributed a lot of time to amateur sports groups in Winnipeg.

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JCC Maccabi Games gearing up

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In mid-August, more than 160 Toronto-area youngsters will board a fleet of buses, and embark on two excellent athletic adventures that have become a staple of the summer sports calendar.

Sixty will head to Staten Island and 40 will travel to Cincinnati for the JCC Maccabi Games. They will join athletes from JCCs across North America and overseas for five days of friendly athletic competition. From Aug. 13-18 in Cincinnati, Toronto athletes will compete against young sportsmen and women from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Rochester, Israel and Venezuela. The Staten Island games are set for Aug. 20 to 25.

Toronto's contingent to Cincinnati includes boys and girls basketball teams, a boys baseball team, and two boys beach volleyball squads, said Grant Smith, head of the Toronto delegation. The athletes heading to Cincinnati will be 16 and under.

Age generally younger group will travel to Staten Island, Smith said. A hoops team consisting of boys aged 13-14; a 17-strong boys and girls swim team; six tennis players; seven golfers; a boys soccer team; and five track and field athletes (three boys, two girls) will compete at the New York venue.

Last year, Toronto came home with 70 medals

The team's boy-girl ratio is roughly 85-15. Although organizers tried to include more female competitors, Smith said it was difficult to find them. He speculated "the reason is that girls tend to go to camp and the times the games are held are the last week of camp."

Last year's girls softball team won't be back to defend their bronze medal, mostly because this year's competition is in Boca Raton, Florida, which is too far to send a team, Smith said. Other venues are in Tucson, Ariz. and Richmond, Va.

Montreal, Windsor, Hamilton, Calgary, Vancouver and Ottawa, in addition to Toronto, will be sending teams to the youth games.

Last year, the Toronto contingent came home with 70 medals, including a girls basketball gold and a boys baseball silver. The swim team alone captured 30 medals.

Smith said Maccabi Canada officials are planning to send a junior baseball team to the 2001 Maccabiah Games in Israel as well as boys and girls junior basketball teams. The youth games will give the athletes experience and allow team captains to gauge the strengths of the teams, he said.

Despite the hunt for medals, Smith points out "it's not only about winning. It's an athletic competition during the day and a cultural event at night."

Will our faith(s) define us?

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

The Canadian Alliance's leadership race is not yet over, but the fight for the party's – indeed of Canada's – heart and soul is just starting.

In only three short months since its creation, the Alliance has succeeded, whether intentionally or not, in effecting a seismic shift of the political ground in this country. I, for one, find it all unsettling.

The charge was led by Stockwell Day, an ordained evangelical Christian minister and one-time lay pastor. It was Day who first played the religion card in the leadership campaign, using it as a wedge to hammer the Liberals on two old-fashioned issues: faith and family values – issues that rarely, if ever, crop up in Canadian politics.

Time was when social conservatism and its sub-group, the religious right, was considered an almost lunatic fringe in the secular world of Canadian politics, evoking uncomfortable memories (for Jews at least) of Duplessis-era anti-Semitism, Social Credit and hellfire Prairie populism.

Day, and to a lesser extent Preston Manning (also an ordained evangelical minister), have changed all that. Even more than the Reform party, the Alliance's blend of social and economic conservatism is anchored by a heavy dose of religious faith. The question is, whose religious faith?

On the stump, Day, to the seeming discomfort of the other contenders, was the most assertive in presenting himself as the traditional values candidate. He was steadfast in his opposition to abortion (as a member of Premier Ralph Klein's cabinet, he fought unsuccessfully to remove public funding of abortions); against expanded gay rights (in 1997, he termed homosexuality "a mental disorder"); and he lashed out at political-cultural permissiveness (Liberalism, he said, has contributed to the "breakdown of society.")

Did he sound a resonating chord? He seems to have, but ironically, it was among non-Protestant conservatives.

Day was particularly successful in reaching out to Muslims, Catholics, Sikhs, Hindus – groups typically associated with the Liberals – and some Orthodox Jews. At a meeting at Beth Jacob School for Girls, Day's team claimed to have signed up 400 Jewish members from the Orthodox community. Religious groups, often conservative in their own social values, were also drawn to Day by his promise of federal tax breaks for parents of children in religious schools.

"We touched a nerve with that," boasted Jason Kenney, a Canadian Alliance MP and Day's campaign chair. "The ethnic religious communities have heard Liberal rhetoric about diversity and pluralism for decades. But it's the Canadian Alliance that is getting serious about giving them what they want to protect culture, education and faith."

Really? I thought the Canadian Alliance's objective, like the Reform party's, is to abolish multiculturalism policies and do away with what Manning has always called "hyphenated" Canadians.

Or maybe the Alliance didn't change anything. Maybe it tapped into a growing moral conservatism in this country.

We tend to associate the political influence of the religious right with American politics. But consider the findings of American academic Dennis Hoover, a watcher of religion in Canada. A study by Hoover has shown that between 1984 and 1999, conservative Christian groups participated in an average 55 percent of constitutional rights litigation in Canada. The figure for U.S. groups is 50 percent.

John English, a University of Waterloo history professor and former Liberal MP, is warning that a tectonic shift is quietly occurring in Canadian politics, one that may advance the values of the Canadian Alliance and mimic American politics.

"Is Canada, a country where most Canadians now wear their faiths very lightly, prepared for a century where faiths define one's place and identity?" he asks.

Jewish history holds the answer to that.

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4 heads garlic, yielding 40 cloves
2 tblsp. + 1/2 cup olive oil
salt & freshly ground pepper
1/2 tsp sugar
1 4 lb. chicken
2 tblsp chopped parsley
2 tblsp chopped fresh chives
2 tblsp chopped fresh basil
1 tblsp chopped fresh thyme
1 tblsp chopped cilantro
1 tblsp chopped fresh chervil
1/2 bay leaf

Preheat oven to 425°F. Separate but ***do not peel*** the cloves of garlic. Combine the 2 tblsps olive oil, salt, pepper and sugar. Roll garlic cloves in mixture and set aside.

Place remaining 1/2 cup olive oil in Dutch oven, reserving a little to sprinkle over chicken. Place chicken in Dutch oven, then sprinkle olive oil, salt and pepper over top. Place garlic around chicken. Mix parsley, chives, basil, thyme, cilantro, chervil and bay leaf. Sprinkle over chicken.

Cover and bake for 1 hour. Remove bay leaf and serve. Serves 6.

About Seniors

Dr. Mark says...

It isn't exactly news that Canada, and especially its Jewish community, is aging. We've known this fact for decades, and over the last 10 years, the figures have sharpened. In 1951, a year after I was born, seniors made up only 7.8 percent of the country's population. By 1999, this figure had grown to around 12 percent, and by 2010 will reach nearly 15 percent.

Of course, these figures point to great successes — in public hygiene, in the decrease in cardiovascular deaths, and so on. However, what has been of interest, is not whether we are producing more older Canadians, but whether we are seeing a healthier and less dysfunctional elder. Or could it be that our "successes" in geriatric longevity have produced a number of ever more dependent elders, overwhelming both their caregivers and the formal health-care system?

Nearly two decades ago, a debate began after an article titled *Aging, Natural Death and the Compression of Mortality,* was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine.* In this piece, the commonly held notion that an aging population necessarily resulted in an increased burden of disability and functional loss among those elderly who survived into old age, was challenged.

It was hypothesized that we were observing a "squaring of the mortality curve," with most deaths occurring, after only a brief period of disability, in the late 70s and early 80s. The authors hypothesized that if the age of disability approximated the age of death, we would observe a decrease in disability in the "old-old." In other words, the elderly would live in health and independence into a ripe old age and then die.

Optimistically, the authors concluded: "Smoking, body-mass index and exercise patterns in midlife and late adulthood are predictors of subsequent disability. Not only do persons with better health habits survive longer, but in such persons, disability is postponed and compressed into fewer years at the end of life."

While exciting, these ideas are not exactly new. For example, take the 1903 Nobel Laureate in Medicine, Elie Metchnikoff: "Old age will be postponed so much that men of 60 to 70 years of age will retain their vigour and will not require assistance."

Let us hope, although separated by a century, that both authors are right. But we must wait just a few years to come to a conclusion.

Dr. A.M. Clarfield is the Chief of Academic Affairs at the Sarah Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem and a staff geriatrician of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Sir Mortimer B. Davis — Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, Montreal.

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The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

Women of Valor

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

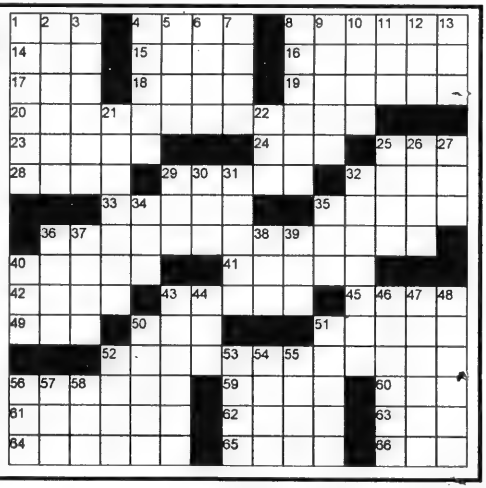
Across

1 Fix, as with a result
4 Did a cobbler's job
8 First Jewish cabinet member Oscar
14 High card
15 Like Hephaestus
16 Guggenheim family feature
17 Recycling container
18 Actor Baldwin
19 Einstein and Napoleon
20 *The Feminine Mystique* author
23 *Cuba y Hispaniola*
24 Horror director Craven
25 One of Jacob's sons
28 Underworld river
29 Superhero garb
32 Fill up
33 He won an oscar for "Hannah and Her Sisters"
35 Matt of "Good Will Hunting"
36 *Ms. Magazine* founder
40 Fodor offering
41 Something Jews may not do to their neighbor's wife
42 Jane of fiction
43 *Goosebumps* creator
45 "A miss ___ good as a mile"
49 Half a fly
50 Health resort
51 Bring together
52 California senator
56 Jewish former Prime Minister of France ___ Mendes-France
59 Uni-
60 Little bit
61 Nicaragua's Daniel
62 Little bit
63 "___ was saying..."
64 Gas choice
65 Short play
66 Knesset vote, perhaps

Down

1 Jackie Mason and others
2 Most cold
3 Without harshness
4 Kills, biblically
5 Whole cut?
6 49 day period
7 Metric prefix
8 Raoul Wallenberg and compatriots
9 Michener epic
10 ___ Man (Hoffman role)
11 The whole shebang
12 Western Indian
13 Theater rebukes
21 IRS matter
22 She sheep
25 Michael Douglas film, with "The"
26 Director Egoyan
27 Lion's home
29 102, for Cato
30 SNL star Gasteyer
31 Stern's "Home Alone" buddy
32 Vito Corleone's oldest son
34 Exist
35 Do alternative
36 Fellas
37 Italian bread
38 Lots
39 The apple of Adam's eye
40 "___ Smart"
43 Bagel topper
44 It's picked up in bars
46 War of '67
47 General statement?
48 Part of the former Yugoslavia
50 Private's superior, slangily
51 German terror
52 Raised
53 He wrote about the Holocaust in *Time's Arrow*
54 Piece used by David Bronstein
55 The A in ADL
56 Netanyahu or Clinton, for short
57 Wrath
58 Greek letter

(Answers are on page 30.)



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This Week

National

Survivors' memories affect the way they live and die, conference told. *Page 5*

Panel recommends tackling hate on the Internet. *Page 7*

Perspectives

Letter from Jakarta: Engaging Islam. *Page 9*

Arts & Travel

Jewish Museum in Berlin will finally open next year. *Page 31*

Business Profile

Phyllis Yaffe: Ambition drives the queen of the specialty channel. *Page 33*

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Max to the Devils

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It's not often that a third-round pick in the NHL entry draft is interviewed by the *New York Times* and is featured in numerous television, radio and newspaper stories as well. Then again, it's not every day that an Israeli playing Tier II Junior hockey gets drafted by the NHL's Stanley Cup champions.

Max Birbraer

For Max Birbraer, the last few months have been an emotional whirlwind, with one remarkable accomplishment following another.

First he has another great year toiling in the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA), a junior circuit that is considered a route to a college career, not the NHL. Then he flies to Iceland, where he's a dominant force helping Israel win its first ever gold medal in IIHF Pool D competition. NHL Central Scouting likes what it sees and ranks him 41st among North American prospects. The *Hockey News* rates him 79th overall.

On draft day, Birbraer, 19, gets to experience every young hockey player's dream come true. The New Jersey Devils, known for their keen evaluation of young talent, select him early in the third round, 67th overall. Birbraer, who grew up in Kazakhstan, becomes only the second player ever, after Danius Zubrus, to be drafted by the NHL out of Tier II Junior hockey.

Continued on page 38

Syria wants to talk

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Official sources in Damascus were quoted twice last week as saying that talks with Israel could resume in August.

Writing for the Lebanese newspaper *a-Nahar*, Syrian journalist T'ana al-Amam quoted official Damascus sources as expressing optimism on the chance of resuming peace talks with Israel as early as this August.

Bashar Assad sets condition

According to the sources, al-Amam said the resumption is conditional on Prime Minister Ehud Barak's accepting that President Bashar Assad will stand firm on Syria's territorial demands, "especially on the return of Syria to the north-eastern shore of the Kinneret."

However, the sources added that "the question of water will remain open for discussion."

In the past week, Syrian media have renewed calls for Israel to renew peace talks – these increased as Assad and Foreign Minister Farouq Shara said Damascus is willing to resume talks "at any moment."

Last week, the Syrian newspaper *al-Hayat* reported that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would arrive in Damascus on July 25 for talks with Assad and the Syrian leadership on the possibility of renewed talks. Official sources told the newspaper that at the end of May and beginning of June, the U.S. administration presented compromise proposals to Damascus "that were good for both sides."

The Syrians actually began expressing optimism in the middle of May, saying that a breakthrough in the peace process was expected in "coming weeks." Sources then noted that an agreement could be reached regarding the north-eastern shore of the Kinneret without compromising Israel's water requirements.

TWO CULTURES CLASH: A supporter of the Jewish communities in the West Bank attempts to persuade someone sipping his coffee on "trendy" Sheinkin Street in Tel Aviv that the Israeli government's peace policies are wrong. They are speaking to one another, but do they understand each other? *[Israel Sun photo]*

Verdict from Iran

Due to the Canada Day holiday, *The CJN* went to press prior to the date on which the verdicts were expected for the 13 Iranian Jews charged with spying for Israel. In the case of convictions, community rallies and demonstrations will be organized. Please call Canadian Jewish Congress at 635-2883, ext. 175 or B'nai Brith at 633-6224, ext. 360 for further information.

The editor

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The News in Brief

CANADA

Diplomat Arrested

TORONTO — A former Canadian diplomat in Israel was arrested by RCMP officers and charged with smuggling $1 million worth of cocaine into Israel. Douglas Wardle, who was stationed at the Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv in 1996, is charged with conspiracy to import, and importing and trafficking 8.5 kilograms of cocaine. Wardle, 42, was released on a $50,000 bond. He will appear in court Aug. 11 to enter a plea. Wardle was recalled to Ottawa in 1996 when Israeli authorities implicated him in a drug smuggling ring but could not arrest him because of his diplomatic immunity. If convicted, Wardle faces a possible life sentence.

ISRAEL

Investment Doubles

JERUSALEM — Foreign investment in Israel totalled $4.31 billion (US) during the first five months of the year, compared with $2.06 billion during the same period in 1999, according to the Bank of Israel. For all of 1999, foreign investment totalled $4.85 billion, the bank said.

Gay Pride

TEL AVIV — Thousands of Israelis took part in the annual gay pride parade here June 23. Rabin Square was lined with Israeli flags and bedecked with the rainbow banners of the country's growing gay pride movement.

WORLD

Doctor's Trial

VIENNA — A retired Austrian neurologist accused of Nazi war crimes is too ill to stand trial, according to a psychiatric report commissioned by the prosecution. Heinrich Gross, 84, was charged last year with complicity in the murder of nine children at a Vienna clinic during World War II. In March, the judge stopped the trial just 20 minutes after it began, when a psychiatrist testified that Gross is suffering from dementia.

Dire Predictions

MOSCOW — A Russian Jewish media tycoon expects the Kremlin to take further steps against him and other Russian Jews who criticize President Vladimir Putin. Freed several days after he was jailed earlier this month, Vladimir Goussinsky made the prediction in a letter to the World Jewish Congress. Goussinsky owns Russia's only independent television station and is leader of the Russian Jewish Congress.

Insurer to Pay...

ROME — Italy's largest insurer agreed to pay $150 million in Holocaust-era claims, according to the World Jewish Congress. The group also said Assicurazioni Generali agreed to provide access to its archives and to publish the names of more than 20,000 policy holders.

Deadline for Others...

NEW YORK — U.S. public financial officials have given Austrian insurers until July 14 to explain why they have not joined a global effort to settle Holocaust-era claims. The U.S. officials did not say what they would do if the insurers missed the deadline.

Allies Had Data

WASHINGTON — Allied intelligence agents had information in 1943 that could have been used to save some Italian Jews from a Nazi roundup, according to U.S. historians. The disclosure was made last week, when officials at the U.S. National Archives released some 400,000 pages of declassified World War II documents.

Czech Property

PRAGUE — The Czech Senate voted overwhelmingly last week to return Jewish property confiscated during the Nazi occupation. The bill, already passed by the lower chamber of parliament, now awaits President Vaclav Havel's signature.

Kohl Sounds Off

BERLIN — A controversy erupted in Germany late last month after former Chancellor Helmut Kohl compared his treatment by the governing party to the Nazi persecution of the Jews. Other politicians lashed out at him after Kohl said that calls by a leading Social Democrat to boycott his fundraising efforts resembled the Nazi-era boycott of Jewish shops.

Money Laundering

PARIS — Israel features prominently on a list of 15 countries which "encourage money laundering," according to a report leaked to the French daily *Le Monde*. The list was originally compiled by a special investigative committee set up by the G-7 group of industrialized countries. As a consequence of its appearance on the list, Israel may face international sanctions in the coming months.

Jewish Groups: Settle German Bank's Role

OTTAWA — The German bank accused of once holding accounts for members of Adolf Hitler's dreaded SS is planning to open a branch in Canada, but Jewish groups want the federal government to block the deal until all outstanding claims over the bank's role in World War II are settled.

Frankfurt-based Dresdner Bank AG, Germany's third-largest bank, recently applied to Canada's Superintendent of Financial Institutions for permission to open a branch in Toronto.

Dresdner is part of a group of German industrial giants negotiating to settle enormous class-action lawsuits filed by Holocaust survivors and their families over the use of slave labour and the laundering of money looted from Jews during the war.

Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada say restitution from German industries should be resolved before the branch of Dresdner Bank is allowed to operate freely in Canada.

The Jewish groups say this is an emotionally charged issue from which the government should not look away.

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CHAT expands northward for grade 9 students

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The 200 Grade 9 students who will start their CHAT careers at the new Richmond Hill campus will have an "unusual and rare opportunity to help shape their school," according to headmaster Paul Shaviv.

"After a few days, they will come home saying it's fantastic. After graduation, they will say that they had a first class high school experience," he said.

"There is no way that they will get the full benefit of the CHAT high school experience, and nothing CHAT can say will make it different," counters Fran Garshowitz, whose daughter, Paula, is scheduled to enter Grade 9 in September.

At the parents' information meeting, spokespeople "promoted the ruach, the school spirit, the camaraderie," she said. Speaking as an "education consumer," Garshowitz said, "that's what I bought."

It's like buying a house, and then finding out a week before the deal closes that while you will have a house, it is in a different location and with a different layout, she said.

High school is a "last fling," before the realities of adult life, added parent Gerri Holder. She remembers at the information night being promised "school spirit, warmth, and the school programs. That just won't happen."

At issue is CHAT's decision to lease space for a York Region campus at the newly vacant Richmond Hill High School, just north of Major Mackenzie between Bathurst and Yonge streets. Those incoming Grade 9 students who live north of Steeles will attend that facility.

Over the five years of the lease, the school will grow to serve grades 9 to 12, Shaviv said. It will offer a full academic and extra-curricular program, he promised.

Unlike the Wilmington campus, which was adapted from an elementary school, Shaviv said, Richmond Hill High School was built as a high school. "It is an outstanding facility, with labs, flexible rooms, a large field for sports, and space for a library."

There will be an expert team of teachers, who will be imparters of the CHAT ethos, Shaviv said. He described the principal, whose name he could not yet divulge, as "a veteran CHAT staff member with a community-wide reputation."

The decision to use the northern facility was made literally in a matter of days, Shaviv said.

Last November, the intention was to continue its building program at the Wilmington campus. It became apparent, however, that community objections to expansion were so strong that this would not happen.

Several possible sites were considered, most seriously the lower level of next-door Beth Jacob v'Anshe Drildz Synagogue, which could have been turned into classrooms.

This solution to the admittedly overcrowded school was "inadequate and inferior," said Shaviv, who added that it would have brought the school "to absolute capacity."

CHAT became aware of the empty high school on Wednesday, June 14 and made a formal request to lease it on Friday, June 16.

"I got home seven minutes before Shabbat," Shaviv said ruefully.

On June 19 it was presented to "a full attendance of the board," who unanimously authorized the five-year lease.

For the first year, students will be bused from a central Thornhill location to the new school. Consideration is being given to also accommodating parents who live outside the Bathurst corridor.

The only exceptions, Shaviv said, are the dozen or so special education students in each year who will remain at Wilmington, and those for whom there is a clear compassionate need to not split the family up, such as illness.

This will be decided on a case by case basis, Shaviv said.

While calling this "the best solution for the kids and for the school," Shaviv and the board call it only "an interim solution to our problems of site overcrowding."

The intention is still to build in the planned community campus slated for Bathurst and Rutherford.

Addressing parental concerns about students going to school with the same people they had been with all along, rather than having the opportunity to make new friends, Shaviv said that there is an almost 50 percent split between youngsters from north and from south of Steeles.

"There will be a healthy mix of kids. All the feeder schools are represented [in both schools]."

An information meeting for interested parents will be held on July 4 at the CHAT Wilmington building.

School president Baila Lubek said she preferred to not comment to the press until plans are finalized.

CLARIFICATION

In the article, "New Group offers support to women with cancer" (*CJN*, June 29), it may appear that the volunteer database will be made available to women newly diagnosed with cancer. L'Chaim wants to make it known that there is a database of women willing to act as support, not that the database itself will be made public. Privacy is a key element of the service this support group offers.

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Greater Toronto Area

Getting to a state of unity

From the editor's desk

As of this writing, Israeli police have not apprehended anyone in the attempted torching two weeks ago, of Yaar Ramot, a Conservative synagogue in Jerusalem, but they are searching for Jewish perpetrators.

The general mood of the people in Israel was painfully expressed last week by an editorial in *Ha'aretz*. "It is difficult to shake off the oppressive feeling aroused by the sight of burned books on the scorched floor of a synagogue, and it is difficult not to recall similar sights at terrifying events that occurred at other places and during other times in the history of the Jewish people.

"The burning of a synagogue is a horrific symbol... We must not underestimate the impact of the reports of the events in Israel on Jewish communities everywhere..."

The writer was absolutely correct.

It is even difficult to write the words let alone imagine them: one Jew trying to burn down another Jew's shul and the twisted religious loyalty that attempts to glorify God's name by burning His sefer Torah, His prayer books and His place of worship.

It was with these sad and angry emotions still squeezing at my throat, that a copy of an address by Prof. Moshe Kaveh, the president of Bar Ilan University came across my desk. Titled *The Urgent Search for Jewish Unity*, it was delivered in Cleveland at the beginning of the year.

The remarks arrived at the right time. Their subject is precisely what needs to be discussed in the wake of the attempted arson of Yaar Ramot. Moreover, Prof. Kaveh, observant, a physicist, is not shy about applying his scientific training and outlook in offering a formula "to reduce the dangerous gaps in the Jewish world."

The address begins with a brief description of the current stresses tearing at Israeli society, or as Kaveh calls them, "the dangerous gaps". He also provides both a thumbnail historical and theological context for those stresses.

Kaveh has an engaging style of presentation. He speaks forcefully and forthrightly, openly confident of the correctness of his opinions, for example: "Today, the most important task that faces us is to find a recipe to overcome unbridled hatred. We need halachic wisdom to help develop a stable society whose basic values are shared by those who keep kosher and those who don't, by the young people in the cafés of Tel Aviv and the yeshiva scholars.

"I believe this recipe can be found in three basic rules, three halachic principles. If we start from scratch and create a Jewish people who subscribe to these rules, then we can save the Jewish people. If we had obeyed these rules for the last 2,000 years, we wouldn't be in the situation that we are today."

Those are very confident, assertive words, and refreshing because of the place whence they stem, deep conviction, the heart of a pious, moderate, scholar/scientist for whom the well-being of the people of Israel is among life's highest pursuits.

Moshe Kaveh

What is Kaveh's recipe? I reproduce his own words. He states various propositions and then elaborates. Due to space limitations however, I can only publish very brief excerpts of his compelling thesis.

"The first rule of Jewish life should be the primacy of klal Yisrael, the community of Israel... I believe there is nothing more important."

Kaveh elaborates: "Right now in Israel, we teach our children to die for klal Yisrael but not to live for it. We do not teach them how to devote themselves to making sure klal Yisrael is preserved in times of peace as well as in times of war."

His second rule for Jewish life today is "kevod habriot, which means respect for the living and sensitivity to human values. Kevod habriot is one of the most important concepts in Jewish life. If God created the human being in his image, you should respect that to such an extent that it supersedes most of the mitzvot [commandments].

"Just imagine the revolution, the Jewish revolution, that would take place if you told the younger generation that respecting others, treating others decently, is more important than hundreds of mitzvot. Imagine how that would transform the religious kids and how it would make our tradition more meaningful to secular kids."

Kaveh articulates the third rule with similar unequivocal force. "When you have a confrontation between peace and the truth, peace is more important. We have examples of this principle directly from God. The Torah tells us that God deviated from the truth when he wanted peace between Abraham and Sarah. You can see throughout the Bible and the Talmud, that peace is more important than truth."

No words can improve on Kaveh's own. "We need to bring my three basic Jewish rules of life to our schools, to our children. With these rules, a new generation of Jews will learn how to respect one another and will learn the importance of community. The three rules should form the common denominator for the Jewish people..."

Kaveh's Cleveland speech is an important document. It should be read by as many people as possible. Adherence to his three rules would have made impossible and inconceivable the torching of Yaar Ramot.

—MBD

SEE JN

HOLOCAUST WRITING CONTEST WINNERS: Howard Driman (left), chair of Toronto's Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre, and Gord Meslin (right), chair of the Holocaust Education Committee, flank Stephen Edwards, a grade 7 student at Yorkland School, and Helen Chan, a grade 11 student at Earl Haig Secondary School. The students won first place, respectively, in the junior and senior division of the sixth annual provincial Holocaust Writing Contest. Both will receive a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., a prize sponsored by Brenda Fishauf in memory of Abraham and Cluva Diament and family. [Ron Csillag photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Survivors' memories affect living, dying, conference told

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Holocaust survivors' experience with severe trauma influences the way they live and die, says the co-ordinator of the Jewish Hospice Program, a home-centred palliative care program.

"Because of the brutal deaths they have seen, they are often very frightened of dying," says Sheila Walker, a participant in a recent conference on memory and trauma sponsored in part by the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto UJA FEDERATION; Jewish Family & Child Services, Toronto Child Abuse Centre; and York Region Abuse Program.

Dying signifies a lack of control, says Walker, and that is very scary for people who, at one time, had to have complete control over their lives in order to survive.

Separation is also "a huge issue for Holocaust survivors because most of them were torn away from their families during the war," says Walker. She adds that survivors who are dying "often say that they did not have one happy day since they were diagnosed with a fatal illness."

Blanche Wiseman, a conference participant who works at JF&CS and the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, says Holocaust survivors' history affects them throughout their lives. "There is always a part of them that is held back," she says. "Their joy of living has been contaminated" and they are continuously "flooded with feelings of loss or horror."

Survivors feel a need to hang on to their sadness, says Wiseman, and this often comes out in a form of anger that is not easily understood. "These feelings surface in times of illness. Hearing innocent terms such as 'experimental surgery' or 'collaboration' can evoke terrible memories. Some people even refuse to wear hospital bracelets or take showers."

As Holocaust survivors get older, Wiseman says "memories often come flooding back [because] they have more time to think." As a result, the children of survivors often become their parents' caregivers. When grown children see "the role of their parents change...they feel responsible for them. When their parents are dying, children suddenly feel powerless."

There are methods for survivors to cope with their trauma. Alan Bardikoff, a registered psychologist and conference organizer who volunteers with the Holocaust centre, suggests "Holocaust survivors could offer advice to other survivors of horrible events," such as abused children."We feel that people who experience trauma as children may feel a connection with each other."

War crimes effort falls short of goals

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A government pledge to launch 14 new Nazi-era war crimes cases is falling far short of its goal, a ministry report indicated last week.

So far, only three new proceedings have been commenced since July 1998 when the government announced a three-year, 14-case target. At the time, $46.8 million was allocated for the effort against both Nazi and modern-day war criminals.

"Given the time that has passed and with each passing year the deterioration in the evidence because of age and passing of suspects and witnesses, the ability to bring forward cases in the numbers we had anticipated is challenged," said Terry Beitner, acting director of the Justice Department's War Crimes Section.

The report, titled *Canada's War Crimes Program, 3rd Annual Report 1999-2000*, is a joint publication of the Department of Justice and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. It surveys the government's efforts against Nazi war criminals as well as modern day war criminals.

The document states the Justice Department's War Crimes Section is working on 82 World War II files and it has undertaken initial checks on approximately 147 other cases.

Beitner said the unit has worked hard to bring cases to trial. "At this point, it's difficult to provide an estimate of numbers" of anticipated new cases. "I could tell you that in the next year, I intend to bring forward several cases."

The report noted that since 1995, federal authorities have initiated 17 citizenship revocation and deportation proceedings.

The report indicated the experience developed in addressing Nazi-era cases has proven valuable in dealing with modern day war criminals. Following creation of a dedicated Modern War Crimes Program, 581 applicants were refused entry to Canada in 1999 – an increase of 274 over the year before. Thirty-eight persons were removed from Canada in 1999-2000.

Canadian Jewish Congress president Moshe Ronen said "it's clear the same determination on modern day war criminals is not being placed on Nazi war criminals... The government seems focused locally and internationally on the modern war criminals issue. We have always said that for Canada to be seen in the vanguard of morality and justice, it must first look to its own backyard."

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Greater Toronto Area

Reclaim partnership with God, says Rabbi Riskin

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Religious Zionists must return to the ideal that Jews are partners with God, not passive recipients of His bounty, says Rabbi Shlomo Riskin.

In this way, the rabbi said, they will overcome the crisis that is leading to "young religious Zionists taking off their kippot srugot [the knitted kippot considered the identifying symbol of the ideology]."

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin

Rabbi Riskin, who is the spiritual leader of the community of Efrat in the Territories in Israel and chancellor of Ohr Torah Stone Colleges and Graduate Programs, was speaking here at Yeshivat Or Chaim on Almore Avenue.

The kippah sruga was once a sign of tremendous pride in Israel, Rabbi Riskin said. Now, however, there is a "disease" he said, which he called "haredi-phobia."

"Many wearers of the kippah sruga are scared that the haredim are taking over."

This attitude is not entirely without basis, he said, noting that in the last election, the haredi Shas and Agudah parties together got 21 or 22 seats, as opposed to the religious Zionist Mafdal's four or five seats.

We must 'redeem the soul of the Jewish people'

The issue, he said, is whether Jews are partners with God in bringing the redemption, which includes establishing and maintaining a state, or whether they are relying on God to act miraculously.

After the rebellion of Bar Kochba in 132 CE, which led to the death of thousands of Jews, Rabbi Riskin explained, Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zachai made a bargain with the Roman general (later emperor) Vespasian. He and his scholars would abandon Jerusalem in favour of a religious centre in Yavneh.

"He felt that it was necessary to sacrifice political leadership and national sovereignty, in order to maintain the covenant of Judaism," said Rabbi Riskin.

This attitude was maintained by the religious establishment in Europe, which until this century was opposed to Zionism.

But, he said, "Jewish theology doesn't leave anything important to God. When it comes to health or sustenance, we do what we have to do [such as going to doctors, or getting an education] and then rely on God. Why is Jerusalem any different?"

When the Haskalah (Enlightenment) led to the development of nationalism and secularism and a serious increase in anti-Semitism, "far-sighted Jews realized that without a state, the Jewish people wouldn't survive."

The rules changed, the rabbi said. "Religious Zionists broke with the halachic directive to not wage war to wrest Jerusalem."

Rabbi Riskin described the "heady days for religious Zionism," particularly from the Six Day War until the early 1980s, when "the greatest heroes – and the greatest casualties – were the yeshivat hesder soldiers; when settler was not a term of insult, when we were back to the biblical heartland; when we were at the forefront of Jewish action."

The radiance dimmed, as the rabbi put it, with the intifadah and with the religious extremism that included the fanatic behaviour of Baruch Goldstein and Yigal Amir.

"If you are using your energy on the settlements, on dealing with the intifadah and liberating land, it is hard to have the energy to worry about the soul of the country," Rabbi Riskin said.

The settlers were seen as being opposed to peace, and the kippah was not a source of pride, he lamented. "The media respect us less, and we respect ourselves less."

Repeating a statement that he has made frequently – that he would accept giving back land in exchange for peace if the Israeli Jews voted that way in a referendum – he said Jews should not focus on what we don't have, but on what we do have.

"If [after a referendum] we are left even with settlement blocks, we have much more than we ever dreamed we would have."

The accomplishments of the state economically, sociologically (moulding people of all colours and nationalities into one nation), the number of people studying Torah, the fact that even the haredi Shas accept the concept of religious Zionists and that the haredim are going into the army and into the computer world, "redounds to the success of religious Zionists," he said.

Now, we must "redeem the soul of the Jewish people," Rabbi Riskin said. "We must establish yeshivot, not in Shilo [on the Golan], but in Tel Aviv. We must instil Jewish culture and values in secular schools."

Every generation has its challenges, he said. "We just must keep faith."

Greater Toronto Area

Panel recommends tackling hate on the Internet

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A high-profile review panel has recommended that the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) be updated to keep pace with the use of the Internet as a medium for the transmission of hate messages.

The panel, headed by former Supreme Court of Canada Judge Gerard La Forest, made four recommendations on combatting Internet hate as part of a much broader package of proposed changes to Canada's human rights legislation.

The panel's 178-page report, titled *Promoting Equality: A New Vision 2000*, addresses issues like discrimination on the basis of genetic testing and bias against the poor.

In its four-page section on the Internet, the report proposes developing a code of practice for Internet users and widening the scope of the Act to address future telecommunications technologies.

The panel's two other recommendations are more controversial. It suggests service providers could be found liable for the content transmitted by its customers and it would empower a human rights tribunal to order an ISP to refuse service to one of its clients.

An ISP's liability would be "based on the extent of its knowledge and technological ability to take measures to prevent future breaches of the act," the report stated.

"We considered whether this degree of liability runs contrary to the policy in the Act that provides that the owner or operator of a telecommunications undertaking is not liable merely because its facilities are being used. We do not think it does," the panel stated.

"The proposal of liability is based on more than the passive provision of facilities for disseminating hate messages. It would require knowledge, actual or constructive, that its facilities were being used for a breach of the Act."

The Canadian Association of Internet Providers (CAIP), a voluntary industry group, took issue with two of the panel's recommendations.

"Unfortunately, [panel members] are somewhat misguided and impractical," said Jay Thomson, president of CAIP. "The panel feels that by targeting ISP's, they will be able to solve the problem."

The ISP industry realizes the Internet can be used to disseminate hate propaganda and other offensive material, although currently there are "few if any hate sites hosted in Canada" Thomson said.

CAIP has developed its own voluntary code of conduct and "is working with government and with interested stakeholders to address the issue…It's better we work with interested stakeholders than to respond to government fiat," Thomson said.

He also suggested the panel's recommendations are vague and unenforceable. "What does 'knowledge' mean?" he asked.

"What does an ISP have to do to have knowledge? Does this require a service provider to monitor all the communications going on over their network? That's impractical," he said."How can ISP's know everything that happens on their net?"

He pointed out the World Wide Web consists of millions of pages of content and the rest of the Internet, which includes e-mail, chat rooms and LISTSERV's, also contains an enormous amount of material being transmitted daily.

Thomson questioned whether a government agency could legally order an ISP to refuse service to a customer, but "even if it's legal for an agency to tell a company not to deal with a person, I don't see how that can work. People can change their identity, their name, their address."

Canadian Jewish Congress took a different view of the report's recommendations. The panel "has picked up the ball and we find that encouraging and a positive step forward," said Manuel Prutschi, national director of community relations for Congress.

The panel's recommendations coincide with efforts by the federal government and NGO's to address hate on the Internet.

Congress, along with CAIP, the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Industry Canada, the Media Awareness Network, the Canadian Heritage Ministry and the Canadian Anti-Racism Education and Research Society, are part of a "new media working group" studying the issue under the auspices of the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, Prutschi said.

Part of proposed changes to human rights legislation

The group recently held its sixth meeting since February. "The issue of hate and bias on the Internet and its regulation is still a work in progress," he said. "There hasn't been an ultimate determination regarding legislative regulation, but there is no question the group agrees it should be regulated."

The group has also considered the concept of a hotline, similar to Crime Stoppers, that would give the public a central location to complain about Internet hate propaganda.

Congress, meanwhile, is preparing an option paper on Internet hate to be released in the fall while an inter-departmental government committee is examining other objectionable content on the Internet, like pornography, Prutschi said.

It all points to a move to regulate the Web and other parts of the Internet, he concluded.

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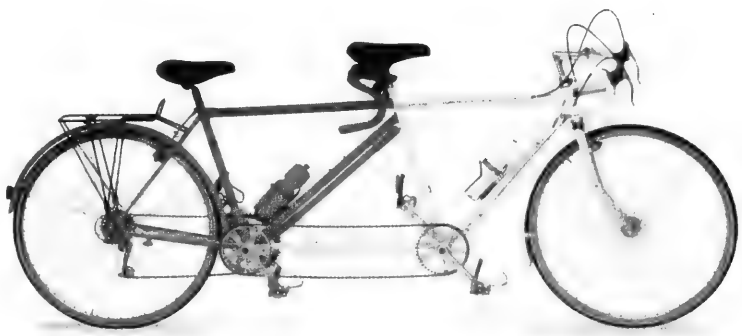

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Can he choose statecraft, diplomacy and peace?

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright returned to Washington last week after a one-day visit to Jerusalem, disappointed that the atmosphere between Israel and the PA was menacing, like a hovering, dark cloud ready to erupt in storm. Her report to President Bill Clinton could hardly have been an optimistic one. The question of whether to proceed with a three-way summit was less relevant than the larger question of whether the area would soon erupt in violence.

How could the atmosphere have been anything but menacing? The week began with a barrage of threats directed at Israel by Yasser Arafat.

"We have a few weeks left ahead of us," Arafat told thousands of cheering members of his Fatah movement in Nablus last Monday, "but they are the most important and critical, because at the end of it we will declare statehood... We remind them we cannot be threatened."

The latter statement was directed to IDF chief of staff Shaul Mofaz, who had earlier speculated that the IDF would have to use tanks and helicopters to quell the riots that would certainly erupt if the PA unilaterally declared its independent Palestinian state sometime after Sept. 13.

Once again, Arafat had resorted to his most predictable and sinister instrument of leadership: incitement.

The Israelis and the Palestinians are at a watershed in negotiations. Several issues remain unresolved, the two key ones being the competing claims upon Jerusalem and the status of the Jewish communities in the West Bank. As time passes and the issues remain unresolved, the two sides must be extra cautious, not less so, to ensure that the relationship between them remains firm and that extremists do not foment even greater anxiety among the two peoples.Thus it causes great disappointment, worry and suspicion that Arafat chooses constantly to deal with the need to abate the level of anxiety by creating even more.

As Israel's Justice Minister Yossi Beilin noted: "I regret he [Arafat] stirs up the masses with violent statements as we come close to the moment of truth. But there is no doubt... we are in the final few weeks or months during which the future of the Middle East will be determined."

The *Yediot Achronot* reported that Prime Minister Ehud Barak told Albright that Israel would annex the territories it controls "without waiting even one minute" if Arafat declared a state unilaterally. Why should he do otherwise? Indeed annexation would be the very least response expected of Israel's prime minister in a situation rendered anarchic and violent by the leader of the Palestinians.

Yasser Arafat must choose which course he prefers for his people. Can he once and for all abjure incitement, demagoguery and violence? Conversely, can he once and for all embrace statecraft, diplomacy and peace? The time is fast approaching when he will finally show us.

ON TRIAL IN IRAN

The trial of the 13 Iranian Jews on charges of espionage resumed behind closed doors on May 1. Each of the accused has a name. Let us not forget them.

Javeed Beit Yakov, Navid Balah Zadeh, Nejat Broukhim, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Faramarz Kashi, Farzad Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani Tefflin, Omed Tefflin, Ashessr Zadmehr.

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Dry Bones
PEOPLE DON'T REMEMBER THAT WE'RE IN A WATER EMERGENCY!
CELL PHONES HAVE RUINED ALL OUR ABILITY TO REMEMBER.
AND THAT'S THE REASON?!
FOR WHAT?

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Trade show weak in geography

I recently attended the world's largest printing industry trade show – in Germany. There was a substantial Israeli presence at the show, thanks to Israel's growing importance in the high-tech aspects of modern printing.

Heidelberg, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial printing presses, had areas where company representatives could get together with printers from different parts of the world. There was a North American zone, a couple of European zones, an Asian zone, and so on.

Curiously, Israeli customers were not directed to the European, Asian, or Middle Eastern zones. Instead, they were directed to the area for South America and the Caribbean.

Does Heidelberg need a geography lesson? Perhaps a political lesson would do. Or has Israel miraculously been transported thousands of miles from the shores of the Mediterranean?

Joseph Aspler
Kirkland, Que.

* * *

Resurrect interest in Yiddish

"Stratford's Fiddler superb" (*CJN*, June 22) should become a wake-up call for present generations of Jewry to try to remember that it was not a stork of any kind that brought them the present-day Jewish-Paradise-On-Earth freedom, liberty, and almost equality, in North America.

Inhibition and fear have contributed to the nearly total disappearance of the Yiddish language. That has been the gratitude paid to the Tevyas and his contemporaries by their descendants.

Shame on us that we have not only tolerated the virtual disappearance of Yiddish, but have done very little, if anything, to stop the language from being treated with a sense of disdain.

Those of us who still speak and understand the language know well its great profundity.

What better vehicle than *The CJN*, which reaches right across Canada, to begin a campaign to rectify this sad situation? Scholarship funds can be raised in communities for resurrecting interest in Yiddish.

All of this would help inject more of a feeling of pride in who and what we are. Most important of all, it would repay those Jews who had the courage and the stamina to lay the foundations on which was built what is now the Jewish community of North America.

Reuven Carin
Montreal

* * *

Seeking volunteers for study

I am studying for my PhD in clinical psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Currently, I am working on my dissertation on Jewish families' psychology, beliefs, and reaction to the Holocaust. I am seeking Jewish adults (both survivors and non-survivors, the latter of whom will comprise the "control" or comparison group) to participate in this project.

Participation involves filling out an anonymous, multiple-choice questionnaire; there is no personal interview for this study. Those who are interested in volunteering or who would like more information about the study can contact me via e-mail at: ibreslau@yahoo.com or by phone at 212-580-0204.

Ilana Breslau
New York

* * *

Supports Chomsky and Said tributes

The opposition of the organized Jewish community to the granting of honorary degrees (by the University of Toronto) to Noam Chomsky and Edward Said is truly reminiscent of fascism. Whatever one thinks of either man, they are both certainly brilliant scholars who have provided a much-needed alternative to the pro-Israel bias of government policy, the mainstream media and scholarship. It is appalling to see Jews, for years among the leading advocates of civil liberties and freedom of speech, as the leading advocates of limitation of civil liberties for the supposed greater good.

Matt Feder
West Vancouver, B.C.

* * *

Must oppose discrimination

According to the UJA FEDERATION supplement in *The CJN* June 20, more than $8 million dollars of the $33 million dollars available for allocation is used to provide a Jewish day school education to students in need. That is 25 percent of the total amount available. This percentage is relatively the same year in and year out.

Why does the Jewish community spend so much on Jewish education? Because we believe that without that education, the continuity of our community is at risk.

Let me ask again: Why does the Jewish community spend so much on Jewish education? Because we are Jews and not Catholics! If we were Roman Catholic, there would not be any need for us to divert to Jewish education 25 cents of every dollar donated. The funding for a significant part of the education would come from government. If we were Roman Catholic, those quarters of every dollar donated could go to funding other items mentioned in the supplement – Assisting the Vulnerable, Rescue, and other areas of Strengthening Jewish Identity. A concerted effort on the part of all members of the Jewish community pushing for equal treatment to Catholics would make Canada a better country. Continuing the current government policy will not be viable if our community stands up and takes a firm position opposing discrimination against Jews and other religious minorities.

Arieh Waldman
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must [illegible]

Letter from Jakarta: Engaging Islam

By RABBI IRVING GREENBERG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

My decision to travel to Jakarta started with newspaper accounts of a Muslim cleric-theologian, Abdurrahman Wahid, who was chosen as president of Indonesia.

President Wahid is a "Modern Orthodox" Muslim who has called for respect for Christians and Jews. He even announced that he wanted to recognize Israel, although militant groups demonstrated strongly on the streets and he backed down.

I see Jews as the litmus test of an emerging democracy. So here was Mr. Wahid, a Muslim leader, who was good for the Jews. I was fascinated.Then I heard that Mr. Wahid wanted to sponsor a Jewish-Christian-Muslim trialogue with official government participation. Mr. Wahid wanted a visible symbol of positive interaction between the groups that could serve as a role model for communal peace as well as a precedent for recognition of Israel. For me, the invitation was irresistible. I cleared my calendar.

After a 24-hour trip, I am taken straight to the presidential palace. The plane arrives late, so I miss the talk by Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, but the president is great. He says that religion should play a positive role instead of being a source of hatred. To accomplish that, he says, Islam must accept the challenge of influencing morality and justice through participation in democracy rather than through religious monopoly and political control.

On to the trialogue. The most challenging and stimulating Muslim participant is a South African, Cornel West-type, Farid Esack. He comes across as an engaging hustler with a sense of humour. He's good-looking, articulate, pro-life, but also a strong liberation theologian.

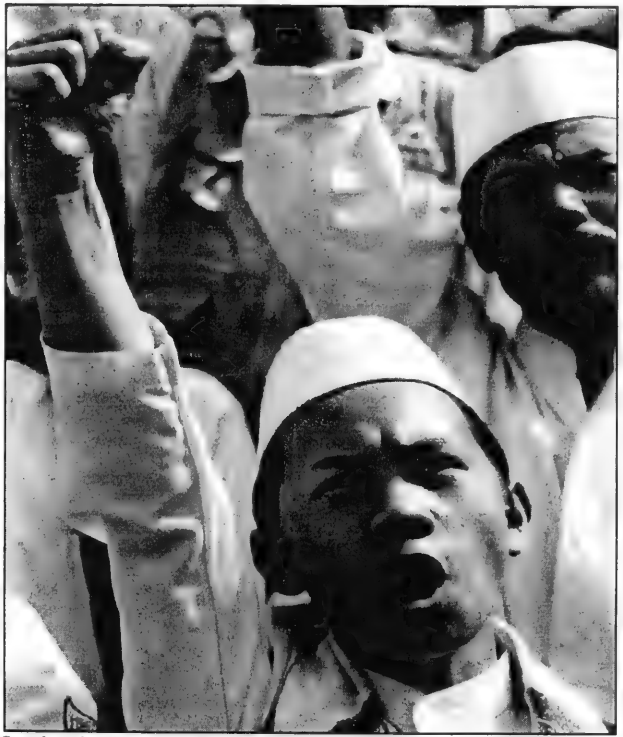
Another outstanding figure is the organizer of a United Nations world religious assembly, Bawa Jain. And then there is a critic of globalization, and of democratic culture as a force for world homogenization, Mahmoud Ayoub. He is constantly criticizing America, including its intervention in the Gulf War.

Finally, I respond by challenging his moral equivalence of democracies and dictatorships. Afterward, a number of the Muslims say privately that they are glad that someone took him on.

I ask everyone: Are there any Jews in Jakarta? There is no Israeli embassy and no synagogue. On Tuesday night, a Christian priest, Father David, tells me that there is a synagogue in Surabaya. How far away, I ask. One hour. My spirits rise; it is worth the walk on the Sabbath. It is only one hour away by plane, Father David explains.

On Thursday, my panel comes close to disaster. Mr. Esack launches into a tirade about the Jewish claim to being a chosen people. This claim serves as a front for Jewish dominance. Why do we insist upon it? He does not want to justify anti-Semitism, he says, but asks if you can blame people for being offended by a claim so haughty and dismissive of others. The explanation that "chosen-ness" means extra responsibility, is patronizing. Who appointed you to carry my burden?

It is my turn to respond. I speak of other Jews (notably Mordecai Kaplan) who share his critique. In fact, some have repudiated the chosen-people concept. I explain why I have continued to affirm the idea.



Seen here is an example of the hold of "radical Islam" in Indonesia. A young boy shouts his outrage at the Indonesian Human Rights Commission, which he and his fellow protesters claim is influenced by the Christian West. [RNS/Reuters photo]

In essence, it stems from the belief that standard views of democracy and equality imply ultimate homogenization of culture and economics so that no one is better than anyone else. The essence of "chosen-ness" is the affirmation of variety and difference. A group is called and chosen to play its particular function. What saves the claim from arrogance is that more than one people can be chosen. Indeed, this is the heart of pluralism, the affirmation that each group has a particular experience of God's love and a distinctive function to play in the world.

One of the other panelists lashes back at Mr. Esack for his implied justification for anti-Semitism and for his destructive words. Mr. Esack fires back: Never in my 25 years of dialogue have I ever been as insulted and humiliated as in this exchange. The panel ends in an unhappy and tense atmosphere. Luckily, there is no press coverage. We are hardly a living example of harmony and mutual respect between the Abrahamic religions.

Later that evening, the Jewish delegation is invited to see the president at the palace. Mr. Wahid says that he can see Christians and Muslims anytime, but he wants a chance to meet with the Jews.

As we travel toward the palace, gallows humour abounds. When he hears about this, Mr. Esack will press his case that Jewish "chosen-ness" is a front for world domination. The president is not at the palace. He is out at political meetings, campaigning, and does not show up until 11 p.m. As he enters his office, we see, in addition to being legally blind, he is also suffering the after-effects of a stroke. But even after 13 hours on the go, he is fresh and insightful.

We begin with a request that Indonesia recognize Israel. He responds with a short lecture about the pressures on Indonesia from the Muslim world. But he says that if Indonesia can diplomatically recognize China and Russia, which are godless, how can it not recognize Israel? But it is clear that he is not going to do it because of our intervention. He relates his fascination with Israel and its religious variety and openness. He has read Chaim Potok; the struggle between modern values and tradition is one that resonates deeply in his own soul. I try to give him a sympathetic reading of America's attitude toward him, and toward Indonesia as a nation at the beginning of its democratic way with a leader who is committed to religious pluralism.

In Jakarta, I was taught again that we Jews may be minuscule in number but that the world considers us to be one of the leading religions. The constant press attention to Israel and the perception that it is both powerful and isolated in the Middle East is part of this picture. Indonesians constantly asked me about George Soros and whether we could get the Jewish investors to come back to Indonesia. I stopped trying to explain that Mr. Soros is not a particularly active member of the Jewish community.

On Saturday, the dialogue concludes on a hopeful note. The Muslims from India and Indonesia are truly pluralist. The Western Muslim participants become more forthcoming. Even Mr. Esack is friendly and upbeat. The group decided to hold a press conference with one Christian, one Muslim and one Jew. One questioner is a young Indonesian journalist. He stands up and says, "I speak not as a journalist, but as a Muslim raised in a Muslim family. My parents told me that everywhere the Jews are, they are powerful people and control society. Everywhere, they are troublemakers and dangerous people. So I want to ask a simple question: If we recognize Israel, will you provide the investors who will bring us out of this economic crisis that we are in?"

I pause for a moment. I have this overwhelming urge to say: "Yes, you are absolutely correct. If you recognize Israel, I will bring Mr. Soros and all the other investors in immediately. If not, have fun trying to get out of this economic crisis on your own."

Instead, I tell the old joke about the Jew in the 1930s who reads Nazi newspapers. The reason? When he reads the Jewish newspapers they tell of the world depression, the persecution of the Jews and the closure of Palestine. When he reads the Nazi newspapers, he is delighted to learn that the Jews are all rich bankers. They control the world; they are taking over the West and invading the Middle East.

Then I speak about the worldwide attempt to revise derogatory religious teachings, and to challenge stereotypes that put down other faiths and turn religions into forces for hatred and ethnic strife. The press conference goes positively, but the look on my interlocutor's face remains skeptical. Oh well, I think to myself. It may not hurt that they think we are so powerful. Would I trade in being Jewish for an end to the attention, exaggeration, emulation? I don't think so.

Rabbi Irving Greenberg is the chair of the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington.

A company of evil-doers

A Toronto correspondent sent me a fascinating transcript of discussions that took place three days after Kristallnacht. On Nov. 12, 1938, Hermann Goering, head of the German air force had convened the Nazi bigwigs in order to discuss what to do with the Jews, now that hundreds of their synagogues and thousands of their businesses lay in ruins.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The discussion proceeded in "business-like" fashion: the assembled were concerned with the fact that the Jews had not really suffered any damage because German insurance companies would make good their losses.

Hitler's "wise men" decided that this problem was easy to solve: they would forbid the insurance companies to pay damages to Jews.

For Hitler's henchmen, "Jews" stood for vermin and though they did not as yet discuss plans for extermination, they went into great detail in discussing how to dehumanize Germany's Jewry. They would isolate and ghettoize them, and forbid them to sit next to a German, thus banning them from visiting theatres and movies. The Nazis recognized clearly that their policy would reduce most Jews to poverty, and they concluded that this would be the greatest incentive for them to leave the country.

Goering, who was also the head of Germany's financial restructuring, was focused on draining Jews of their finances. Another key Nazi leader, Reinhard Heydrich, who later became the governor general of Czechoslovakia, expressed murderous intentions towards the Jews, but at this particular session, the final extermination of the Jews was not discussed and the subject was never raised.

One thing is clear, however. The Nazis at the meeting viewed Jews as objects whose removal from Germany in one way or another had to be accomplished.

To this day, Holocaust deniers claim that Adolf Hitler never ordered the Final Solution. But in his opening statement to those assembled, Goering stated that according to the letter he had received, it was the Fuehrer's desire that the "Jewish question" be tackled comprehensively and that a total plan be devised. To be sure, Hitler did not say in his memo what the plan would be – he left that to his subordinates. They, in turn, had no hesitation in interpreting his desires in as extreme a fashion as possible. Heydrich obviously thought along these lines.

I read the stenographic report of these discussions with great absorption and deepening depression. Unfortunately, these monsters were all too serious and, to boot, they had a flair for organization. It is easy to see how their attitude ended in mass murder.

A few years later, at the infamous Wannsee Conference of January 1942, the Final Solution was finalized. Jews were to be removed from all of Europe, and this removal spelled extermination.

Jennifer Fox's personal tips on Europe

The following is the Jennifer Fox Survival Guide to Europe or How I Almost Didn't Survive Europe.

Number 1: Never visit during soccer season. I landed in Rome the same afternoon one of the Rome soccer (excuse me, football) teams won the league championship. Piles of people filled the streets, blasting horns and sporting the light and navy blue colours of their team. This was cool – a part of Roman life beyond the churches and ruins.

Five hours later, the same joyous crowd became a riotous crowd. As I tried to move against the crowd to get to the subway station, bottle-throwing fans were scattered by the explosion of tear gas bombs.

Jennifer Fox on campus in Halifax

OK, so I'm never reporting from a war zone. I don't have the constitution.

Number 2: You cannot visit France, Italy and the United Kingdom in the same trip. There's not enough room in your backpack.

France and Italy in May – warm to hot, a cold day here and there. Great Britain in May – wet, cold, wet, windy, did I mention wet? I never want to see my blue sweater again. I wore it everyday during the United Kingdom portion of the trip.

Number 3: The joys of foreign currency or "It cost what?" Paying with Italian lira gets confusing. A soft drink costs at least 7,000 lira, which only adds up to five bucks Canadian, but hearing 7,000 causes one to automatically think, "expensive." Actually, five dollars really is expensive. I knew I was right to be appalled.

Number 4: A thousand blessings to whoever decided to make museums free.

The National Gallery in London is free. So are the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert (for students) and a bunch of other places. Wonderful, beautiful paintings and it doesn't cost a pence. Sigh.

Number 5: If your travelling companion gets you lost twice in the same day, it's time to stop following her instructions. My roommate/travelling buddy is getting a compass for her birthday. Of course, it was really silly to follow her that third time…

Number 6: This way to the Sistine Chapel – big fat lie. The moment you enter the Vatican City museum there are signs reading: this way to the Sistine Chapel. You follow them, eager to see the great ceiling of Michelangelo. You follow more signs and more signs and 40 minutes later, you're still not there, though you have passed a zillion portraits of saints and other artifacts.

Unfortunately, by the time I arrived I was quite irked, it was very crowded and I only glanced at the famous ceiling. My loss.

Number 7: Just because it all looks close on the map… Paris is a big city. Give yourself plenty of time to get from point A to B. If you don't, you may start to hyperventilate by the time you finally sit down at point B.

Number 8: Something is always trying to run you down. Learn to get out of the way of cars in Paris, motorcycles in Rome, granny-style bicycles in Amsterdam, and pigeons in Venice. They're like dive-bombers.

Number 9: No matter why you decide to go – go. I didn't go to Europe to find myself, or lose myself or for any form of personal discovery. I went to see things and I did. I've got six rolls of film to prove it.

I might not ever return to those places, so it's worth all of the above – the physical collapse, the wind and rain, the inedible meals.

But if I do go again, I'm going after soccer season.

Can Israel survive as a Jewish State?

By HENRY SREBRNIK

Guest Voice

As in other modern western states, Israel has in recent years witnessed the growth of a "human rights" political culture among its intelligentsia. In that country, this development primarily involves concern for, and empathy with, Israel's growing Arab population.

Education Minister Yossi Sarid of the leftist Meretz party told Israeli Arabs in a letter circulated to teachers across the nation last year: "Your pain is our disgrace."

New history textbooks introduced into mainstream secular elementary schools in 1999 paint a more nuanced picture of the Arab-Jewish struggle for the country, in order, these pedagogues hope, to develop a new generation of more tolerant and pluralistic Israelis. The new books state, for instance, that during the 1948 War of Independence the Jewish armies engaged in ethnic cleansing and expulsions of Arabs in order to build a majority Jewish state.

"We are getting rid of certain myths," said historian Eyal Naveh, who wrote the school text, *The Twentieth Century: On the Threshold of Tomorrow*. He equated this development with the more enlightened view North Americans now have of the native peoples they dispossessed and the African-Americans they once enslaved.

This all seems part and parcel of a revisionist deconstruction of what is now perceived to have been an overly simplistic Zionist nationalist myth. Indeed, there has arisen a so-called "post-Zionist" school of Israeli academics and intellectuals, who want to separate Zionism and Israel altogether. They include the "new historians" Benny Morris of Ben-Gurion University, author of *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999*; Avi Shlaim of St. Antony's College, Oxford, author of *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*; and Ze'ev Sternhell of the Hebrew University, who published *The Founding Myths of Israel: Nationalism, Socialism, and the Making of the Jewish State*.

In the 1920s, fierce debates raged between various schools of Zionism regarding the role of Judaism in a renewed Jewish commonwealth – was it to be a Jewish state, in the cultural and religious sense, or a state of the Jews? – but at least all agreed on basic Zionist precepts.

Today, as Yoram Hazony of the Shalem Centre in Jerusalem has noted in his new book, *The Jewish State: The Struggle for Israel's Soul*, the "new historians" are completely neutral toward the Zionist cause and treat Zionism as if it were no more morally compelling than the story of those who opposed it. In fact, they are intent on dismantling Israel's moral standing.

The "new historians" wish to make of Israel a "normal" country, but not in the sense that Theodor Herzl envisaged, as a nation-state for the Jewish people, in the way that Norway was for Norwegians or Italy for Italians. Rather, they advocate an ethnically and religiously neutral state. Their models include countries such as Canada and the United States, which have become, in terms of the public square, "de-Christianized." Their project therefore involves more than the formal separation of synagogue and state; it requires abolishing as much of the Jewish cultural and ideological superstructure as possible.

Obviously, for the "post-Zionists," legislation such as the Law of Return, and the myriad ways in which the Israeli state is linked to the Jewish people through the Jewish Agency and various Zionist organizations, would have to be abolished. In their view, Jews should not in any way be privileged over other Israeli citizens, financially, emotionally, or spiritually.

Ironically, this secular democratic state so dear to "post-Zionist" hearts sounds very similar to the slogans of Yasser Arafat's Fatah back in the 1960s and '70s – they, it may be recalled, favoured a "secular democratic Palestine of Muslims, Christians and Jews."

"Post-Zionist" views have been gaining ground within the country's cultural institutions, the media, the school system, and even the military. They are generating a crisis of political faith among those who shape public opinion. Will these Israeli academics succeed where PLO propagandists failed?

Henry Srebrnik is an associate professor of political studies at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown.

After a year, Barak looks politically weak

A year after taking office, Ehud Barak is struggling mightily to preserve his fractious, fragile government.

For the last few months, Barak has been locked in a fierce battle with three of his recalcitrant coalition partners. Responding to demands by Shas, he eased Education Minister Yossi Sarid – the Meretz party leader – out of the cabinet, gave Shas additional funding for its mismanaged school system, and legitimized its illegal radio stations.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Barak, however, still faces dire resignation threats from the hawkish National Religious Party (NRP) and Israel B'Aliyah. The NRP is threatening to bolt if Barak transfers three Arab villages on the outskirts of Jerusalem – Abu Dis, Azzariye and Suwahra – to full Palestinian control. Meanwhile, Israel B'Aliyah has warned Barak that it will end its partnership with his One Israel alliance should he, as reports suggest, cede the Jordan Valley and parts of eastern Jerusalem to the Palestinians within the context of a final status agreement.

Barak, who was sworn in as prime minister on July 7 after decisively defeating the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu in the May 17 election, courts political peril. He enjoys a comfortable 68–52 parliamentary majority, a margin which includes the 10 seats commanded by the left-liberal Meretz party, forced out of the cabinet by Shas' machinations. But Barak is politically weak and vulnerable, and should any of his partners defy him and defect, he may have to bite the bullet, dissolve the Knesset and call new elections. Failing that, Barak could form a national unity government with the Likud, but this would be an implicit acknowledgement that his peace initiatives have petered out. Alternatively, he could cobble together a minority government with the implicit backing of the Arab parties.

As a result of these developments, Barak presides over a divided government which, in terms of its membership, lists to the right. With Meretz gone from the cabinet, and with One Israel's 26 seats neutralized by the 26 mandates of Shas (17), the NRP (5) and Israel B'Aliyah (4), Barak has little room for manoeuvre, and must look for support to the Centre party (6). The predicament in which he finds himself is of his own doing, since he never seriously considered the alternative of forming a government with the participation of Shinui (six seats), Am Ehad (2) and the Arab parties (10).

Aside from the dysfunctional nature of Israel's political system, Barak's problems stem from his desire to reach an historic accommodation with the Arabs, even though he rode to power on the back of socio-economic issues. To achieve these historic objectives, he is prepared, as he has said, to take "the most critical, fateful decisions in the state's history." But such decisions, based on United Nations Resolution 242, imply sweeping territorial concessions. These are vehemently opposed by Yitzhak Levy of the NRP and Natan Sharansky of Israel B'Aliyah, and probably equally as much by Shas' leadership, including its spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

Last week, Barak declared that he is willing to renew negotiations with Syria, talks that collapsed in March when he rejected a Syrian demand for the northeast shoreline of the Sea of Galilee. But, as cabinet minister Yossi Beilin indicated, Barak may be amenable to an idea proposed by the late Hafez al-Assad's biographer, Patrick Seale. He suggested that Israel could retain sovereignty of the lake, but that its northeastern sector be controlled by the United Nations so that Israel and Syria can enjoy equal access to it.

Cognizant that the Sept. 13 deadline for a final status accord with the PA is just two months away, Barak has floated a series of trial balloons that the Palestine Authority (PA), led by Yasser Arafat, has flatly turned down. Under the latest plan, yet to be confirmed by Barak, Israel would supposedly cede 80 percent of the West Bank to the PA, retain an additional 12 percent for several years, and permanently keep 8 percent (with 80 percent of the Jewish settlers living in Israeli settlement blocs). A variation of it, offered by cabinet minister Haim Ramon, would enable Israel to annex 10 percent of the West Bank, temporarily hold 20 percent, and transfer the rest – 70 percent – to the PA.

The Palestinians are holding out for 100 percent of the West Bank. They are emboldened by Israel's full withdrawal from Egypt and Lebanon and by Israel's willingness to relinquish all but a few hundred metres of the Golan Heights. The Palestinians argue that even if they accept a withdrawal of slightly more than 90 percent from the West Bank, this would represent only 19 percent of what had been Mandatory Palestine.

With the active encouragement of the NRP and Israel B'Aliyah, the Jewish settlers of the West Bank (and Gaza Strip) are fighting a rearguard action to torpedo a massive Israeli withdrawal. Acutely aware of their zealousness and influence, Barak has tried to mollify them by word and deed.

Unlike his mentor, Yitzhak Rabin, he talks fondly about the Land of Israel and has expressed esteem for the settlers. He has pledged to strengthen Ma'aleh Adumim (the biggest settlement), and confessed that "the thought of giving up land tears my heart." And Barak has set out red lines which, he claims, he will not cross: no going back to the pre-1967 lines, no foreign armies west of the Jordan River, no division of Jerusalem, and no "right of return," in practice, for Palestinian refugees.

As a sop to the settlers, Barak legalized all but 12 of 42 West Bank encampments largely authorized by Netanyahu after the 1998 Wye accords. And according to Peace Now, Barak, in his first nine months, turned a blind eye to new building starts in the West Bank, allowing more than Netanyahu himself. In addition, Barak is permitting contractors to finish Har Choma, a housing project in eastern Jerusalem which galvanized the PA to break off peace talks with Israel in 1997.

Ehud Barak

These gestures have not appeased Israel's right-wing constituency, and certainly they have incensed the PA. Barak, in sharp contrast to Netanyahu, is serious about signing a fair and honourable deal with the Palestinians. But he has warned, "If we don't reach an accord, we are headed for a confrontation."

In this spirit, he made good on Netanyahu's promise to withdraw from a further 13 percent of the territories, leaving the PA in partial or full possession of about 40 percent of the West Bank. Barak also opened up a southern safe passage route between the West Bank and Gaza, permitted the PA to open an international airport, granted it permission to build a port in Gaza, and liberalized Palestinian residency rights in eastern Jerusalem.

Despite these concessions, Barak's relationship with Arafat, who has threatened to declare statehood unilaterally, remains tense. Claiming that Barak is deviating from the Oslo accords, the Palestinians are unhappy with Barak's failure to order another interim withdrawal from the West Bank, which, in their estimation, would leave them with 90 percent of it. They are disappointed that a northern safe passage route has yet to be established, and bitter that 1,600 of their prisoners still languish in Israeli prisons. They fear that Barak is aiming for an interim agreement that would leave significant issues – the status of Jerusalem and the fate of the refugees – dangling. They believe he does not appreciate the depth of Palestinian frustration with the slow pace of talks. And they resent recent comments by Israel's chief of staff, Gen. Shaul Mofaz, that the Israeli army will use helicopters and tanks to crush a new Palestinian rebellion.

On the home front, Barak has left the impression that he is so focused on the peace process that he has forgotten his promise to create hundreds of thousands of jobs and close glaring economic and social gaps in Israeli society, where upwards of a third of the population live below the poverty line.

Barak, too, has alienated the one million-strong Israeli Arab community due to his failure to appoint an Arab cabinet minister, this despite the fact that 95 percent of Israeli Arabs voted for him. To compensate for this faux pas, he named an Arab deputy foreign minister and appointed an Arab MK to sit on the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee. But these appointments have not deflected their sense of betrayal.

Similarly, secular Jews have criticized Barak for having dumped Meretz, One Israel's "natural partner," and for not having thoroughly followed through on his pledge to funnel haredi men into the armed forces.

Barak's secretive management style has offended cabinet colleagues. His cavalier treatment of Shimon Peres, the former prime minister and the current minister of regional development, has been a source of embarrassment. His refusal to appoint Avraham Burg and Yael Dayan to cabinet posts caused a stir. And his reputation for probity was tarnished by an official report which pointedly questioned One Israel's campaign funding practices.

Pummelled by carping critics on the right and the left, Barak can take solace from one major achievement: extricating the Israeli army from the quagmire in Lebanon.

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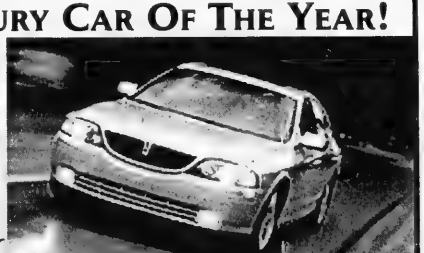
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No one should ever know the tragedy and suffering the Vizel family has endured and continues to endure. This once self-sufficient family has been reduced to relying on the generosity of their Jewish brethren for a meagre existence.

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Administrative Coordinator

UJA Federation is seeking an Administrative Coordinator to oversee the smooth day-to-day functioning of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre. The Administrative Coordinator performs administrative duties; is responsible for a small resource library; and staffs two volunteer committees. The incumbent works with Holocaust survivors and other community volunteers on a daily basis.

Requirements:
- University Degree
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- Experience working with committees, volunteers and lay people
- Significant Jewish background (formal and/or informal education and adequate knowledge of Holocaust related issues)
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Excellent administrative/computer skills (Microsoft Office)

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Interested parties, please forward letter of intent and resume to:

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Personnel Department
UJA Federation
4600 Bathurst Street
Toronto, ON M2R 3V2
e-mail: eolmer@ujafed.org

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Doctorow hard to follow

***City of God* by E.L. Doctorow, Random House, $38.00.**

This eccentric novel opens in the fall of 1959 with the random notebook jottings of a New York Jewish screenwriter called Everett – the narrator of the story – who is seeking a worthy fictional subject for his next book. He soon discovers one when a large brass cross, stolen from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Manhattan, ends up inexplicably on the roof of the nearby Synagogue Of Evolutionary Judaism.

Books
Bernard Baskin

The rabbis of the iconoclastic synagogue, a husband and wife team, Joshua Gruen and Sarah Blumenthal, are busy offering new religious rituals and surprising notions to their eager and liberal congregants.

The minister of the Episcopal Church, Thomas Pemberton, known as Pem, is suffering from a crisis of faith. His free-thinking ideas are distrusted by the church elders, especially since one of his sermons suggested that the Christian response to the Holocaust should have been, "Something to assure us our faith wasn't some sort of self-deluding complacency… Something as earthshaking in its way as Auschwitz and Dachau."

Pem finds kindred spirits in the young, attractive, open-minded rabbinical couple and when Joshua Gruen dies during a "mission" to Europe, he falls in love with Sarah.

The troubled priest then begins the difficult, soul-searching process of converting to Judaism.

The marriage of Pem and Sarah and the mingling of cross and synagogue seem to suggest religious accommodation or syncretism.

Is this the author's intention? It is not clear. This is only one of the difficulties in a book that contains many.

An affecting narrative strand concerns Sarah's father who as a young boy in the Kovno Ghetto served as a runner for the ghetto governing council. His main task was to secretly sneak ghetto records to the outside world for safekeeping. After the war, the archive is recovered and in a poignant episode Sarah finds the picture of her father among the young team of runners – most of whom have perished. The piece on the destruction of the ghetto by the Nazis is searing and overpowering.

Another of the novel's sequences is Everett's account, in the form of free verse, of his father's and brother's service in both world wars and his own in Vietnam.

City of God is overloaded with ideas. There is a multiplicity of subjects: God, science, bird-watching, the pernicious influence of film culture on modern society, the religious meaning of lyrics of popular songs and the fictional autobiographical thoughts of Albert Einstein and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

What is troubling about this novel is that the writing is non-linear, rambling and episodic. It is hard to follow the several parallel narrative lines, the abrupt introduction of multiple speakers, as well as the jumble of assorted bits of information and disparate ideas.

In a recent interview, the author explained the book's post-modern form in this way. "We don't think in a linear fashion like we did even 30 years ago. Our minds are like clusters of Web sites that we keep hopping between. We get meaning from discontinuity. We're the culture of the short take. I think the book is almost a template for this temporary mind of ours."

City of God demands a close and sympathetic reading. There is much interesting religious and Jewish material, and the writing is beautiful throughout. But many readers will find the task frustrating and difficult.

Mutual respect essential

By RABBI YECHIEL BEN AYON

As strong and resilient as the State of Israel is, its government is again demonstrating how fragile and brittle it can be.

In another coalition crisis, Shas, the predominantly Sephardi party, parted ways from Barak's One Israel government, leaving it without a working majority. Then, Shas was wooed back and the Meretz party quickly quit in protest!

This time, the issues (Aren't there always more than one?) are: funding for the Shas educational system and legitimization of its present "pirate" radio broadcasts.

For a national democratic government to be dissolved or even crippled over internal questions of school subsidies and use of radio waves is cause for pure amazement. For a country that won the wars, and now is busy trying to win the peace, to stop in its tracks over internal matters is lunacy of the self-destructive sort.

If truth be told – and it seldom is – the issue here is not so much one of classrooms or radio stations, but one of good old democracy. That virtue is valued and lauded by all, but when we are inconvenienced by it, it is quickly and conveniently set aside.

The minister of education, MK Yossi Sarid, abjectly declines to extend equal funding to Shas schools, although it is both morally and legally their right. Shas responds by exercising its democratic right (duty, perhaps) to leave the coalition. Yossi Sarid then calls Shas "the party of blackmailers." He proceeds to declare his own Meretz party's intention to leave the coalition should the government give in to Shas.

Evidently, for Sarid, when Shas threatens to leave the coalition, it is the undemocratic party of blackmailers; when Sarid expresses the same threat, it is an expression of high principle.

Similarly, when the attorney general, Elyakim Rubenstein, opposes legitimizing the media voice of a significant sector of society, he nobly claims that it is in the interest of maintaining the present fabric of Israel. As for freedom of speech, well at least one speaker will enjoy it.

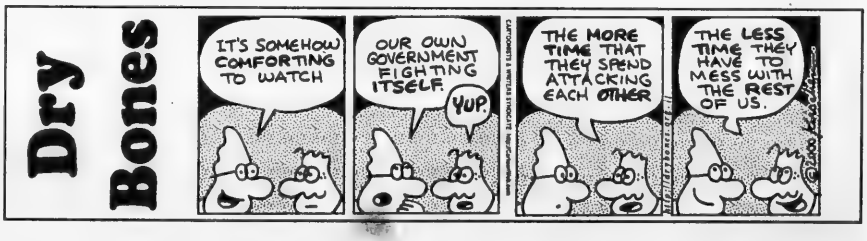
It is not possible to stop social momentum. Maayan Torani, Shas's school system throughout the country, is wildly successful. And the popularity of some pirate radio broadcasts far exceeds that of licensed stations. To try to stifle any voice in the age of Internet is downright silly.

Yossi Sarid can sit in the bleachers and pout with impertinent indignity as clearer minds search for a solution. People will continue to listen to the station that speaks to them as they go about their daily activities.

Hopefully, a compromise can be reached. Hopefully, the government will not have to call an early election. Hopefully, if there must be a new government, new issues won't make it go on a merry-go-round until it too collapses.

Most hoped for, and at the top of any wish list, one prays and one hopes and one dreams of the day when Jews (even establishment ones – especially establishment ones) will recognize and respect our differences.

And that is democracy.


Dry Bones
IT'S SOMEHOW COMFORTING TO WATCH
OUR OWN GOVERNMENT FIGHTING ITSELF.
YUP.
THE MORE TIME THAT THEY SPEND ATTACKING EACH OTHER
THE LESS TIME THEY HAVE TO MESS WITH THE REST OF US.

Jewish Life

Jewish weddings

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You are cordially invited to attend the weddings of Caroline and Leslie Bunder. And Russell and Deborah Rothstein. And Sandra and Andrew Cohen.

Never met them? No problem. Now you can – thanks to your computer and the Jewish Highway.

But before we get to their chupahs, some background on Jewish marriage. There are several excellent overviews of the customs and traditions leading from engagement through the wedding day. Visit Ohr Somayach's Jewish Wedding Ceremony **[http://www.virtual.co.il/education/education/ohr/judaism/articles/wedding.htm]**, the Shaarey Zedek Wedding Guide from the Conservative congregation in Southfield, Mich., **[http://www.shaareyzedek.org/gwedding.htm]** and the Chabad Wedding Guide **[http://www.chabad.org/gopher/guide/wedding/wedding.htm]**. After visiting these sites, you will understand the significance of everything from the aufruf to Kiddushin to Sheva Brachot.

For something different, I recommend Eliezer Segal's series of interesting articles **[http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/Weddings_Index.html]**. In one, Siegel documents the story of one of the most famous kallahs captured in art, Rembrandt's *The Jewish Bride* (1666) **[http://www.artchive.com/artchive/R/rembrandt/jewish_bride.jpg.html]**. The painting shows a plump young lady seated alongside her stylishly dressed husband. It hangs in Amsterdam's National Museum.

Siegel unravels the fascinating tale of the two and says some art historians question whether the couple who sat for the painting really were Jewish – or even married. However, others place the husband as a man leading a double life. He was a Marrano. In Brussels, where he was forbidden to return to Judaism, he was Christian Captain Miguel de Barrios, while in Amsterdam, he was David Levi de Barrios. He settled in Brussels and married his love Abigail de Pina, who was descended from a prominent Moroccan rabbinic family. You'll find more about their tumultuous lives on the Web site.

Rembrandt's *The Jewish Bride* is also known as *The Loving Couple*. But these two aren't the only Jewish lovers who have their faces on the Web. Several couples have decided to share their special moments with anyone who cares to click in. You can peek in on the ceremonies of Caroline Westbrook and Leslie Bunder **[http://www.bunder.com/wedding/index.htm]**, Sandra and Andrew Cohen **[http://gnv.fdt.net/~sandrew/wedding/wed.html]** and Russell Rothstein and Deborah Fass **[http://rpcp.mit.edu:80/~rir/wedding.html]**. Look in on shots of the invitation and the ring, photos of the ceremony, the dancing, the meal and even a honeymoon diary!

Groom Joel Snyder joined bride Leslie Salba under a chupah. But the couple walked away single **[http://detnews.com/menu/stories/27419.htm]**. Actually Joel and Leslie never intended to get married. They were participating in a mock ceremony under the auspices of several Detroit rabbis and hundreds of teens who came to watch the "wedding" and gain an understanding of Jewish marriage traditions.

So all the best to Caroline and Leslie, Russell and Deborah and to whomever Joel and Leslie actually do marry. And to everyone else planning their wedding both on the Jewish Highway or by the more conventional route, mazel tov!

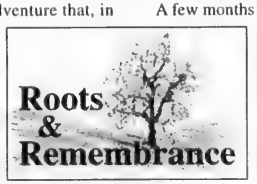
* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@home.com].

Returning to my grandfather's house

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Eileen Douglas Israel, an American television journalist, tells of a remarkable genealogical adventure that, in many respects, is a sort of archetypical Jewish tale of our times.



It's a tale not of two cities but of six; and one that spans centuries as well as continents.

The first city is New York, where Douglas lives, and where, some 15 years ago, she spotted some evocative old photographs in her grandmother's dresser. "The people were dressed in wonderful clothes – they weren't poor – and they were standing in a place that was not an impoverished little shtetl but a real city. I was intrigued."

Eileen's grandmother, then in her 90s, identified the people as the family of Eileen's grandfather, Sam Nadel, who had died decades earlier; they lived in Kovno, Lithuania. It was Kovno, Eileen learned, that her grandfather had left when coming to America in 1910.

Eileen read everything she could about Kovno. About 18 months ago, she visited the US Holocaust Museum and Memorial in Washington, D.C. to view an exhibit on her ancestral city. After museum staff put her in touch with competent researchers in Lithuania, she decided she would eventually go there, now that political conditions made the trip possible.

A few months later, after a Kovno archivist found an early address for her great-grandfather, she booked air tickets for herself, her partner Ron Steinman, and her daughter. The idea of finding her grandfather's house moved her so deeply that she also invited a camera operator along; she hoped to turn the experience into a video documentary.

"It was probably the most emotional plane ride I've ever had. I knew that when the plane landed, I would see something that no one in my family had ever imagined we would see… something beyond the dark curtain that had separated us from the past."

Eileen learned that her grandfather had been one of six siblings. Four had been killed in the Holocaust. The youngest, a sister, had been deported to Siberia one week before the Nazis invaded. In Kovno, she found that her grandfather's house had been torn down in the eighties, but that others just like it still stood nearby.

"It felt wonderful to walk the same cobblestoned street" her grandfather had walked, she said.

In the local Jewish cemetery, terribly overgrown with weeds, she found the site of her great-grandmother's grave. Movingly, she opened a vial of earth from her grandfather's burial plot in America and mixed it into the Lithuanian soil; and lit a yahrzeit candle.

Her Kovno connections helped her locate the two sons of her grandfather's sister. In May, she visited her newfound cousin, 65-year-old Moshe Romas, in St. Petersburg, Russia. And in June, she and a party of relatives flew to meet her other new-found cousin, 70-year-old Aba Romas in Tel Aviv, where he has been living since 1990.

Eileen's journey continues. This week she and Ron Steinman are due in Salt Lake City to preview a short segment of their documentary-in-progress, *My Grandfather's House*, at the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

"I don't know what happened to me," she says, about this unexpected turn in her life. "All I know is something took over. No matter what else I had to do on any given day, if there was some clue to pursue, everything else went out the window.

"It was as if I was just 'drunk' with the possibilities of this. I just kept putting one foot after the other, until fate had led me back to my grandfather's home."

Dentistry Clinic open to community

Baycrest's expertise in dental care for seniors is now available to adults living in the community. Every Tuesday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dr. David Matear, chief of Dentistry, and his staff, provide examinations, preventive care, dentures, root canal, oral surgery, periodontal therapy and cosmetic dentistry. Fees are based on the Ontario Dental Association (ODA) guide and Dr. Matear is offering a 15% discount on all services to those without insurance. No referral is necessary. For an appointment call the clinic secretary at (416) 785-2500, ext. 2600.

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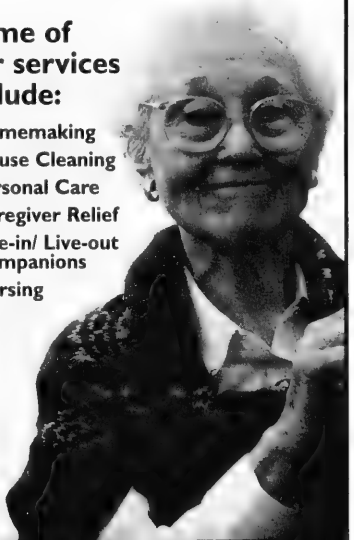

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Sultan says goodbye with some culinary favourites

Israeli Ambassador to Canada, David Sultan and his wife Adina leave for Israel next month after a four-year assignment in Canada.

Sultan, who enjoys cooking and baking as an avocation, offers our readers three of his favourite recipes as a good-bye present to the community.

CHICKEN IN OVEN

This is a quick and easy recipe. Because of this method of cooking, low heat and lengthy cooking time, the chicken is very tender and tasty.

4-6 chicken legs
salt
black pepper
10 cloves garlic (crushed)
6 medium potatoes, medium-sized cubes
4 medium onions, medium sized cubes

Rub chicken legs with a mixture of salt, black pepper and crushed garlic.

Arrange potatoes and onions in a roasting pan. Place chicken on top and add 3 cups of water. Cover with tin foil, bake at 250F for 6 hours. After 3-4 hours add more water if needed.

BLACK LENTIL SOUP

This soup is pareve and may be served with either meat or dairy dishes. It is very simple to prepare and cooking time is approximately 30-40 minutes. All amounts are approximate.

2 cups of black lentils
8 cups water
½ tbsp. salt
1½ cups pasta (vermicelli, bowties, etc.)
8-10 cloves garlic (chopped)
2 tbsp. oil
1 tbsp. dried coriander
1 bunch fresh coriander (chopped)

Bring lentils and water to boil. Cook until tender, approximately 25 minutes. Add salt and pasta. In a fry pan fry the chopped garlic in oil, add both the dry and half the fresh coriander. Fry together until the garlic is golden brown. When the pasta is tender add the above mixture to the soup. Immediately prior to serving, decorate each bowl of soup with the remaining fresh chopped coriander. Serves 4-6

FLOURLESS/SUGARLESS DATE CAKE

This cake is pareve and may accompany any meal.

6 eggs
¾ cup margarine or oil
½ lb pitted dates
2 cups oat bran
1 cup oatmeal
3 cups (or less) crushed walnuts or pecans
2 tsp. baking powder
1 cup sweet red wine
¼ cup rum or brandy
½ tsp. vanilla
½ cup honey*

*This cake is of medium sweetness, deriving its sweetness from the pitted dates. For a sweeter cake add ½ cup honey or more, according to taste.

David Sultan

Beat eggs, add margarine or oil. Creme until smooth. Add the remainder of the ingredients. Mix well. Place in large greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 for approximately 45 minutes. Check with toothpick — if not completely baked, lower temperature slightly and bake an additional 10 minutes.

This cake may be served with a coulis made of fresh mangoes or fresh strawberries.

Chai receives top marks

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Chai Kosher Poultry has become the first kosher establishment in Canada to be recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for having implemented the agency's HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) system.

The 11-year-old company, the only kosher poultry processing plant in Ontario, processes and distributes such poultry items as chickens, turkeys, ducks and Cornish hens, across North America.

In a recent renovation, 20,000 square feet was added to the company's formerly 10,000 sq. ft. plant in the east end of Toronto.

Charles Weinberg, president, said that the process of preparing for the designation – the highest form of food inspection in Canada – took two years.

"It was a major undertaking. We had to make sure the plant was up to standards, and that all safety related programs were in place. When we finally got the approval, the staff was thrilled," he said.

From the moment the birds are picked up, until they are delivered, "everything is monitored to make sure that all health procedures are being followed. The consumer can rest assured they are getting the highest standard of poultry," he said.

Regular testing is done for the E. coli bacteria by a lab outside the plant, he said, and results are sent to him. "As well, everything at the plant has to be temperature controlled; we have to make sure that the bad air is flowing out and the good air is flowing in; and that the water and ice are regularly tested.

"In addition to the mashgiach, a federal inspector and a veterinarian are always at the plant. Everyone on the premises has to be properly attired, which means they wear head coverings, have on no jewelry, and of course, make sure their hands are clean," said Weinberg.

CFIA will perform regular audits on the plant to ensure that the safety system conforms with documented HACCP procedures, said Weinberg.

"Our ultimate goal is to ensure that everything that leaves this plant is 100 percent safe," he said.

Something's always cooking at The CJN Internet click on www.cjnews.com/food

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UIA's Maerov moves to new post at Beth Tzedec

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Shelly Maerov, who played a key role in the 1998 merger of United Israel Appeal (UIA) Canada and the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) of Canada, is looking forward to new challenges as executive director of Beth Tzedec Congregation.

The move, which became official this week, came about in a "totally serendipitous" way, the 53-year-old Calgary native said in an interview at the offices of UIA Federations Canada at the Lipa Green Building, his professional home for the past seven years.

With the UIA/CJF merger in place, Maerov felt his role as associate executive vice-president of the new organization was "more of a maintenance function" and it was time for a professional move. "I like to start things, end things or fix things," he said.

Coincidentally he was approached by a representative of the Beth Tzedec search committee earlier this year. Maerov, a member of Beth Tikvah Synagogue, where he served on the board and executive, had no prior affiliation with Beth Tzedec.

A one-time civil servant who left clinical psychology to work for the Alberta government in social policy and program development prior to moving here, Maerov sees his role at Beth Tzedec as "community development, but my community is a shul instead of a province. I'm really excited about it.

"How do you meet the needs of the largest Conservative congregation in North America? How do you invite people to come into it? How do you maintain people as their family needs change? How do you ensure quality, and how do you afford it? Those are [some of] the things they're wrestling with, and I get to be part of it."

Shelly Maerov

When Maerov lived in Edmonton, among his dozen or so Jewish and general community volunteer positions, he served as president of the Jewish federation and on the board of the national budgeting conference of UIA. The latter position led to an offer to become the CJF's first executive director in Canada.

Maerov originally moved here without his family, commuting home to Edmonton to be with his wife Louise and their sons Adam and Simon every three or four weeks for two years. He wanted to be sure that Toronto was a good choice and to see whether he could make the transition from lay person to professional, he said.

But even the inevitable organizational politics hasn't dampened his enthusiasm for his work. "I think we [Jews] have a passion that sometimes gets translated into adversarial relationships. We're farbrennt, but that's because of caring. Most people don't just walk away from the table...and that's something very special, that caring and that collective responsibility."

Does he ever have to draw on his old skills as a therapist in his Jewish community work? The question provokes a laugh, and an admission that there can be echoes.

"But I think those are just good human skills," he said. "Being able to listen, to feed back, being able to understand how and why people feel the way they do...and then to try and help people make a decision that serves the betterment of the group."

Maerov traces his Jewish involvement to his parents' and grandparents' examples. His late father Ben, a restaurateur and professional violinist, and his mother Bessie Libin, who is "still going strong" in Calgary, were always active in "shul, school [Calgary's Talmud Torah day school] and the larger community," Maerov said.

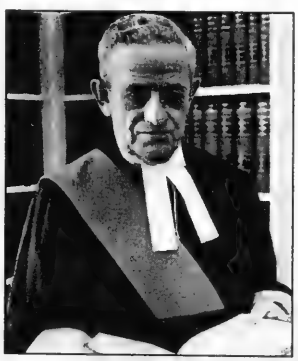
Turning professional was "one of the best things that's ever happened to me," he noted. "I wish I had gone into the Jewish professional communal service earlier. There's nothing better and more fulfilling, at least for me, than being able to contribute to the Jewish community."

'Father' of Ontario Family Court still active at 97

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A.H. (Abe) Lieff, 97, the oldest student at the University of Toronto, often leads the morning minyan at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

The soft-spoken, charismatic former judge uses a walker to get around his retirement home at Forest Hill Place on Castlefield Avenue, has a hearing aid and a magnifying glass to read the newspapers and telephone directories. He drinks a sherry before lunch and dinner. And his mind is sharp as a tack as befits the "father" of the Ontario Family Court who succeeded in convincing 90 percent of divorce-seeking couples who came before him not to carry their "dead marriage" battle to court.



A.H. (Abe) Lieff

The founder of Agudath Israel, the first Conservative synagogue in his home town of Ottawa and its president for 15 years, Lieff was the first Jewish judge to be appointed to the Ontario Supreme Court. This brought him to Toronto at age 60 in 1963. He told *The CJN* that the city has a superb Jewish community with brilliant leaders, wonderful educational facilities and renowned rabbis and cantors.

His long career is marked by contributions to the Jewish and non-Jewish communities, including a term on the Canadian Jewish Congress executive. He was also the founder of the west-end branch of the Ottawa Talmud Torah in 1943, president of the Ottawa Kiwanis Club in 1950 and active in the Liberal party of Ottawa and eastern Ontario.

He was saddened last year by the death of his wife, Sadie, at age 93, who had spent several years in a nursing home. Also a lawyer, she had worked at his side in an Ottawa law office that became the focus for dealing with government offices.

The couple visited Israel half a dozen times, the last time 10 years ago.

"Since her death, I particularly enjoy the fellowship of the minyans, divrei Torahs and breakfasts at Beth Tzedec," Lieff said.

For the past four years he has attended classes in Jewish studies three hours a week and is already registered for a course in Zionism this fall. "I enjoy being with the young, third-year students," he said.

His trademark is his sense of humour and humanity, particularly when he was dealing with new Canadians, using their own language when he could.

In a speech honouring his 90th birthday, Justice George Walsh noted that Lieff always told immigrants in his court that his birthplace, Anthropol, 50 kilometres east of Pinsk in White Russia (now Belarus), was close to theirs. "To this day, I am unsure of his 'moveable birthplace.' All I know is that it is somewhere between the Baltic and the Black seas," Walsh said.

Lieff, one of a family of seven siblings (six brothers and a sister) arrived in Ottawa at the age of one year, his father having gone ahead to smooth the way.

Lieff practised law for 37 years in Ottawa and became a magistrate in Carleton County before moving to Toronto. He retired in 1978 at the mandatory age of 75, and then became a family law counsellor for 13 years.

In thanking Lieff for a speech at Holy Blossom Temple after his retirement, Murray Sandler said the judge would not allow children to be bargaining chips in divorce cases.

As a lawyer, his work "reflected religious knowledge supported by Talmudic quotations," Sandler said.

He has attended Reconstructionist services in Montreal and Yizkor services at Congregation Knesseth Israel, the old Junction shul on Maria Street in Toronto.

He has two daughters, Miriam of Springfield, Mass., and Lois, a senior officer of the Jewish Education Council in Montreal.

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Greater Toronto Area

Righteous gentile recalls horrors of Tarnopol

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Irene Gut Opdyke believes God put her in the right place, at the right time.

But it was a terrible place and time.

She was raped by advancing Russian soldiers and left to die, then forced to work in a Nazi munitions factory in occupied Poland.

Her tangled journey led her to Tarnopol, then part of Poland, now in Ukraine. It was there her life changed forever.

The diminutive 82-year-Catholic, who lives in California, seems an unlikely hero. But as she recounted last month to a crowd of 300 at the Ontario Science Centre, she had prayed for guidance in those dark days during World War II, and got it.

"God gave me free will," she said to the hushed audience. "The answer was in my soul."

The question was how to react to Jewish suffering in the ghetto of Tarnopol, which had a pre-war Jewish population of 18,000. Opdyke, then a 17-year-old nursing student, was sickened by it, having witnessed several atrocities, including seeing a Nazi soldier pull a baby from a Jewish mother's arms, fling it in the air, and shoot it like a clay pigeon.

The blonde, blue-eyed girl caught the eye of a Nazi major, who seconded her to work as a housekeeper in his lavish villa. There, in the basement laundry room, Opdyke encountered 12 Jewish men and women forced to wash clothes for German soldiers.

For the next eight months, she handed the Jewish slaves food from the major's table. She also smuggled food and blankets to Jews hiding in the nearby woods. Had she been caught, the penalty would have been summary execution for her as well as the slaves.

Opdyke also occasionally peeked at highly sensitive documents on the major's desk. One of them ordered that all Jews in Tarnopol be liquidated. Alarmed, the young girl moved the 12 Jews from the laundry to a hiding place under a gazebo in the villa's garden, just metres away from the dozens of Nazi officers who would gather for large dinner parties.

When her ruse was discovered by the Nazi major, she gave in to his bargain: He would not report the Jews in exchange for sexual favours from the girl.

"It was a small price to pay," she recalled.

Just 200 Tarnopol Jews survived the Holocaust. Among them were the 12 Opdyke rescued and one baby born during the tumult.

Asked what motivated her, Opdyke shrugged. "Courage is a whisper from above. I am thankful to God for giving me the courage and know-how to save so many lives."

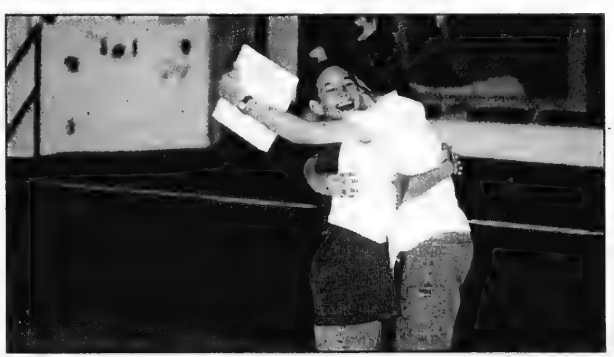
Yad Vashem in Israel has conferred Righteous Among the Nations status on Opdyke. The Jewish community in southern California accepted her late husband, who had been suffering with Alzheimer's disease, into a local Jewish nursing home.

Opdyke speaks to thousands of schoolchildren every year about the Holocaust and her heroics. She's also written her memoirs.

"The story cannot be forgotten. It has to be remembered. I ask God for another few years because there is so much to be done. I will not quit."

The message she imparts is that "there is enough hate in the world. Hate does not accomplish anything."

The evening was presented by the young leadership division of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and sponsored by Bank Hapoalim.



SURPRISE PRESENTATION: Associated Hebrew Schools grade 4 student Jason Klemensberg was recently awarded the annual Miriam Venis Award for Good Citizenship at the Posluns Educational Centre. As a surprise, administrators arranged for his older sister, Emily, who is a grade 6 student at the same campus, to present the award to him. She praised her brother, using humour and family anecdotes.

Niagara Falls' Torah gets new home in Barrie

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The gift of a historical Torah from B'nai Tikvah congregation in Niagara Falls shows the willingness of one small community to help another, said Robin Hadfield, president of the Simcoe County Jewish Association in Barrie.

The Torah, buried by the Nazis in Czechoslovakia along with hundreds of others, is worth from $30,000 to $50,000, and is the first one belonging to the association, Hadfield said. It has a plaque attesting to its rescue by an English synagogue.

It has already been used in the celebration of bnei/bnot mitzvah in the Barrie synagogue's rented quarters.

B'nai Tikvah congregation decided to donate the Torah after its co-president, Bob Mueller, met Hadfield in Ottawa in May, at a meeting of the Canada-Israel committee, and heard about the Barrie community's needs.

After B'nai Tikvah merged with Temple Tikvah of St. Catharines, it had one more Torah than its Aron Kodesh could hold and it was put in storage temporarily.

"This is the Torah we donated, and our hope is that now the Jewish community in the Barrie area will be taken seriously," said Mueller.

The association in Barrie is hoping to have its own building in two years, depending on how much support is received from the Jewish community in Simcoe County and outside it, Hadfield said.

"We're absolutely thrilled with the gift from B'nai Tikvah, especially since big Toronto congregations have not shown any interest."

Mueller said Niagara Falls and St Catharines together have 42 active Jewish families, compared with the potential of 300 Jewish families in Simcoe County.

"We're very proud to be one small community helping another," said Mueller.

B'nai Tikvah has services every second Friday evening to accommodate its newly merged Reform members from St. Catharines, while Conservative services are held every Saturday morning.

Beside 100 active families who are members of the Simcoe County Jewish Association, there are 100 families in the area who have shown some interest in joining, while yet another 100 families still have to be reached.

Dalhousie University planning to accommodate kosher students

BY JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

On Campus

HALIFAX — Halifax's Dalhousie University may be able to offer a kosher meal plan this fall, and will open a kosher section of its Fenwick Tower apartment-style dormitory when student demand warrants, according to a Dalhousie housing official.

Heather Sutherland, head of Housing and Conference services, who met with Boris Tsinman of the Atlantic Jewish Council and JIAS following a couple of student inquiries about kosher meal plans, is in contact with kosher food providers to see what options may be available for other dormitory students this fall.

Following the initial inquiries, Sutherland told *The CJN*, "One of the ways we thought we could address the needs of those students was through kosher apartments."

Sutherland was able to keep open a few apartments until June 15, but she had no response as of that date. The two interested students opted for regular dorms.

The current meal plan for dormitory residents includes a vegetarian option and a salad bar.

"We're planting a seed for next year," Sutherland said of the apartment initiative. "We're letting people know that we want to co-operate and are dealing with various groups in this way as they become known to us."

She said there is no food program at Fenwick as students have their own kitchens. "They provide their own food. The rooms are furnished but students require their own dishes and cutlery."

Tsinman said the university set aside two two-bedroom units and two with three bedrooms. "If Dal has 400 Jewish students, maybe 10 would want to live together and keep kosher. We'll publicize this through our channels – *Shalom* magazine (Atlantic Canada's quarterly magazine), and articles in newspapers and, of course, word-of-mouth.

"Our rabbi would come in and certify the appliances," he added.

His role as JIAS chair in Atlantic Canada is to bring more Jewish people to Atlantic Canada, Tsinman said. "This is a good way to do it.

"It is a definite advantage to have a larger number of [Jewish] students coming to Atlantic Canada, and Dalhousie is providing that opportunity to us. It will certainly give Dalhousie a profile across the country as a kosher university, or at least one willing to take a forward step."

With files from Frances Kraft.

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Still some loyalty in politics

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

There are many attributes that make for a good politician, but no single quality carries as much cachet as that of loyalty. In many respects, the concept of loyalty is the glue that binds. By contrast, the absence of loyalty is inevitably the harbinger of political disaster.

It may come as a surprise, but overall, loyalty is still as much practised as it is cherished. Here are a few recent examples that may serve to bolster our confidence in the oft-reviled world of politics.

George Baker is an affable Liberal hailing from Newfoundland. A year ago, he was promoted to Cabinet despite being critical of his own government when it abandoned principles or backtracked on commitments to needy Canadians. Last week, Baker threatened to resign from Cabinet unless a shrimp fishing policy favouring PEI at the expense of historical Newfoundland fishing rights was reversed. You have to admire a politician who is willing to put his money where his mouth is.

Rick Anderson is another figure in federal politics that was tested last week. The longtime politician has served as Preston Manning's closest political adviser for seven years. Following Manning's second place showing behind Stockwell Day, several influential Manning supporters jumped ship and lined up behind the former Alberta treasurer. As the week wore on, there were increasing calls in the Canadian Alliance for Manning to concede defeat.

In the meantime, Anderson was approached by some heavyweights to consider joining Ontario premier, Mike Harris, as his new chief of staff. To his credit and in an eloquent demonstration of loyalty, Anderson apparently indicated that he is not currently pursuing any other options. For someone who must be feeling vulnerable, Manning must have drawn considerable comfort from Anderson's unwillingness to explore other employment opportunities.

Finally, we cite the recent example of a former politician whose greatest strength, loyalty, was also his Achilles heel. As Joe Clark was helplessly watching the CA leadership contest draw more Tories to its ranks, along comes Brian Mulroney in an attempt to help out. There are few Tories Mulroney likes less than Joe Clark. Despite that antipathy, Mulroney ventured (for the first time since leaving politics) onto the public stage to endorse and praise Clark. It may not translate into increased support for the beleaguered Tory leader, but it was a noble gesture on the part of a man who defined the concepts of party and personal loyalty.

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg's Jewish public library closes its doors

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Winnipeg's 77-year-old Jewish Public Library has closed its doors to the public for good.

"After four years of trying to establish a reliable source of operating funds without success, the board has concluded that we can no longer continue to operate as we are," said library president Mark Steiner at a general meeting of board members.

Although the JPL had been receiving finance support from the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council for more than 30 years, financial problems began with the opening of the Asper Jewish Community Campus and the Kaufman-Silverberg Resource Centre housed in it.

The JPL was supposed to be incorporated at the Campus, but there was not enough room at the new library to house and display a majority of the JPL collection, sources said.

Thus, a good portion of the English collection was moved to the Kaufman-Silverberg site and the rest of the JPL's books were left dangling without a place to be shelved.

"We did our best," said board member and volunteer Jeanette Block. "It was just too hard to be constantly fund-raising. It didn't leave us enough time to devote to the library operation itself."

Board members and volunteers will be spending the summer boxing and dispersing the collection of 18,000 Yiddish, Hebrew and English books. Many of the Yiddish books date back to the 19th century.

The JPL board has approached the Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre, a Jewish seniors drop-in centre and the Jewish Heritage Centre at the Asper Jewish Community Campus, with the aim of relocating a large portion of its collection.

Both centres have responded enthusiastically to the JPL's overtures, Steiner said.

The Heritage Centre is particularly interested in acquiring the library's Yiddish-language Holocaust material – books published in Europe between 1932 and 1945. If space permits, the centre may accept some earlier material as well.

The Gwen Secter Centre offered to house as many as 1,000 books.

As for the rest of the collection, the Kaufman-Silverberg Centre may take some and the National Library of Canada may be interested in adding some of the books to its Jacob Lowy Collection. Another possibility is the The Jewish Book Centre in Amherst, Massachusetts.

After the books are dispersed, it is quite likely that the JPL board will establish a fund to promote Yiddish literature or continue to sponsor Yiddish programs under the JPL banner, sources said.

Circle of Care gets group shopping

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Circle of Care has introduced group shopping.

For the first time in its history, the organization, which supports seniors in the community, has a van, and one of its priorities is to make shopping easier and more pleasant by taking several seniors to shop at the same time.

The brand new van, which seats seven people including the driver, went into service June 22 when a ribbon was cut by Circle of Care president Gloria Clamen.

It will be available to clients of Circle of Care as well as to the general public, and can be used for other activities in addition to group shopping. A return trip will cost $5. For information, call the agency's intake at 416-635-2860.

Those using the van have to be fairly independent, able to walk on their own, perhaps with a cane, as no escort will be provided. The van will not be able to accommodate a wheelchair.

An attempt will be made to juggle medical or other appointments so that the van can take several seniors heading in the same direction at the same time. The passengers will be picked up and returned to their homes at a set time.

Gloria Clamen, (left) president of Circle of Care; and Sandi Ben David, chair of volunteer services and co-ordination committee.

Funds for the new van were provided by an anonymous donor from the Jewish community, and by Peter Graben Fine Foods, Great Gulf Homes and a Circle of Care bequest fund.

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg-born rabbi comes home

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — For the first time in almost 50 years, a member of Winnipeg's Jewish community who trained as a rabbi, has chosen to return to Winnipeg to begin his rabbinical career.

Rabbi David Cantor has chosen to come home and work as assistant rabbi at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue.

The last Winnipeg-born rabbi to assume a pulpit in the city was Rabbi Louis Berkal, now 86, who was also a rabbi and long-time cantor at Shaarey Zedek.

Rabbi David Cantor

The 29-year-old Rabbi Cantor, a graduate of the University of Judaism's Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies, is a fourth generation member of Winnipeg's largest and oldest congregation. Two of his great uncles were presidents of the synagogue and his parents were married there. He also had his bar mitzvah there and was a member of the choir.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Rabbi Cantor originally opted for a legal career and graduated from law school in 1994. But he quickly realized that the legal profession was not to his liking.

At Rosh Hashanah in 1994, he was out walking with a friend and talking about how unhappy he was in law. The friend suggested he try rabbinical school.

Newly married, Rabbi Cantor and his wife, Christine, met with Rabbi Henry Balser, then the senior rabbi at Shaarey Zedek, to talk about the prospect of rabbinical school. Rabbi Balser put them in touch with someone at the University of Judaism and at an interview in Los Angeles, the dean encouraged Cantor to enroll in a pre-rabbinic program to strengthen his knowledge of Judaism.

"I decided to quit work and go back to school full time," Cantor said in an interview with the *CJN*.

"I was called to the Bar in May, 1995 and we left for California the next week. I wasn't necessarily planning to become a rabbi yet. I felt that I wanted to become a more complete Jew. I realized my calling while in the program."

Rabbi Cantor said he considered other potential postings, but the strongest pull was from Shaarey Zedek.

"It is hard to get a rabbi to come to western Canada," he said. "Both our families are here. There is a sense of landsmanshaften. As well, throughout my rabbinic training, I kept thinking about how I would teach this or that at the Shaarey Zedek and in my community."

Rabbi Cantor is not yet sure how he and Rabbi Allan Green, the incoming senior rabbi at Shaarey Zedek (as of September 1) will be dividing responsibilities.

"This will be a team effort," he noted. "I see myself as a teacher, preacher and resource person helping to guide people through life's passages."

He also said he wants to invite people over for Shabbos dinner as often as possible, so that he and his wife can model and share the Jewish vision of the good life.

"The office staff here isn't quite sure what to call me yet because they have known me all my life," he said. "I don't expect to be treated any differently than before. I respect other people's comfort levels in this matter."

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גידי קורן וחברים

צניעות כדרך חיים

שהיתי השבוע בפאלם ביץ פלורידה בכנס רפואי. במקום ההיא בית ממוצע נמכר במיליונים, ופחית קוקה קולה ב 4 דולאר. בקיצור, צניעות איננה התכונה הבולטת בחבל הארץ הזה. לכן די היספתי כשהציעו לי לבקר בביתו של המיליארדר שפיתח את חבל הארץ הזה. הבית הפך למוזיאון שמציג את עושרו ואת אוסף נעליה של אישתו השלישית, וכדי לעשות את החוויה עוד יותר קשה, המדריכה במוזיאון מתארת בשקיקה את חיי העושר כפי שנראו בסוף המאה התשע עשרה. המורה לאמנות שלי בבית הספר התיכון התלונן לפני שנים רבות על כך שמלמדים היסטוריה דרך חייהם של העשירים, במקום להראות את תולדות בית חשימוש.

איך שאני מחפש שקית כדי להקיא לתוכה מרוב מתיקות אמריקנית של עושר ושטויות, נפלו עיניי על קטע כתוב שבו הוסבר שראשיש היה צנוע, שתקן, ובורח מכבוד, ועל כן זכרונו נשכח, בהשוואה לבני דורו, רוקפלר ושות. "ט, מעניין איזו דוגמא לצניעותו המופלגת הם יביאו" חשבתי לעצמי. מסתבר, שכשהקימו את מיאמי ביקשו לקרוא לעיר על שמו. האיש סירב בכל תוקף ועמד על כך שלעיר יקראו על שם השבט האינדיאני שחי שם במקור.

וואללה, אמרתי לעצמי, זה משהו שבשבט שלי לא היה יכול לקרות, כי אצלנו אנשים בדרך כלל רוצים שהשם שלהם יופיע גם אחרי תרומה מזערית. אבל שיישאר בינינו.

כולם נוסעים

עוד מעט וכולם נעלמים, מי לישראל ומי לכל ארבע פינות העולם. וכשבא לך לדבר עם חבר, לפעמים צריך לחכות שבועיים ואפילו חודש. האמת היא שדווקא בקיץ טורונטו היא עיר מדליקה, מלאת פסטיבלים ושמחות מקיר לקיר. ואם בא לכם לכיף ממש, בלי לעזוב את גבולות קנדה, תיסעו לניו פאונדלנד ותשנו את דעתכם על הניופים, ותרצו לנסוע לשם שוב.

במזרח התיכון

במזרח התיכון נכנע ברק לש"ס, בדיוק כמו קודמו, ובדיוק כמו זה שיבוא אחריו. זה דווקא נותן הרגשת ביטחון שיש דבר אחד שלא משתנה בארץ הקודש, ושמה שלא מצביעים, מקבלים את ש"ס. אבל שיישאר בינינו.

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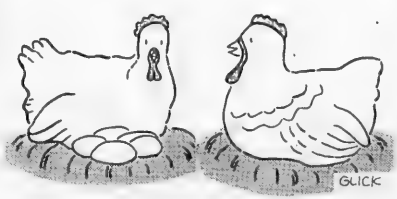

"Your eggs are lovely. They should only give you lots of nachas."

From *The CJN* files

School's out for summer!...

With school year over and children heading out to camp, cottage and elsewhere, *The CJN* presents a retrospective of recent events in Toronto's Jewish day schools.

In celebration of 1,000 years of Yiddish, Bialik Hebrew Day School invited representatives of Ashkenaz to run workshops in art, theatre, music and storytelling. A group of Grade 6 students are seen singing along with David Buchbinder of Ashkenaz.

Congratulations to (from left) Andrea Burke, Lani Stern and Michael Fridman, students at Leo Baeck Day School, who had their Hebrew poetry published in an international volume of children's Hebrew writing called *Tov Lichtov*. They were presented with a certificate and a copy of the book at a recent Kabbalat Shabbat service by their teacher Rachel Kopyto.

Toronto Jewish Academy Ohr Menachem students recently visited the Cummer Lodge Home for the Aged. Grade 1 student Marielle Harush is seen with a resident of Cummer Lodge.

General Wingate Branch 256 Royal Canadian Legion recently held a student public speaking contest. Seen (from left) are Ethel Sacks, youth education chair; winners Pooja Narayanan, Jeremy Lui, Poornima Narayanan; and Sam Romberg, branch president

A Holocaust arts education presentation was recently given by the Grade 6 students of the Bathurst, Bayview and Richmond Hill campuses of United Synagogue Day School. [Dominique Grunberger photo]

Cole Grossinger of PlayLearn Preschool in Richmond Hill is adding his wishes to the Wailing Wall on a recent "trip to Israel."

Associated Hebrew School's Grade 4 students (from left) Carina Zaretsky, Stephanie Ouanounou and Ori Raynai are seen with teacher Sharon Teitel taking part in an interactive workshop on bridges and structures. [Adina Abramov photo]

Harrison Konikoff, Tamara Grunberger and Josh Zilberberg sing with joy as part of their siddur ceremony at the end of the Grade 1, at United Synagogue Day School, Bayview campus. [Dominique Grunberger photo]

Associated Hebrew School's students took part in Job Shadowing Day. Seen (from left) at CFRB radio station are Andy Kolenberg, David Simor and Ben Barth.

Associated Hebrew Schools holds a gala appreciation breakfast for parent volunteers at the Kamin campus. [Adina Abramov photo]

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE IN EARL BALES PARK
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NEWS FLASH ... NEWS FLASH

DEADLINE REMINDER
What's New and About People deadlines: Please note that as there will be no issue published on July 20, all items that would ordinarily appear July 20 will be included in the July 13 column. Monday, July 17, is deadline for July 27 issue. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, July 6

CONCERT AT SICK KIDS

Canadian Jewish Congress and Cubana Airlines sponsor a concert with Cuban musician **Augusto Enriquez** 8 p.m. at the Hospital for Sick Children to raise funds for the hospital's Tele-Health Program. Minimum donation $60. Information/ticket pick-up, 1027 Yonge St. 922-7000. A performance for the children is set for the afternoon.

Sunday, July 9

THE DREYFUS TRIAL

Shaarei Shomayim entertainment & cultural committee and Brotherhood present Notorious Jewish Trials of the 20th Century, Part 1, The Dreyfus Trial, narrated by **Jerry Ziedenberg**, 8 p.m. Coffee cake and conversation. **Jerry** and **Sandra Genesove**, co-ordinators.

GARAGE SALE

Jordana-Yamit chapter of Hadassah-WIZO garage sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 4 Prince Charles Dr. (Bathurst/Lawrence).

CPR COURSE

CPR course 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Reserve 905-731-9441.

BAZAAR 2000

At Earl Bales Park 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 75 vendors selling crafts, flea market and garage sale items. 395-7873.

INDOOR GARAGE SALE

Beth Sholom Sisterhood annual indoor garage sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1445 Eglinton Ave. W. Good merchandise, household items, collectibles. Shop early.

Monday, July 10

YIDDISH CONCERT

Annual Summer Yiddish Concert at Beth Tzedec Synagogue devoted to A Thousand Years Through Yiddish Songs, featuring singers **Michael Mandel**, **Gloria Valentine** and **Stella Walker**, and narration by **Naomi Bell** and **David Abramowitz**. 7:30 p.m.

TEAM IN TRAINING

Learn how to run or walk a marathon or half-marathon while you raise funds for the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada. Team in Training is a program that combines professional marathon training with fund-raising. Information and inspiration session 7-8:30 p.m. at North York Seniors Centre, 21 Hendon Ave. (Yonge & Finch). 661-2873.

Tuesday, July 11

ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

Adath Sholom Synagogue Sisterhood information and sign-up meeting for the trip to Atlantic City at the Tropicana Sept. 4-7. $289 (Cdn) per person, double occupancy, includes deluxe highway coach. 7:30 p.m., 864 Sheppard Ave. W. 635-0131.

Wednesday, July 12

DENTAL HEALTH TIPS

The Wagman Centre Education Group presents Dentistry's Top Ten Dental Health Tips with **Martha Clarke**, head dental hygienist, Baycrest Centre, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Register, Wagman Centre office, 785-2500, ext. 2267.

And What Else Is New

PSYCHOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

Arba Imahot Shelosha Avot: Psychological Perspectives on Our

Continued on page 23

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What's New

Continued from page 22

Biblical Mothers and Fathers is the title of two talks by psychiatrist **Dr. Joseph Berger** in the Shabbat afternoon lecture series at Congregation Bnei Torah, 465 Patricia Ave., 7 p.m. July 8 and 15.

WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY

Nishmat's sixth annual Yarchei Kallah will be held Tuesday, Aug. 1, through Thursday, Aug. 3. Topic will be Megillat Eichah (Lamentations): A Drama in Five Chapters. For more information about this unique Torah study program for women, call **Esther** 789-4883.

AISH HATORAH

Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-764-1818.

Monday, July 10, 8 p.m., The Revealed Soul: Uncovering the Mystery of the Breath and the Dust.

Tuesday, July 11, 8 p.m., Judy Dan Memorial Lecture, The Feminine Mistake: A Critical Look at Judaism and Feminism with **Chana Kalsmith**, noted lecturer on women's issues in Judaism.

Tuesday, July 18, 8 p.m. Tuesday Night at the Movies screens *Awakenings*.

CONCERT-IN-THE-ROUND

Temple Sinai's Our Musical Legacy program Friday, July 14, presents the Anne Strom Memorial Summer Concert-in-the-Round featuring a group of musicians from the former Soviet Union. Program includes music by Jewish composers. Concert follows services, which begin at 8:15 p.m.

BARGAINS GALORE!

Nagillah chapter, Jewish Women International, garage sale Sundays, July 9 and 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 252 Spring Gate Blvd., Thornhill (east of Bathurst, north of Clark).

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Beth Tikvah Synagogue's Young Professionals (early 20s and late 30s) invite you to Earl Bales Park, Sunday, July 16, at noon for barbecue lunch, volleyball, mingling with friends. Information/registration 221-3433, ext. 303.

PIANO NEEDED

The Bathurst Jewish Centre and Leah Posluns Theatre are in need of an upright and a small grand piano. A tax receipt will be offered for the piano's appraised value. If you have a lonely piano looking for a good home, call **Pat McCormick** at 636-1889, ext. 231.

HEBREW FOR PARENTS

Free reading lessons for parents of students of Ateret Shalom Hebrew School located at Yorkhill Elementary School. This is part of Ateret Shalom Hebrew School program. Parents, as well as their children, can learn Hebrew. **Sadie Domb** 905-886-1457.

ART CLASSES

Drawing and painting classes, all levels, Thursdays, 1-3:30 p.m., July 6-27 at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Call **Terri** (instructor) to register. 487-7244.

CHARITY GOLF

Enjoy a day of golf and support the Learning Disabilities Associations of Greater Toronto Area, Tuesday, July 18, at the Royal Woodbine Golf Club. Barbecue lunch, buffet dinner, silent auction, prizes galore. 229-1680.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). July 6, sing-along with **Yitzchak Argaman**; July 13, lecture, Absorption of Newcomers to Israel by **Ofer Isarov**; July 20, bingo; July 27, Israeli comedy movie. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Join **LZA Seniors Club** for a picnic at Earl Bales Park Tuesday, July 18, 11 a.m. Bring picnic lunch, additional refreshments will be served. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. and Cultural Club Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: *Damn Yankees* at Drayton Festival Theatre Aug. 22; Painting classes every Wednesday 1-3 p.m. **Lena** 785-5773.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama July 19, Aug. 2, 16, 30; Catskills trip to Paramount Hotel July 23-30; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23; Line dancing every Tuesday morning during July and August. 395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors vacation at kosher Raleigh Hotel July 28-Aug. 6, everything included. Partners available. **Helen** 635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Arthritis of the Hand and Shoulder, Dupuytrens Disease and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, discussed by **Marnie Lofsky,** Thursday, July 6, 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Therapeutic Touch with **Florence Baum,** Therapeutic Touch practitioner, Tuesday, July 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Joan.**

Hearing Aid Checkup with **Barry Katz** Tuesday, July 11, 12:15 p.m. Book appointment ext. 131.

At Parkinson's Support group meeting, Tuesday, July 11, 1:15 p.m., clinical social worker **Janice Sober** discusses Parkinson's – A Family Affair. **Ruth** ext. 105.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. July 11, trip to Unionville; July 18, lecture; July 25, summer party; Aug. 1, movie. **Anna** ext. 110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. 785-2500

Annual Multicultural Event Thursday, July 6, 2-4 p.m. Entertainment and refreshments Register **Mara** ext. 2275.

Dentistry's Top Ten Dental Health Tips, Wednesday, July 12. Check details in What's New under the date.

Tuesday, July 25, kosher lunch and mix and mingle. Reserve at Service Desk.

Computer programs, for details **Mara** ext. 2275: Internet and e-mail use, sessions begin Tuesday, July 11, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Beginner computer course starts Wednesday, July 12, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Intermediate-beginner course begins Wednesday, July 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; 2-hour computer lab every Tuesday 10 a.m. to noon, book space.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

Register now for the pre-natal classes, next session, July 24-Sept. 11 (no class Aug. 7 and Sept. 4.) Mount Sinai instructor at BJC location. Free Health Club membership included in the fee for the 6-class session. Register, ext. 229.

PRESERVING THE DREAM: Bialik Hebrew Day School recently held its gala dinner, with the theme Preserving the Dream... From Generation to Generation. The evening saw the launch of the school's Vision for the future of the Viewmount Avenue campus. Pictured above are the chairs of the event (from left) Perri Kirshenblatt, Caryn Ladovsky and Maureen Tanz.

PRESIDENT INSTALLED: Rivy Blass (above left) was installed as president of Canadian Seaway branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism at the recent conference held at Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill. Sharing this special moment are Harrian Stern (centre), the international consultant from WLCJ; and Laraine Hurwitz, immediate past president. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 16

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AVA to focus on environmental education

By MARLANE SMITH
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — Noam Dolgin believes he has a personal responsibility to protect the environment. As a board member of Vancouver's Adam va-Adamah Jewish Environmental Society (AVA), he's probably on the right career track.

"I think it's the responsibility of every human, but Jewish law and tradition creates a moral value which especially demands us to be protective of the natural world," he said in an interview.

AVA, a grassroots environmental organization, aims to educate B.C. Jews about ecological responsibility, and work toward re-establishing environmental integrity.

A recent $6000 grant from the provincial environment ministry will assist Dolgin and AVA in disseminating environmental education in Vancouver Jewish schools. The money will also be used to hire a part-time employee for a four-month contract–AVA's first paid position since the group formed two years ago.

"It's not a lot of money," Dolgin commented, "but it's a stepping stone toward an ongoing position."

Funded under the ministry's youth-employment branch, the grant must be directed toward youth-focused organizations. AVA's part-time employee must be between the ages of 16 and 24.

Dolgin said programming under the grant will be directed toward Vancouver's Talmud Torah School, but may also expand to Richmond Jewish Day School, Vancouver Jewish Community High School and UBC's Jewish organization, Hillel House.

Starting in September, the contract employee will develop programs and events such as field trips and environmental assessments for Jewish students.

"There will be trips that focus on environmental education and we'd like to make some aspects of it a little more practical by having kids evaluate the environmental practices of their school," Dolgin said.

"Programming may also include teaching about Jewish attitudes towards the natural world and the interconnectedness between us and the land," he added.

Dolgin's educational background includes a University of British Columbia degree in environmental sciences, and one-year of study at Israel's Arava Institute for Environmental Studies.

He recently returned to Canada after working at New York's Teva Learning Centre, the only Jewish environmental education centre in North America.

AVA now boasts Lower Mainland and Victoria-area Jews of all ages and backgrounds as members.

"We have more and more people asking about the organization all the time. If I said the name Adam va-Adamah a year ago, no one would have even heard of it. We have a lot of community-based support," Dolgin said. "We still need to grow more, though."

With an eight-person board and "a large support system of volunteers" and affiliations with a dozen Jewish organizations, AVA officially registered as a non-profit society in October 1999. "We've applied for charitable status which we should be getting any day now," Dolgin said.

As it continues developing environmental educational events within the framework of the Jewish cycle of festivals, AVA's next major focus is fund-raising.

"Our hope is to extend the part-time position beyond four months. We're avidly looking for funding to maintain a large presence in Vancouver and elsewhere in B.C. The hope is that money begets money," Dolgin said.

For further information about Adam va-Adamah, call its chairperson, Alan Morinis at 604-872-1614.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I am due to have my third baby in a few weeks. I have chosen the infant formula that I am planning to use for the baby, because it was well tolerated by my first two children. However, I just found out that a different brand of formula is used and provided in the hospital where I am delivering. Is it okay to give my newborn the hospital's brand for the first few days and then switch when I get home?

A. Yes, it is absolutely OK. I did the same thing. The only thing to make sure of is that they are both cow's milk-based or soy-based. If there is an allergy issue, you must request a specialized formula in the hospital too.

Q. I took folic acid before becoming pregnant. I am now six weeks pregnant and have continued taking it. When do I switch from folic acid to a full maternity vitamin?

A. There is no real rule here. I would ask your doctor at your pre-natal checkup what he or she recommends. However, pre-natal vitamins contain the recommended one milligram of folic acid per day, so you will be getting the full dose of folic acid either way.

Many doctors say you don't need the full dose of other vitamins and iron until about 10 or 12 weeks. I find the most common determining factor for my patients and for myself is how nauseous you feel. The iron load in maternity vitamins can add to the nausea, so if you are experiencing these symptoms, you may want to hold off until about 12 weeks or take them every other day only. It helps to take maternity vitamins at night and on a full stomach.

In the meantime, continue with the folic acid. It is critical in the first weeks of a fetus's life, usually the weeks before you even know that you are pregnant.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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Patient care, research gets $2M boost

TORONTO — The Ellen and Martin Prosserman Family Foundation has made a $2-million donation to Mount Sinai Hospital to advance patient care and research in two medical fields – cardiac care and the link between genetics and disease.

The gift will support the establishment of two new centres at the hospital. The Anna Prosserman Heart Clinic, named in memory of Martin's late mother, Anna, will provide treatment for people who have experienced heart failure. The Prosserman Centre for Health Research will become part of the hospital's Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute and will combine biology with modern technology to investigate the secrets of genetics and its relationship to the spreading of disease.

Construction on the new centres is expected to begin later this year and take approximately two years to complete.

"We are particularly excited about these projects because we know that they will help a lot of people in the future," said Martin Prosserman.

Prosserman founded the Montreal-based Golden Brand Clothing in 1961, which manufactured and imported men's suits. He later established the retail chain Moores, The Suit People which he operated with the assistance of his sons, Gary, Ron and Brian. The Prossermans sold Moores, The Suit People in 1996 after the chain had grown to more than 90 stores countrywide and had over 1,000 employees. The family relocated to Toronto.

Ron Prosserman is a member of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation board of directors, and introduced his parents to the hospital.

The Anna Prosserman Heart Clinic will receive $500,000 of the gift. The new clinic will include 3,000 square feet of space and will enhance the services currently offered by the hospital's clinical and academic programs in cardiology.

"The establishment of the new clinic will mean that instead of operating a congestive heart failure clinic twice a week as part of our general cardiology clinic, we will have a separate area for treating heart failure patients on a daily basis," explains cardiologist Dr. John Parker.

"It will be an area where patients will be able to receive a full gamut of subspecialty care, ranging from educational, nutritional and/or social work assistance to specialized medical and nursing care in the management of this disease. It is anticipated that the congestive heart failure clinic patient volume will at least double, allowing for up to 3,000 patient visits per year."

The Prosserman Centre for Health Research, which receives $1.5 million, will provide the infrastructure for an innovative multidisciplinary program in genetic epidemiology at Mount Sinai. Approximately 12,000 square feet will be constructed and divided into research offices, laboratories, computer facilities, and areas for data collection and analysis.

"Our goal is to develop the leading centre in Canada for genetic epidemiological research," says Dr. John McLaughlin, head of the Alvin B. Rosenberg Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute.

"The research at the Prosserman Centre for Health Research aims to identify genetic and environment factors that impact on human health and disease, and to evaluate strategies that provide health benefits to individuals and the community, by reducing the impact of major diseases," McLaughlin says.

"For example, we know that certain genes are associated with an increased risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer, but we need to find out what and how environmental factors interact with genes to determine disease. This could lead to new strategies to prevent and treat disease."

In 1995, the Prosserman Family Foundation established the Ellen and Martin Prosserman Surgical Centre at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal.

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Temple Mount should remain under PA: Bakshi-Doron

By BARUCH KRA
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — For the first time, a chief rabbi of Israel has declared that the Temple Mount should remain under Palestinian administration, even after a final agreement is reached between Israel and the Palestinians.

A written declaration to that effect, was sent by Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron with an Israeli delegation to an interfaith meeting with Muslim and Christian Palestinians, that was held in Milan.

The Israeli delegation included rabbis, among them the personal emissary of Rabbi Bakshi-Doron, Rabbi David Brodman, the chief rabbi of Savyon, near Tel Aviv.

Another proposal made by the Israeli delegation called for the establishment of an interfaith council that would be responsible for all the holy places in Jerusalem, particularly the Temple Mount.

The meeting was organized by two academics – Yair Hirschfeld and Ron Pundak – who were instrumental in bringing about the talks that led to the Oslo Accords in 1993, together with East Jerusalem's Arab Studies Society, headed by Faisal Husseini.

Pundak and Hirschfeld maintain that the Temple Mount constitutes the major stumbling block for achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

Among those who attended the meeting were Jerusalem native Hayan al-Idrisi, an imam and qadi, or judge, on the Muslim sharia court, considered to be a Muslim extremist; Majdi Siriani, a Roman Catholic priest prominent in Jerusalem's Christian community and members of the Palestinian legislative assembly. The Vatican sent an observer to the meeting.

The last time the Israeli Chief Rabbinate addressed the status of the Temple Mount was after the 1967 war. At that time the chief rabbis agreed that the site would be administered by the Palestinians, as part of the status quo arrangements that preceded the signing of any agreements.

Since then, chief rabbis have made only indirect references to the issue, and all from the hawkish side – such as Rabbis Avraham Shapira, Mordechai Eliahu and Shlomo Goren – based on their desire to apply Israeli sovereignty to the Temple Mount.

"For the good of the peace," Bakshi-Doron wrote, "we find that a declaration should be made of our understandings regarding the holy places in Jerusalem. "Instead of doing injury to the holy places, which to others is known as the area of Al Aqsa Mosque…we must respect and accept the status quo of the holy places, especially of the Temple Mount."

Waqf can continue controversial digging

By NADAV SHRAGAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Barak last week ordered that the waqf, or Islamic religious trust, be permitted to continue its tiling work on about 200 metres of the eastern wall of the Temple Mount, up to the Golden Gate (also known as the Gate of Mercy).

The order came at the end of a meeting of ministers, senior officials and security officials held at the Prime Minister's Office to discuss the ongoing work being carried out by the waqf in the Temple Mount compound.

Barak also instructed the authorities to allow archeologists from the Antiquities Authority onto the site and to prevent the tiling work from developing into more extensive construction activity. This directive came in the wake of warnings by security officials that the waqf intends to turn large areas on the Temple Mount into another mosque and that the tiling activity is only the first step in that project.

The prime minister rejected a recommendation from Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and the Antiquities Authority to halt the tiling work or limit it so that it stops short of the Golden Gate. He also vetoed a recommendation to prevent the entry of heavy machinery, trucks and tractors to the Temple Mount, but directed the relevant officials to maintain "reasonable supervision" of the traffic entering and leaving the compound through the Lions' Gate (St. Stephens' Gate).

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who attended the meeting, called for police to be stationed at the Lions' Gate to block the entry of trucks, bulldozers and building materials to the Temple Mount. After the meeting, he said, "no one is suggesting that we break into the Temple Mount compound with bayonets," but "cautious, intelligent" action should be taken "in order for us to regain control of the Temple Mount."

Barak's policy and security adviser Danny Yatom said after the meeting that its conclusions, which he refused to divulge, would ensure that the status quo on the Temple Mount is preserved, and prevent it from being violated by the waqf.

"We will do everything to maintain the status quo, but not to change it – not in our favour and not in anyone else's favour," Yatom stated.

The Shin Bet security service warned that extreme right-wing groups were agitated by the waqf's construction work on the Temple Mount and might try to break into the site or take other action to protest the damage they claim is being done to sacred Jewish antiquities.

Vatican proposes open channel for talks

By DALIA SHEHORI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Officials at the Vatican are proposing that a permanent mechanism for consultations between the Vatican and Israel be set in place to examine in advance decisions that might give rise to emotional responses on either side.

The proposal was made last week at a meeting of the Forum for Inter-Religious Dialogue headed by government secretary Yitzhak Herzog.

The forum was set up following Pope John Paul II's visit to Israel, and convened for the first time at the Jerusalem Van Leer Institute. Among the participants was the Papal Nuncio to Israel, Archbishop Pietro Sambi.

The idea for the "hotline"-like mechanism was first proposed in the wake of criticism expressed by Rabbi David Rosen, the director of the Anti-Defamation League in Israel, about the Pope's plan to beatify Pope Pius IX – and to do so on the same day that he canonizes Pope John XXIII, who established the first ecumenical conference with the Jews, winning the heart of worldwide Jewry.

The 19th-century Pope Pius IX is known by Jews for his role in the kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara, one of eight children of a Jewish family. When Mortara was ill, he was secretly baptized by the Catholic servant who worked in the Mortara home. On June 23, 1858, when Mortara was six years old, the Vatican Guard came to his home and forcibly separated him from his parents to give him a Christian education. Canonical law at the time required the Church to take responsibility for all baptized children.

All attempts to have the child returned to his family, including the intervention of Sir Moses Montefiore, failed. Pope Pius IX said that the pleadings by the Jews were an anti-Catholic conspiracy. He took Mortara under his wing and made him his protege. Mortara became a Catholic priest and eventually changed his name to Pius Mortara.

Rabbi Rosen said last week that it was not "up to the Jews" to tell the Catholic Church who to canonize, but if the Church is sincere in its desire to embark on a new era of dialogue and mutual respect in which it will be sensitive to the Jews, "there must be a kind of dialogue in which they are aware of our sensitivities and consult with us."

He said the intention to canonize Pope Pius IX on the same day as Pope John XXIII (Sept. 3) constitutes an injury, "first of all to the status of Pope John XXIII and secondly to us, as they are bringing Pope Pius IX, who forced baptism, in through the back door."

At last week's conference, Church sources stressed the need to bring Pope John Paul II's message of reconciliation between Christianity and Judaism to the rest of the ranks of the Church. They said that meetings should be held in both Israel and Rome of all the bishops involved in relations with Israel, to discuss the question of how to have the Pope's position become the attitude of the church as a whole.

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Allegations of abuse rock OU and synagogues

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The largest synagogue-sponsored chapter of National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) seceded last week from the youth arm of the Orthodox Union (OU) in part as a result of recent reports on allegations that a high-ranking Orthodox youth professional sexually molested and harassed scores of teenagers.

The decision by Beth Aaron Congregation in New Jersey was a powerful message to the national leadership about how the situation was handled over the years. It also indicated the crisis is not over.

In a June 23 article, the *New York Jewish Week* quoted sources saying that, for almost three decades, the Orthodox Union had ignored complaints of Rabbi Baruch Lanner's misconduct as a professional with the OU's National Conference of Synagogue Youth.

Rabbi Glenn Black, regional director of NCSY in Toronto, said that he was "shocked by the allegations. I found out the same time as the rest of the world, and was very saddened.

"The bottom line is that we have to stay focused and try to develop protocol should any child have concerns. They are welcome to contact us, or Jewish Family and Child Services."

Youth groups react to news reports, say their policies prevent problems

The day after the newspaper article appeared, the OU announced that Rabbi Lanner had resigned, but despite his resignation, congregants at Beth Aaron Congregation voted to immediately withhold all monies to be paid to the OU and to national and regional NCSY.

One congregant said members were deeply concerned over what they observed to be a lack of proper adult supervision in NCSY programs in other regions and chapters.

Rabbi Lanner was known as a charismatic, talented educator who drew many teens closer to Judaism.

A widespread complaint is that Rabbi Lanner has moulded and trained a number of rabbis and youth leaders who emulate his charismatic style and sometimes eccentric behaviour, encouraging advisers to do whatever is necessary to make youngsters more observant.

Rabbi Chaim Fraser, chair of the NCSY youth committee, said that Rabbi Lanner had been unwelcome at its NCSY programs for years, and that he had been unwelcome as well in up to half of the 12 regions in the country because of his behaviour and style.

He did, however, lead a group of students on the Birthright Israel trip last winter, and participated regularly in NCSY Shabbat retreats and Shabbatons across the United States.

For the first time, more than a dozen former NCSYers and others have come forward to publicly tell their stories.

Judy Klitsner, 42, of Jerusalem, said that when she was 16, and active in NCSY in Pennsylvania, Rabbi Lanner tried to caress and kiss her. "When I rebuffed him, he tried to strangle me... I was afraid to tell anyone because he had a volatile temper and I was afraid of reprisal."

When she later told Rabbi Lanner that she would inform his supervisor, he laughed and said his supervisor already knew of his behaviour. "It is immoral, that this coverup has gone on for decades," she said.

Klitsner, and several other critics of the rabbi said they were adamant about going on the record publicly, insisting they did not believe the OU would take action unless forced to do so by communal pressure.

They also spoke publicly, they said, because relieving Rabbi Lanner of his duties quietly allowed his record to be unblemished and he could, therefore, still work with youngsters.

An NCSY statement released last week, said that Mandell Ganchrow, president of OU was forming a commission of seven to 10 men and women from inside and outside OU who will review procedures monitoring personnel, and "immediately make changes as the study may indicate."

Lay and professional leaders of OU are split, with some insisting that only the resignation of top personnel will address what many say is a crisis of credibility.

Others believe that the issue, no matter how painful it is now, will soon abate, and they are calling for limited actions.

With files from Carolyn Blackman of The CJN staff.

J.J. Goldberg named new Forward editor

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The new editor of the *Forward* newspaper said the paper's ideology is likely to change under his stewardship.

"I've been reading in the papers that Seth Lipsky is a conservative," said J.J. Goldberg, referring to the former editor of American Jewry's most famous newspaper.

"Most of my friends say I'm pretty liberal. I'll be writing the editorials, so you're probably going to see a difference," Goldberg said at last Friday's news conference announcing his appointment.

Goldberg, the author of *Jewish Power: Inside the American Jewish Establishment* and a former managing editor at both the *Forward* and the *New York Jewish Week*, said he wants to make the weekly newspaper one that chronicles "the lives of ordinary people" and speaks "in a voice that gives everyone the benefit of the doubt."

Goldberg, an alumnus of the Labour Zionist Habonim-Dror youth movement and a former member of a kibbutz, said he will bring a different political outlook.

As he outlined his vision for the *Forward*, Goldberg – who will begin on July 1 – appeared careful to neither criticize Lipsky nor offend the Forward Association members who sat beside him. He praised both Lipsky and the Yiddish *Forward*'s founding editor, Abraham Cahan, saying, "I'm stepping into some large shoes."

Founded by Cahan in 1897, the Yiddish *Forward* at one time had a daily circulation of 250,000.

Asked whether the tone of the *Forward* would be sensationalist under his editorship, Goldberg, 50, said, "I want to tell the truth, but I don't want to humiliate anyone."

'I want to tell the truth, I don't want to humiliate anyone'

He added that the press should "call the powerful to account," let readers know how communal dollars are being spent and "tell it straight," but said he does not want to "call names."

Goldberg, whose weekly columns have appeared in Jewish newspapers across the United States, said he hopes to boost popular awareness of the *Forward* and turn it into a publication that is "about the actions of the powerful and the lives of the ordinary.

"It's going to be funnier," he said. "We're going to talk about things Jews care about, whether or not the rabbis say they should."

Under his watch, the *Forward* will be "the place where Jews fight it out with each other" and where everyone gets "a fair hearing," said Goldberg.

He also plans to strengthen ties between his paper and the Yiddish and Russian *Forwards*.

For the most part, all three papers print different stories.

Goldberg said he does not share Lipsky's dream of turning the paper into a daily.

"I don't have a big hangup about dailies," said Goldberg. "I've been doing weekly journalism most of my career and love it. It gives you time to look at things and develop a perspective on them."

Goldberg's responsibilities will lie solely on the editorial side of the paper.

"I don't want any part of the business end," he said.

The paper's circulation is below 30,000 and it has suffered annual losses of approximately $2 million. However, officials with the Forward Association said that advertising revenues have gradually been increasing. They said they will name a separate business manager shortly.

Lipsky's departure spurred philanthropist Michael Steinhardt, a joint owner of the *Forward*, to sell his share in the paper to the Forward Association.

Sam Norich, general manager of the association, said the sale is still expected, but that Steinhardt will likely continue to serve as vice-chair of the paper.

Steinhardt, who recently invested in Jewish weeklies in Atlanta and Detroit, did not attend the news conference.

Goldberg's nationally syndicated columns will end once he begins his post at the *Forward*.

June 26
• Interior Minister Natan Sharansky proposed that Israel formalize a two-day weekend spanning Saturday and Sunday. Sharansky said the move would put Israel in step economically with most countries where Sunday is a day of rest. Prime Minister Ehud Barak said the proposal is worth exploring.

June 27
• The government defeated a bill calling for early elections. Shas voted with the government.

June 28
• Israel is trying to resolve a dispute with Washington over the Jewish state's planned sale of an advance airborne warning system to China, Barak said.

• An estimated 3,000 Israelis demonstrated opposite the Jerusalem hotel where U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was staying. *(After her return home, Albright told President Bill Clinton: "There is a lot of work to be done.")*

June 29
• Barak offered Centre party Knesset member Dan Meridor the post of minister without portfolio responsible for Israel's top-level security agencies: the Mossad, the Shin Bet and the Atomic Energy Commission.

June 30
• Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh was due to arrive in Israel on Friday, becoming the first Indian Foreign Minister to visit Israel since diplomatic ties were established in 1992.

• Minister of finance Avraham Shochat has decided to integrate 300 Arab, Druze and Circassian university graduates into government ministries.

Files from JTA

Lebanese ponder: What will Bashar do?

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

Cutting its losses, Israel withdrew from its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon on May 24, ending a long and costly engagement and leaving another regional power, Syria, to occupy that country.

As a result of Israel's retreat, Syria's military presence in Lebanon is being increasingly questioned. Critical voices were heard even prior to Israel's withdrawal.

In March, Gibran Tueini, the managing director of *An-Nahar*, one of Lebanon's leading newspapers, urged Syria to pull out. The demand took the form of an open letter to Bashar al-Assad, who has since succeeded his late father, Hafez, as president. In short, Tueini called on Syria to "recognize the sovereignty of Lebanese territory."

In April, thousands of students, mainly Christians, marched through the streets of Beirut chanting "Lebanon first! The Syrian army out!" and distributed leaflets demanding a Syrian evacuation based on United Nations Resolution 520. The demonstrators were routed by the police on orders of the compliant Lebanese government.

Syria, which has been in Lebanon since 1976, was ruffled by these developments. The last serious challenge to its authority was mounted a decade ago by Michel Aoun, a Lebanese Maronite army general who was driven out of Lebanon by Syrian forces in 1991 and who now lives in exile in France.

By the terms of the 1989 Taif accord, which ended the agony of Lebanon's second civil war, Syria agreed to pull its 35,000 troops out of Lebanon once constitutional reforms were enacted. They are now in place, yet Syria is still in Lebanon.

So the question on the lips of many Lebanese is what Syria's newly-minted president, Bashar al-Assad, intends to do about Lebanon.

If he remains true to his father's policy, he will hesitate long and hard before he calls back his soldiers to Syria. For historical reasons, Syria does not regard Lebanon as just another nation, but as an integral building bloc of Greater Syria, a construct which has guided Syria's conduct there.

Greater Syria, composed of present-day Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel, dissolved with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918. As the colonial scramble in the Middle East intensified, France grabbed Syria and broke off pieces from it to create modern Lebanon. The Syrian elite never forgot that indignity, and seized on Arab nationalism to fight Western colonialism.

Syria, after independence in 1946, was too weak to pursue its interests in Lebanon. Coups and counter-coups turned Syria into an extremely insular nation. But in the wake of Hafez al-Assad's accession to power in 1970, Syria entered the most politically stable phase in its turbulent history.

Regarding Lebanon as its patrimony, Syria began to meddle in Lebanon's internal affairs. Syria intervened in its 1972 election. In 1976, a year after the civil war erupted, Syria dispatched an expeditionary force to Lebanon with the blessing of the Arab League. Under an agreement brokered by the United States, Syria kept its forces well away from Lebanon's frontier with Israel. Syria, however, encouraged the PLO to mount attacks against Israeli border settlements.

Today, as in the past, Syria considers Lebanon an important strategic and economic asset it can manipulate at will.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad walks past a portrait of his father Hafez al-Assad. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Syrian tanks guard possible invasion routes into Syria via Lebanon. From approximately 1985 until Israel's precipitous withdrawal from Lebanon, Syria used Hezbollah as a surrogate by which to pressure Israel into relinquishing the Golan Heights.

Lebanon has also been exceedingly useful to Syria from three other perspectives. It is a tariff-free dumping ground for Syria's surplus agricultural produce. It provides jobs for about one million Syrian workers. It is the centre of the drug trade from which Syrians profit.

Is Syria prepared to give up these benefits? We will see.

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FREE SPIRIT
Single female, Jewish, 38 yrs, 5'6", slim, pretty, fit, Dr. of natural medicine, teacher, open minded, spiritual, fun loving, dancer, writer, artist, actress, emotionally stable. Seeking male, fun, fit, romantic, easy going, good communicator. AD#1550

HAPPINESS IS KEY
Female, 41 yrs, green eyes, auburn hair, pretty, fun loving, kind, humourous, open minded, love for humanity and animals. Seeking kind, open hearted, generous gentleman, age/height/weight not important, financially secure, similar qualities, who'll treat me with respect and kindness. AD#1507

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Retired female, successful Jewish business, professional, widow, 52 yrs, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, caring, fun loving, positive, passionate, and looking for excitement in life. Seeking successful, tall, Jewish, businessman, or professional 50-62 yrs. AD#1118

LOVE'S LIFE
Single Jewish female, slim, young looking, attractive, kind, warm hearted, outgoing, enjoys theatre, reading, nature walks, art, movies, tradition, travel and dancing. Seeking male, 49-59 yrs, with similar interest, who's ready to share life to the fullest. AD#1215

SERIOUS COMMITMENT
Attractive Jewish female, 59 yrs, sincere, compassionate, fun loving, selective, and unincumbered, enjoy bridge, tennis, jazz, books, movies and dining. Seeking handsome male, who's elegant, intelligent, independent, and non-smoker, to share the best years of life. AD#1332

LASTING RELATIONSHIP
Single Eastern European, born female, 55 yrs, 5'7", independent, intelligent, and a smoker, seeks male for a loving and lasting relationship. AD#1432

SHARE LIFE
Female, with many interests, enjoy theatre, movies, dining out and quiet times at home, seeks male 65+ to share interests with. AD#1230

LIFE'S PLEASURES
Attractive single professional female, educated, independent, compassionate, imaginative, athletic, sensual and vibrant, enjoy nature, the arts and enlightened conversations. Seeking cultured, witty, literate, accomplished and kind male, 40-50 yrs, who thinks, outside the box, to sample life's pleasures together. AD#1010

SECOND CHANCES
Divorced Jewish professional female, 51 yrs, Eastern European background, speak Hebrew, loving, caring, romantic, great personality, sense of humour, family values, enjoys good conversation, walks, movies, theatre and travelling, seeking male, 51-58 yrs, with similar qualities and interests, for long term relationship. AD#1323

MARRIAGE MINDED
Separated Israeli, female, mother of 1 child, 5 yrs, attractive, Hebrew teacher. Seeks male, professional or self employed, handsome, 5'10" or over, non-smoker, non-drinker, fluent in Hebrew for serious relationship. AD#1193

CLASSY LADY
Single Jewish female, 62 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, selective, enjoys music, the theatre. Seeks male elegant, classy, for loving monogamous long term relationship AD#1054

FAMILY ORIENTED
Single divorced Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm with great sense of humour. Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat and respect a lady who was previously married and

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ORTHODOX PREFERRED
Single Jewish male, late 40s, 5' 10", great blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, compassionate, with a great sense of humour, enjoys theatre, long walks in the park, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking single or widowed female, intelligent, 32-45 yrs, with similar personality and interests. AD#1097

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single male, Shoma-Shabbas, professional Jewish educator, warm, caring, handsome, and eclectic, seeking Jewish observant, female, who's spiritual, with joie de vive, for love, marriage and children. AD#1245

SUMMER ROMANCE
Divorced male, Jewish, 37 yrs, handsome, athletic, 5'10", no children, condo owner, enjoys tennis, squash, movies, reading, dining and dancing. Seeks female, Jewish, 32-42 yrs, slim, attractive, for possible long term relationship. AD#1150

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 36 yrs, 5'7", blonde hair, never been married, fun loving, easy going, happy, with good sense of humour, enjoys sports oriented, activities, and going out to movies. Seeking female of similar age. AD#1422

LOVING GENTLEMAN
Single male, tall, youthful appearance, active, fit, loving, considerate, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks amiable female for companionship and friends first relationship. AD#1096

HEART OF GOLD
Single seniour gentleman, tall, youthful active, thoughtful, loving non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks female similar for compassionship. AD#1244

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, non-observant Jewish male, widow, 50 yrs, professional, no kids or other dependants, very fit, works out 4 times a week. Seeking female, 45-50 yrs, with very similar attributes, for a relationship. AD#1241

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, professional accountant, enjoys sports, long walks, dining and dancing, keeping fit, movies, reading travel. Seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1445

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Divorced male, 44 yrs, Toronto born and raised, 5'10", smoker, lived in Israel for 11 yrs, variety of interests, seeks female, sexy, attractive, adventurous, fun loving, for romantic relationship. AD#1375

LET'S TALK
Caring nature, semi-retired, 67 yr old, professional male, non-smoker with many interests and hobbies, seeking easy going, down to earth female, who's slim, attractive, and fun to be with. AD#1064

MARRIAGE MINDED
70 yr old, divorced Jewish male, honest and sincere, would like to meet marriage minded lady, in her 60's. AD#1182

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Semi-retired male, 5'11", 165 lbs, slim, blue eyes, healthy, attractive, casual, romantic, enjoys intimate restaurants, sea, sun, walks on the beach sports, swimming, tennis, 60's music and kissing, seeking attractive female, caring, humourous, financially secure, physically and emotionally fit. AD#1524

POSSIBLE ROMANCE
Single male, 48 yrs, 5'10", 175 lbs, attractive, friendly, outgoing, romantic, passionate, straight forward, open-minded, employed, enjoy movies, dining, walks in parks, sporting events, golf, cuddling and watching TV. Seeking female with similar qualities and interests, for friendship and perhaps romance. AD#1623

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people. Seeks female similar qualities and interests. AD#1388

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography. Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with. AD#1038

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family. AD#1370

SPECIAL SENIOR DOLL
Single retired male, living in Toronto and Florida, seeking female, 65+, who's good looking, slim, and must have a good sense of humour, for meaningful relationship. AD#1580

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CJ Kids

Don't just sit there vegging out, do something

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

You have been outside all day. You are really, really tired, starving, and it feels as though there are still a couple of years to go before dinner. And your mother doesn't want you to just veg out in front of the TV.

What can you do?

Here are some suggestions. They are also great for those occasionally rainy, muggy and all-around icky days that we sometimes have to deal with.

Eat healthy snacks: Don't have empty calories like chips, candy or ice cream. They will make you feel better at first, but then you will feel even worse than you did before. Have fruit, juices, cereal and milk, even popsicles sometimes. Try freezing grapes or making popsicles from orange juice with a few strawberries sliced in.

Make a tent: Pull together a few chairs or tables. Drape blankets, towels or sheets over the top and fill up the space with books, toys and a few snacks. Flashlights are a must.

Make sock puppets: Use socks, glue and leftover ribbon, buttons and stuff in the junk drawer. If you don't have enough socks, use lunch bags.

Have a paper airplane contest: Give everyone eight to 10 sheets of paper, and fold airplanes. Put your name on them, and try to sail them into a garbage can or hit a target pillow.

Sort pictures: Look through pictures that have to be put into albums. Sort them by date or by the event. Or look through old albums. Ask your parents to tell you about the things and people you see.

Make a book: Set out paper, pens and crayons. Choose funny topics like The dinosaurs that lived (or live) on my block, or What my mom (or dad) does all day, or Goofy animals at the crazy zoo. Write a story, illustrate it, and make a cover. You can staple the pages together or punch holes and tie the book together with ribbons or string.

Dress up: Ask your mom for old hats, skirts, dresses, coats or shirts, or any old clothes, makeup or costumes, and have a tea party or make up a play.

Create a play: Even if there aren't any old clothes, put on a play. You can practise it before dinner, and then invite your parents or friends to watch it later.

Play sardines: One person hides. Everyone counts to 50 and then tries to find the hider. The first person to find the hider squeezes in with him or her. The next one who finds the two hides with them, and so on, until only one person is left. That player is the first one to hide in the next game.

Bubble bath: Who cares if it's the middle of the day? Stay in until you are all wrinkled. Be careful that no one falls asleep.

Self-portrait: Have someone trace your entire body on butcher paper. Fill it in with crayons or marker, or, if your mom or dad allows it, paint. Be sure to clean up afterwards.

* * *

The following ideas may be messy! You might need some help from a grownup or an older sister or brother to make these recipes safely.

Make finger paint: In a big saucepan, combine 1 cup flour and 1 cup cold water. Stir until smooth. Add three more cups of water and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture thickens and bubbles. Turn down the heat slightly and cook an extra minute or two.

Remove from heat and separate the mixture into four bowls. Use several drops of food coloring to tint each bowl (make sure to use dye that doesn't stain your hands). Cover the bowls with plastic wrap and let cool to room temperature. When the paint cools, it's ready to use.

Peanut butter playdough: (*Your mom won't worry if you eat this!*): In a large bowl, combine 2 cups of creamy peanut butter, 2 cups of powdered milk and 3 tbsp. honey. Mix well. If it's too sticky, add a little more powdered milk. You can use raisins and carrots to help build whatever you like.

Paint with pudding: Mix up a batch of instant pudding, using about ¼ cup less milk than the recipe calls for.

Cover the table with newspaper and put the paper on which you are going to paint on top of it. Use your fingers as paint brushes by dipping them in the pudding and transferring the pudding to the paper and drawing.

PEACEMAKERS CELEBRATE: THE PEACEMAKER programme at USDS, Bathurst campus in Toronto recently held a carnival to celebrate the success of the programme which enables students to solve their own schoolyard problems during the year.

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CJ Kids

Yiddishe Zaidy stories on video

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

A 25-minute cartoon in English and Yiddish called *Zaidy Stories* is just as appealing to parents as it is to children, according to animator Rabbi Uri Gelman.

The first video of its kind, *Zaidy Stories* has four tales in cartoon form, told first in English and then in Yiddish translation.

The video supports Rabbi Gelman's own philosophy that God the Creator protects even insects, and that there is reason to be optimistic about the future.

"Our idea is to provide entertainment for children instead of the sensational media and violent cartoons they see on TV," he said.

A native of Russia, Rabbi Gelman lived in New York before coming to Toronto. He has served the Russian-Jewish community here for six years and conducts Sabbath services regularly in a Bathurst Street apartment building.

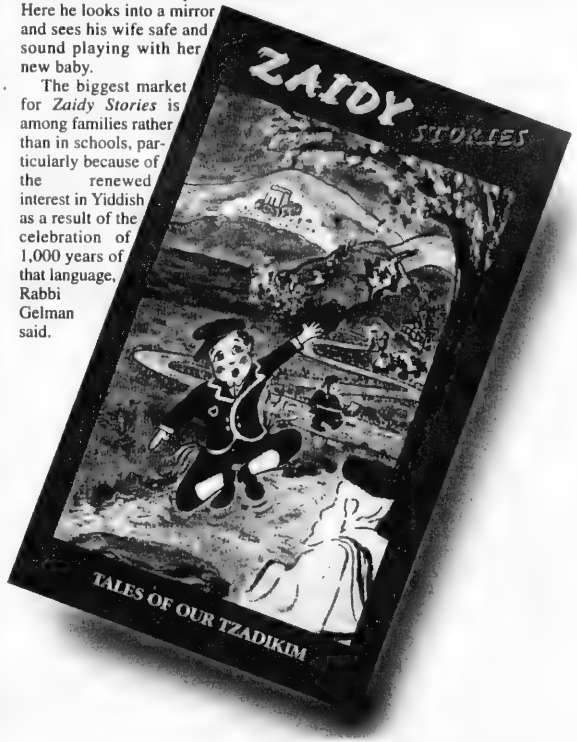
Many of the drawings for *Zaidy Stories* were done by the rabbi in his Toronto apartment, and the rest in the United States, where he was associated with JEV publications. He has already started on another cartoon project with the same publisher.

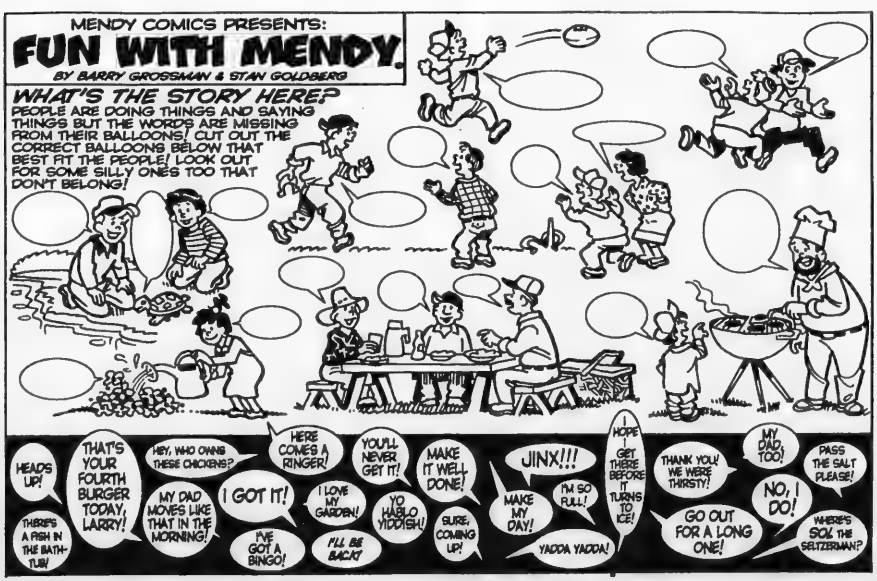
His own favorite is *The Longing*, in which a Chassid travels miles to see his rabbi and arrives in time to join a group of Jews being transported to Jerusalem by the Mashiach.

The theme of *The Young Soldier* is the power of the Baal Shem Tov. A Russian general in the field, worried about his wife who is due to give birth to their baby, learns that the Baal Shem Tov can foresee the future. He asks that the Baal Shem Tov come to him, but is directed instead to the home of the revered spiritual leader. Here he looks into a mirror and sees his wife safe and sound playing with her new baby.

The biggest market for *Zaidy Stories* is among families rather than in schools, particularly because of the renewed interest in Yiddish as a result of the celebration of 1,000 years of that language, Rabbi Gelman said.

Selling for abut $29, the video is available at Israel's, the Negev, Aleph Bet Judaica and Moshiach Centre.

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HEY, WHO OWNS THESE CHICKENS?
I GOT IT!
I'VE GOT A BINGO!
HERE COMES A RINGER!
I LOVE MY GARDEN!
I'LL BE BACK!
YOU'LL NEVER GET IT!
YO HABLO YIDDISH!
MAKE IT WELL DONE!
SURE, COMING UP!
JINX!!!
MAKE MY DAY!
I'M SO FULL!
I HOPE I GET THERE BEFORE IT TURNS TO ICE!
YADDA YADDA!
THANK YOU! WE WERE THIRSTY!
GO OUT FOR A LONG ONE!
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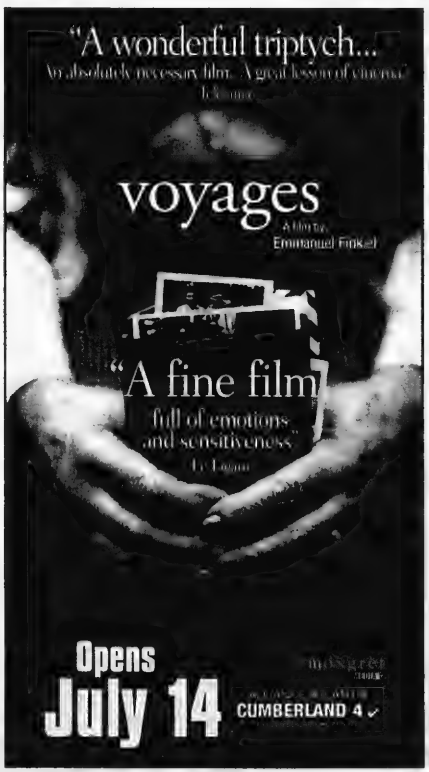

Arts & Travel

Voyages *intertwines the lives of three elderly Jewish women*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Esther Gorintin as Vera in *Voyages*

In Emmanuel Finkiel's sombre film, *Voyages*, which opens on July 13 at the Cumberland 4 theatre, the lives of three elderly Jewish women haunted by the Holocaust appear mysteriously intertwined.

Rivka, an Israeli, is in Poland on a visit. Regine, a Parisian, is contacted by a Lithuanian man who makes a fantastic claim. Vera, a Russian who has immigrated to Israel, encounters Rivka, a stranger who shares her surname.

What do they have in common apart from Holocaust memories? All three lived in Paris at one time or another, and by virtue of this fact, they seem to be related to each other. But are they?

This conundrum is never quite resolved, but like an enticing mystery novel, the viewer is swept along by the momentum of the suspense.

Composed of three separate but related segments, *Voyages* gets under way in Warsaw as Rivka meditates gloomily in a Jewish cemetery. The tourist bus she subsequently boards takes Rivka and her fellow travellers through what was once the Warsaw Ghetto.

On the way to Auschwitz, the bus breaks down. As they await help, Rivka and her husband quarrel. It's clear that they have not had a happy marriage. In Auschwitz, Rivka looks exceedingly distraught.

In the second segment, Regine is visited by a person from Vilnius (Vilna) who claims to be her long-lost father. He reminisces about his life. Is Regine his real daughter? Maybe, maybe not.

In the final episode, new Russian immigrants are taken to an absorption centre in Rishon Lezion. As the scene shifts, they congregate on a beach at sunset.

Vera has accompanied a neighbour to Israel, but leaves their apartment when his wife complains about their lack of privacy. She gets the message and departs for Tel Aviv, which is portrayed as a frenetic city with heavy traffic that never sleeps. There she searches desperately for a cousin.

Since Vera's Hebrew is non-existent, she speaks in Yiddish. To her frustration, few Israelis understand Yiddish. Lost and abandoned, she chances upon Rivka, who offers Vera hospitality.

The best segment in *Voyages* – which wrings convincing performances from its actors – focuses on Vera. The previous two are not strongly realized, leaving too many threads dangling. Yet all three parts are bound together by a seam of understated emotion.

Voyages, clearly, is a film where the journey, rather than the destination itself, counts most of all.

Schmigeggy producers put actors to the test

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — Inside a steamy loft on Yonge Street south of Bloor, four actors who do not know each other, have no script, few props and know only that "Mama" is the theme they are supposed to explore, are scrambling to put together a coherent play in three days.

Sounds like something only a "schmigeggy" producer would put actors through, right? Sort of.

Adam Lazarus and co-producers, Shannon Ruley and Sandra Waltman of Schmigeggy Productions, do not see themselves as schmigeggy's, but they do like to place actors in challenging situations.

"It heightens the creative tension," says Ruley, 24, a graduate of Macmaster University's theatre program. "When you're down to the wire, the best stuff comes out."

Playing on the comedy sketch concept popularized by Second City and television show *Saturday Night Live*, the actors are divided into pairs and allotted roughly 45 minutes to develop a sketch. The sketch is then acted out before the entire group, a script is written, and Lazarus gives feedback on how to touch it up before the performance so it is in line with the "Mama" theme.

And what is this "Mama" theme? Lazarus explains the play is attempting to show the various roles mothers have in society, from care giver to disciplinarian. It also pokes fun at the subservience the matriarchy has struggled with for centuries.

"Everyone has an idea of what a mother is," Lazarus says, and "we're trying to show all the possibilities" in roughly one hour.

Actors Hart Massey, Andrew Pifko, Ginette Mohr and Francesco Villecco (also a producer) agreed that what prompted them to audition was the spontaneous nature of the show.

"This is like creating music," says Massey, a graduate of the University of Toronto's drama program. "We try different things and even... if we look bad, at least we took that risk."

Although improvisation guided much of the preparation for the play, the final product, performed in front of 70 people packed tightly but comfortably in the loft, seems well rehearsed.

A scene in the principal's office, where an Italian mother simultaneously criticizes and defends her son for misbehaving, ignites howls of laughter, as does an elderly mother begging her now grown up son to stay at home.

Historical and biblical references add a clever and satirical dimension to the play. Queen Elizabeth, for instance, takes a son on a journey to 'Mother land' where he learns to appreciate all his mother has done for him.

In another hilarious scene, Moses, whose speech and mannerisms are strikingly similar to that of Woody Allan, develops tablets to help Mama discipline her children.

There are some shortcomings, though. The rushed nature of the production is evident in the play's lack of clarity and absence of character development.

At times, it is difficult to establish if the theme is about mothers, feminism or something else all together.

Lazarus hopes to make the production a bi-monthly venture. If future shows are as funny as this one, that won't be difficult.

The next show is slated for the end of August. For more information call Adam Lazarus at 416-963-4952.

COMIC JACKIE MASON SET TO FRET AGAIN UPON A TORONTO STAGE

With no target too sacred, **Jackie Mason** brings his popular comic shtick back to Toronto in November with *Much Ado About Everything!*, the show that he fine-tuned at a comedy club here last year before taking it to Broadway.

Mason turns his considerable wit on such contemporary targets as the Internet, tobacco companies, Bill Gates and Hillary Clinton. The former rabbi, who was literally laughed out of his Wisconsin pulpit, also delivers his vintage comic observations on the difference between Jews and Gentiles and other subjects.

Much Ado about Jackie Mason

Much Ado is presented by **Jyll Rosenfeld**, **Fred Krohn** and **Jon Stoll** in association with the Hummingbird Centre. Mason appears Nov. 14 thru Dec. 3 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts (formerly the Ford Centre), 5040 Yonge St. Tickets $75-$45. 416-870-8000. [www.ticketmaster.ca].

* * *

Song of Lilith: A trio of Canadian women artists are collaborating on an original multi-media work, *A Song of Lilith*, for performance Sept. 28 at the St. Lawrence Centre, Toronto.

Composer **Larysa Kuzmenko**, artist **Lilian Broca** and writer **Joy Kogawa** are among the recipients of $16,000 in grants from the Ontario and Toronto Arts Councils for the project, which focuses on the midrashic legend of Lilith, supposedly Adam's original helpmeet.

Lilith was "intelligent and felt equal to Adam," and all was fine between them "until Adam became arrogant and chose to dominate," a press release for the project explains. "Lilith could not conceive nor accept an oppressed situation," and so sprouted wings and escaped.

"Adam's second wife, Eve, was clearly his property — she was pulled out of his rib!" the press release continues. "She was a passive dreamer, feminine and compliant." This version of the tale continues with "a fascinating new 21st-century conclusion." Five musicians and an actor are scheduled to help bring it to life. Tickets, $25 & $20. 416-366-7723.

* * *

Literary Prize: *When I Lived in Modern Times*, a novel by **Linda Grant** about a Jewish Londoner who settles in British-ruled Palestine in 1946, has won the coveted Orange Prize for Fiction, valued at 30,000 British Pounds, or about $63,000 Cdn.

The novel is essentially a love story whose female protagonist, Evelyn Sert, becomes involved with the Zionist cause, and operates as a spy for the Irgun at the request of her lover.

Grant admits to visiting Israel only twice, once when she was 16 and again about two years ago, on a journalist assignment. The award was presented in June.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Landscapes, Living With The Past, a selection of works by artist **Lena Shugar**, is on view at the Robert Mede Gallery, 321 Davenport Rd. 416-966-9362.

•Drawings by **Sonja Gomes** are on view until July 12, and drawings by **Alexander Rivlin** are on view July 15 thru 31, at Original Papers, 33 Prince Arthur Ave. [www.originalpapers.com].

Arts Briefs

• South African-born jazz singer **Renee Malamed**, who has lived in Toronto for 20 years, performs July 12 at the Montreal Bistro, 65 Sherbourne St. 416-363-0179.

• Comic **Noam Rosen** has choreographed an evening of live performance, video and music about **Noam Chomsky**, with a title too rude to print in this column. It's a "delicious medley of laughter and thought-provoking musings on life, relationships, insanity and war." Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W. $8. July 20 thru 22. Doors open 8:30 p.m., showtime 9:30.

•**Yiddish Concert:** The annual Yiddish summer concert, A Thousand Years Through Yiddish Song, features a klezmer band, singers **Michael Mandel**, **Gloria Valentine** and **Stella Walker**, and narrators **David Abramowitz** and **Naomi Bell**. Admission free. Beth Tzedek Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St. July 10, 7:30 p.m.

Berlin Jewish Museum will be open for business next year

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

BERLIN — Better late than never.

Berlin's long-awaited Jewish Museum, dogged by conceptual and mechanical problems, will finally open next year.

Even as workers upgrade the air-conditioning system and install miles of new cabling, and curators assemble the panoply of exhibits, some 200,000 visitors already have streamed through this striking, futuristic building, designed by the American architect Daniel Libeskind.

As they wander through its stark black and white corridors on guided tours conducted in German and English, visitors come up against spaces which resemble dark voids and staircases which end abruptly and lead nowhere, much like a surrealistic Salvador Dali painting.

The eeriness, symbolic of the unpredictability of Jewish history and the horrors of the Holocaust, is deliberate.

Nestled in a bland middle-class neighbourhood in eastern Berlin, near the site of what was Checkpoint Charlie before the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, the $60 million museum-cum-learning and resource centre will portray the uneven course of Jewish life in Germany from the ninth century onward.

In the works for 12 years, it was originally planned as a division of the Berlin Museum to highlight the growth, accomplishments and tragedies of Berlin's historically illustrious Jewish community.

But as the concept evolved, planners resolved to build a museum on a much grander scale, explained spokesperson Eva Soderman.

"There are many Jewish museums in Germany," said Soderman, a historian whose post-graduate thesis explored the relationship between American Jews and the State of Israel.

"But they each have a regional focus. This one will be national in scope, the only one of its kind in Germany."

According to Georg Heuberger, director of Frankfurt's Jewish Museum, the Jewish Museum in Berlin will be the largest of its kind in Europe.

Emphasizing that it will not be a Holocaust museum *per se*, Soderman said that it will concentrate on the following themes:

• The high points of Jewish life in Germany and Jewish-Christian relations.
• The assimilation and integration of Jews into German society.
• The successes and setbacks Jews encountered.
• The role of Jews in Germany's development as a modern nation.
• The pervasive pattern of anti-Jewish discrimination.
• The rise of Nazism, the marginalization and emigration of Jews, and the Holocaust.
• The regeneration of the Jewish community from 1945 to the present.

Although the museum is in possession of 10,000 artifacts, officials have yet to decide which ones will actually be displayed.

The holdings consist of ceremonial and historical objects, portraits of Jewish notables, a Judaica collection amassed by the late Zvi Sofer, paintings by Jewish artists, archival material and documents, books, photographs and family memorabilia, as well as the Loewenhardt-Hirsch Palestine collection of maps and drawings of Jerusalem and Palestine from the 15th century onward.

However, the museum is still looking for additional mementoes – photos, letters, diaries, passports, identity papers, family trees, medals, awards, company brochures, catalogues, toys, china – that attest to the Jewish presence in Germany.

If you wish to lend or donate mementoes, contact the museum. Fax: 0049-30-25993-409. E-mail: archive@jmberlin.de.

And if talks succeed, the museum, headed by former U.S. secretary of the treasury Michael Blumenthal, may also be the repository of an immense video history of the Holocaust owned by filmmaker Steven Spielberg.

In its capacity as a learning and resource centre, the museum will host symposia, screen films and offer public lectures, musical and theatrical events, commemorative programs and children's and family activities.

Once it opens, Soderman disclosed, it expects about 500,000 visitors annually.

"We want to reach out to all Germans," she said, adding that a good proportion of visitors probably will be tourists from outside Germany.

"We took a survey and discovered that Germans know little about German-Jewish history before the Holocaust. Very few Germans have come into contact with Jews, so there is a great curiosity."

Clearly, the Jewish Museum will fulfil an exceedingly important role.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

Fred Leuchter "Mr. Death" film now out on video

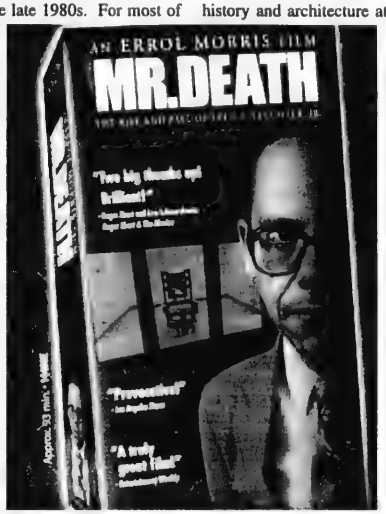
By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr., now available on video, has a special resonance for Toronto audiences.

Most residents of Toronto remember the second Ernst Zundel trial held in this city in the late 1980s. For most of us it was a long and torturous experience that eventually saw Zundel convicted of spreading hate literature, although the conviction was eventually overturned on a technicality.

That trial featured the testimony of Leuchter, upon whom this thought provoking documentary centered. At some point in the film, Leuchter appears so simplistic and naive that his comments provoke gales of laughter. At other times he seems so ignorant that you almost feel sorry for him.

As the film opens, Leuchter explains that he makes his living by designing and constructing devices to execute people. He tells us that he builds better electric chairs, which allow executions to be carried out in a more humane manner. And after his success with electric chairs, he expanded his business by designing new and improved gas chambers, lethal injection devices and gallows.



The centre piece of the film is Leuchter's employment by Zundel in 1988 to travel to Auschwitz in order to investigate the gas chambers there and report on whether they were used to execute Jews. So we see Leuchter making his way to Poland, entering the ruins of the gas chambers and happily chiselling pieces of concrete and brick off the interior walls.

He carefully puts his chips into baggies and brings them back to the United States to have them analyzed. His conclusions were that gas chambers never existed in Auschwitz.

Then we see Robert Jan van Pelt, who teaches cultural history and architecture at the University of Waterloo, who points out that all Leuchter had to do was visit the archives at Auschwitz and he could have looked at the plans for the construction of the gas chambers. This is something Leuchter did not do. And James Roth, manager of the laboratory that analyzed the chips Leuchter brought back from Auschwitz, completely demolishes Leuchter's conclusions in a few seconds of screen time.

Zundel gives the film some added relevance and humour in a short clip where he claims the prosecutor at the trial was shaking in his boots when Leuchter came into the courtroom to testify. I giggled at this piece of information. It just so happens that I know the prosecutor in that trial quite well and I have difficulty picturing him being frightened by Leuchter. In fact, the opposite seems more likely.

And Leuchter himself seems to be lost in a world of his own. He appears to have no comprehension of the consequences of his actions and no idea of what he is doing a large part of the time. Whenever he leaves his own little world and enters the real world, he seems to get into trouble.

After the Zundel trial, Leuchter had his engineering credentials challenged, lost his business, his home and even his wife. At the end of the film, Leuchter seems to be a pathetic character, unable to comprehend how his own actions precipitated this situation. Although somewhat disturbing, *Mr. Death* is a fascinating film to watch.

Russians perform at fund-raiser concert

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A new women's group that formed after the murder of 15-year-old Matti Baranovski, recently held its first fund-raising event, including a silent fine art auction and concert, in co-operation with UJA FEDERATION.

The Russian Jewish Initiative is composed of 40 professional women, some of whom have been in Canada for 20 years or more. Its members include physicians, lawyers, social workers and business executives.

Russian Jewish dancers from the Victory Dance Studio and circus performers from the Wonderful Circus World were among those who performed.

A large number of volunteers at the event, held at Leah Posluns Theatre, were first generation Canadians, children of group members.

"We came together to help Ruthie Baranovski, [Matti's] mother, to show our support," said executive member Mila Voihanski, director of immigrant services, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services.

Among the classical musicians who contributed their talents were Mark Skazinetsky, first violinist of the Toronto Symphony; Alexander Tselyakov; Marina Surgan; and Igor Emelianov.

The only non-Russian performer was violinist Rebecca Brenner, a nine-year-old from Hungary, who played separately and with Skazinetsky, her teacher.

Another youngster in the spotlight was 10-year-old pianist Alexander Seredenko, son of Larisa Pashanov and Serguel Seredenko, members of the Baroque Jazz trio, who headlined the jazz part of the program.

Other artists performing were singers Aelita, Eduard Rubin, Liora Raivich, and accompanist Angela Boutchko.

Members of the Association of Russian Artists donated 35 paintings of different genres to the auction, while other paintings, mostly oils, were donated privately.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

1 I	2 B	3 I	4 S	■	■	5 E	6 A	7 R	■	■	8 C	9 A	10 S	11 H
12 N	A	N	C	13 Y	■	14 A	L	E	■	15 R	A	N	T	O
16 N	A	C	H	O	■	17 R	E	F	■	18 E	N	D	U	P
■	19 S	A	M	U	20 E	L	G	O	21 L	D	W	Y	N	■
■	■	22 A	L	L	■	■	23 R	I	S	E	■	■	■	■
24 C	25 A	26 R	L	L	A	27 E	28 M	M	L	E	■	29 M	30 O	31 P
32 A	T	A	T	■	33 T	B	A	■	■	34 A	35 S	O	N	E
36 R	A	Z	Z	■	37 H	B	O	38 M	39 B	■	40 U	N	I	T
41 P	R	E	Y	42 S	■	■	43 R	A	E	■	44 G	E	N	E
45 S	I	D	■	46 L	47 O	48 U	I	S	B	49 M	A	Y	E	R
■	■	50 F	A	U	N	■	■	51 O	E	R	■	■	■	■
■	52 W	53 I	L	L	I	A	54 M	55 S	P	A	L	56 E	57 Y	■
58 V	I	D	E	O	■	59 B	O	O	■	60 T	A	L	O	61 N
62 I	S	L	A	M	■	63 L	O	D	■	64 S	N	I	D	E
65 A	P	E	S	■	■	66 E	R	A	■	■	67 D	E	A	D

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Business Profile

Ambition drives the queen of the specialty channel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Phyllis Yaffe is the queen of the specialty channel, and her kingdom is expanding.

President of Alliance Atlantis Communications' broadcasting division, the 51-year-old Toronto-based executive oversees the activities of History Television, Showcase, Life Network and Home & Garden Television.

These channels, which have acquired a loyal following throughout Canada, could be followed by many more if the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) cooperates.

"We've applied for a do-it-yourself channel, a book channel, a health channel and a British Broadcasting Corporation Canada channel," disclosed Yaffe.

In addition, she plans a joint venture with the National Geographic channel, and wants to Canadianize the Food Network, represented by Alliance Atlantis in this country.

Nothing short of ambitious, Yaffe hopes to be running 30 channels, some on the Internet, within about five years.

Virtually unknown not too long ago, specialty channels are the new kid on the block in the TV broadcasting industry. In the last few years, they have experienced tremendous growth – there are about 55 in English and French across Canada today – and Alliance Atlantis, a public company, has benefitted from this development.

Yaffe hopes to run 30 channels

"All four of our channels are profitable, thank goodness," said Yaffe, "though they were not in the first year or two. And we've had excellent audience growth."

By Yaffe's estimation, 40 percent of Canadian viewers watch specialty programs, and 80 percent tune in to Alliance Atlantis' channels.

Offering a blend of movies, biographies and original historical programming from Canada and around the world, History Television, with almost four million viewers each week, is ranked as one of the most popular channels of its kind.

In recent months, History Television has introduced new programs such as *Ancient History Tuesdays*, *History of War Thursdays* and *Dictators Week*, featuring profiles on the likes of Saddam Hussein, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin.

Showcase, which is devoted to Canadian and international movies and plays, plans to air more original dramas.

Life Network specializes in a wide range of lifestyle programming. It launched a new series, *Real Life Stories*, recently.

Meanwhile, Home & Garden Television remains Canada's sole 24-hour show of its kind.

Yaffe was appointed head of Alliance Atlantis' broadcasting division in May 1999, six years after she succeeded in persuading the CRTC to grant the firm its first speciality channel, Showcase.

"The idea behind Showcase was compelling to the CRTC," she recalled. "And besides, the dial wasn't full."

In 1996, she led the application team for History Television.

While working her magic before the CRTC, Yaffe was chair of the Ontario Science Centre's board of trustees, a position she held from 1992 to 1998.

"It was a fantastic experience. I got a chance to play in a world I didn't know anything about. The Science Centre is one of Toronto's celebrated treasures."

During her term, the Science Centre completed the largest capital program in its history, adding an Omnimax theatre, two restaurants and a banquet facility. Yaffe therefore contributed to revamping the centre for the next century.

Before the Science Centre beckoned, Yaffe developed the Foundation to Underwrite New Drama for Pay Television, now known as the Harold Greenberg Fund, on behalf of The Movie Network.

"The Harold Greenberg Fund is very important to the script-writing community in Canada," said Yaffe, a self-described cultural nationalist who believes Canadian culture is under-appreciated by Canadians, but prized abroad.

To the best of her knowledge, the fund has generated scripts for more than 100 movies.

Prior to her involvement in Canadian cinema, Yaffe was vice-president of marketing at Owl Communications, which publishes *Owl* and *Chickadee* magazines and produces children's television.

Phyllis Yaffe

Then she was executive director of the Association of Canadian Publishers, which was formed by Canadian-owned book publishers.

For three years, from 1977 to 1980, Yaffe was the first director of The Children's Book Centre, which was created to promote Canadian children's books.

She thinks she made a difference. When she started, less than one percent of children's books sold in Canada were printed here. The figure now is about 33 percent.

Yaffe, who was born and raised in Winnipeg, is the younger daughter of Louis and Yetta, and was originally a librarian.

"I stumbled into it," said Yaffe, who studied at the University of Manitoba. Armed with a degree in English literature, she followed her late father's advice and applied for a job at city hall. "There was a position vacant at the library. I loved it."

Eventually, she studied library science at the University of Alberta and the University of Toronto, and worked at the Winnipeg Public Library and Seneca College in Toronto.

Yaffe is convinced that library science prepared her for broadcasting. "It taught me how to be organized and to do research. It also taught me the value of information and the role of service in an organization. I believe in servicing the public. That's the best way of building loyalty."

Yaffe works hard, usually arriving at her desk by 8:30 a.m. and not leaving before 7 p.m.

"I love my work. It keeps me busy, and busy is good."

Yaffe has risen to the top by virtue of intelligence, talent and punishing hours. Yet her success can also be ascribed to the federal government's equity program.

"When I started in the broadcasting industry, the government was already regulating it [to help women gain employment in the field]. I might have had a harder time selling shoes."

She and her husband, John Feld, a writer from Winnipeg, have one daughter, Sarah, a student at McGill University. Her siser Carla is a Reform rabbi in New York City.

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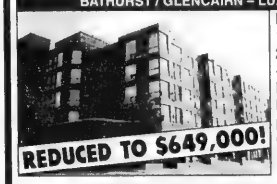

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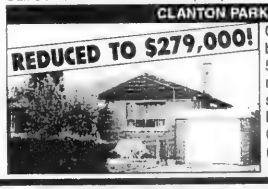

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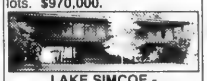

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Israel & the Jewish World

'Israel was a mystery, fraught with exaggeration'

Condemned at home, visiting Algerian journalists see themselves as pioneers

By JOSEPH ALGAZY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM – "When I was invited to visit Israel, I thought it an interesting idea. To me, Israel was a mystery, a myth fraught with exaggeration, and therefore I very much wanted to get to know the people living there. I came here out of intellectual curiosity."

The speaker, Baya Gacemi, is one of the a group of Algerian journalists currently visiting Israel as guests of the Foreign Ministry.

Gacemi, 45, has for the past two years been an Algerian correspondent for the French weekly *L'Express*, and previously worked for the French-language Algerian *Le Tribune* newspaper, which she helped found.

"Israel exists and there is no reason why I should not visit it as I do other nations," she says. "Closed-mindedness and turning a blind eye will not solve the problems in Arab-Israeli relations. To find solutions to these problems, one must talk. Only after visiting Israel can I crystallize my views on Israel. Until now, I have had to rely on secondhand information from the media and the views of others."

Gacemi supports Palestinian aspirations for an independent state. "As for the details of how and under what terms, these are matters which only the Palestinians have the right to determine... All peoples have the right to exist and the right of sovereignty, the Jewish people do, and the Palestinians as well." Many in Algeria share her views, she adds.

One of Gacemi's more emotional meetings was with MK Hashem Mahameed (United Arab List).

"I was very surprised by his remarks," she said. "Mahameed emphasized that as a Palestinian Arab, he insists on his right to be a citizen of the state of Israel, and to enjoy full rights as such. When I asked him if he would move to a Palestinian state, when and if it came into being, he said no. He told us that he was born here and therefore would remain here. He added that the million Palestinian Arabs living in Israel will go on living here to struggle for full equality. At the same time they will express their identification with their brothers' struggle for freedom and a life of respect.

"I learned a lot from this statement. It would not be an exaggeration to say that if only for these remarks, I'm happy to have come here."

Visiting Yad Vashem left a shocking impression on Gacemi, in particular the sections describing the suffering of Jewish children in the Holocaust.

"I cried," she recalls. "I cannot stand it when any harm is done [to] children."

Gacemi, who describes herself as left-liberal, is critical of government policies in Algeria. While she opposes fundamentalist Islamic politics, she does not support the government's suppression of Muslim activists.

"I have always backed a political dialogue with the Islamic movements," she says. "I have therefore not been pleased by steps taken by President Abdelaziz Butaflika, who has declared a sweeping pardon for armed Islamic terrorists, some of whom were involved in murders, without bringing them to trial for their acts, and without holding a political dialogue with them.

"The president's steps have not put an end to the murders, and have not solved Algeria's fundamental problems. Within 10 years, new terrorist groups are liable to arise. The solution is dialogue and the establishment of true democracy – which does not exist today in our country – and holding truly free elections."

Gacemi says Algerian women continue to suffer from discrimination. "Women can work, vote, and hold important political and social positions, even become cabinet ministers, but in daily life the man – the father, brother, husband – rules, and the woman must obey him. Algerian women are far from enjoying full equality."

In the Algerian press, the journalists' visit has elicited mixed commentary.

"There were those who viewed it as a brave move, and that we should visit Israel to get to know it. Others described it as betrayal. Some warned us of potential problems, perhaps with the authorities as well. But we were not deterred. The fact is that we are here," says Gacemi.

The Algerian government condemned the journalists' visit, terming the members of the delegation traitors. "The journalists have lost their sense of patriotism. They rushed to Tel Aviv, even though they were not authorized to speak for the Algerian people or its government," the official Algerian news agency said.

But the government's announcement was attacked by the influential Algerian newspaper *Al Vetan*. The newspaper said it sent five journalists to Israel between 1992 and 1998, and called it scandalous that the president "learned of this just recently."

Gacemi says, "a year or two ago I would not have believed that I would visit Israel, and here it's happened. The visit indicates a turning point. One could say we are pioneers. I believe that others will follow in our footsteps."

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Israeli skater takes career to the Max

Continued from page 1

"My knees were kind of weak... My heart was pounding," Birbraer said of his draft selection. "It's just a great honour to be drafted by the Devils."

His parents back in Israel were almost as emotional. "My mom was crying and my dad was very happy," Birbraer said. "He didn't sleep all night."

In a moment of calm in the midst of his hectic, 11-month hockey season, Birbraer looked back on the unique path that had taken him a few steps away from an NHL career. Sitting around the pool at the home of Paul Rosen, his legal guardian and the man who brought him to Canada to develop his hockey skills, he had only a short time to relax before he and Rosen flew to Israel for a family visit.

Hopefully this time, he'll manage to avoid arrest at the airport and going to jail, as he did last year. But more about that later.

After a planned 10-day visit in Israel and a week or two off in Toronto after he returns, he'll be back on the ice to get himself ready for the Devils' rookie camp. He plans to attend Nikolai Borschevsky's hockey camp for elite players and get into the shape of his life.

Birbraer met with team management after his selection and knows what is expected of him. He's been told to expect to spend the upcoming season playing in the American Hockey League for the Albany River Rats, the Devils' farm team.

Birbraer knows there are parts of his game that need improving, particularly his defensive play. In Albany "I'll get more ice time with big guys, with pros. I have no experience at the pro level."

After that, it's up to him.

Although he was raised in Kazakhstan, his early hockey career seems very Canadian. When Birbraer was six, his grandfather, Anatoly, bought him his first pair of skates and got him playing.

"He's the hugest hockey fan ever," Birbraer said. "He knows everything about his team, Torpedo Ust-Kamenogorsk. He attended almost every practice I was in, never mind the games. He supported me until I was 15. He drove me to almost every game. He was really sad when we left."

What's more, "my grandfather taught me the hockey mentality: Never give up. Keep digging."

Birbraer was among Kazakhstan's top young players for his age group – boys born in 1980. His teammate and school chum was Nikolai Antropov, who now plays for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Antropov centred the team's first line, Birbraer the second unit. When they were kids, their team participated in several all-Soviet finals, usually finishing around fourth, fifth or sixth.

At 15, Birbraer's life took a drastic turn. In Kazakhstan, Jews were subject to discrimination and so, to avoid trouble, the family lived under Birbraer's grandmother's maiden name. By 1996, they'd had enough and they decided to move to Israel, taking up residence in the Tel Aviv area. Birbraer had heard there were rinks in Israel so he took his hockey equipment along "for fun."

Within days of arriving in Israel, he was contacted by Russians who ran the Israeli hockey league. They recruited him to play for Rishon le Zion, and a few months later, he was placed on the national Under-20 junior team that represented Israel at a tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. That tournament was marked by a bench-clearing brawl when Israelis responded to repeated anti-Semitic taunts by Yugoslav players.

A month later, Birbraer was in Yugoslavia for a tournament involving Israel's Under-18 team. That's when Rosen, a Torontonian who served as an assistant coach and equipment manger for the team, asked him to come to Canada to continue his hockey career.

"I was happy," Birbraer recalled. "I always wanted to go to Canada. In Kazakhstan, no one came to scout."

Rosen had watched the Israelis practise in Belgrade. "I saw really bad players, but there was this tall, lanky guy and the first thing that blew me away was how he could skate. In the first game, I saw some of his moves and it blew me away. I knew he could play and be a North American player."

Max Birbraer (left) with his friend Paul Rosen, who recruited him to play in Canada.

Simeon Yakubovitch, the Israeli coach, knew he had a diamond in the rough as well. In one game against Bulgaria, he played Birbraer for 56 out of 60 minutes, Rosen recalled.

With Birbraer's parents' permission, Rosen became Max's legal guardian and began looking for a team for him to play on. Genya Feldman, another Russian-born Israeli hockey player who was living in Canada, hooked Birbraer up with the OHA's Shelburne Wolves for the 1997-98 season.

"It was a terrible team, but Max put up good numbers right away," Rosen said.

"I had no trouble adjusting" to the Canadian game, Birbraer added.

When Shelburne folded, Birbraer was assigned to Newmarket, a much better team that received a lot more exposure.

By then, Max was lighting up the goal lights around the league. This past season, he scored 50 goals and 82 points in 47 games and fans filled arenas around the league to see him play. Although a natural left-winger, Birbraer played all three forward positions for Newmarket. And his game improved by leaps and bounds.

"He's got an all-round game," Rosen said. "The great thing is that he can adapt. He's a European who can play like a Canadian."

At 6-foot-2, 195 pounds, Birbraer has the size and speed to play any style. He can fly and he can handle the rough going.

Larry Bloch, a former Junior A player and a member of the senior Israeli team at the 1997 Pool D championships in Andorra, saw Birbraer play at that tournament as a backup defenceman.

"I've seen Max for the last 3½ years playing for the national team, junior, men's [pickup] hockey. His game has gone from here [holding his hand low] to here [hand held high]. His skating has improved so much."

Birbraer has played pickup summer hockey with OHL players and minor league pros and "he's turned them inside out," Bloch said. "He's really strengthened himself on his skates. You can't knock him off his feet."

Birbraer was scouted by most NHL teams in Newmarket and he was drafted slightly ahead of his overall ranking.

Despite his devotion to his hockey development, Birbraer usually finds a month each year to visit his parents in Israel. In March 1999 when he returned to Israel to renew his passport, he was arrested at the airport. Israeli authorities asked him, "Where were you? We've been waiting for three months for your military service," he recalled.

After a summary hearing, Birbraer spent three weeks in jail. He was released in time to fly to South Africa to represent Israel at an IIHF tournament there. When he returned to Israel, he completed three months of army basic training before the "hockey federation pulled some strings and got me out."

Now he is free to pursue his dream of a career in the NHL.

"I feel very confident that I can step up right now and play in Albany. All I can say is that I'll work my butt off."

No doubt his grandfather is very proud.

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

אין בעיה!!!

כבר לפני שלוש שנים חזחיר חמשרד הקנדי לאיכות הסביבה את הממשל ב- **Ontario** שהקיצוצים בתקציב בדיקות מים מעבדתיות יביאו לאסון. ממשלת **Harris** חתעלמה מחחזחרעה. מעבדות נסגרו ושרותי בדיקת מים חועברו לרשויות פרטיות-רווחיות. חתוצאחז אסון **Walkerton**.

ישראל בשום פנים לא ידועה כמדינה שמצטיינת בשמירה על איכות הסביבה. אמנם דוכני הספרים מוצפים בספרים המנבאים שחורות באם תימשך החזנחח ולפני חמש שנים משרד החינוך והתרבות בחר באיכות הסביבה כנושא מרכזי. אך כללית, יבל תשחישי נשמר לכתובים. גם לילדים נכתבו ספרים המעודדים אותם לא ללכלך ולא לפזר פסולת סתם כך. חבעייח בספרות לילדים מכוונת ומדריכה שמטבעה חיא איננה מושכת במובן חספרותי. מבחינה זו, ספרו של דויד מורישון, **אין בעיה!** מחווח חפתעה נעימה. יתרה מזו, חחשב עוד יותר מרשים לאור חעובדה שספר זח, שקחל חיעד שלו חם לילדים בני שלוש-ארבע, אינו עוסק בניקוי חצר או חשלכת פסולת מחחלון אלא בבעיות אקולוגיות של ממש.

גיבורי **אין בעיה!** חם יואב ונדב; עכבר ועד יצור קטן. שניחם עובדים קשה משעות חבוקר בחרכבת מכונה. "יחם מדדי, נסרו, דפקו וחברו." בשעת מנוחה חלמים חשניים על כל אותם דברים שיוכלו ליצור בעזרת חמכונה חחדשה; "בקבוקי פלסטיק, פחי אשפח, כדורי גומי, סוללות, צמיגים... חחיים יחיו חרבה יותר קלים!" אלא ששוד ושבר; לפתע נגוז חחלום חטכנולוגי; "אבל חכו רגע! מח חנזל חמגעיל חזה שמתחיל לטפטף פחז!" זו פסולת מזחמת מבינים חיצורים חקטנים. ומח יעשה לפסולת חמזחמת? "אין בעייחי" מכריז יואב; חוא יודע מח לעשות. כך לפחות נדמה לו, אלא שמחר מאוד מסתבר שכל חנסיונות במחלך חסיפור למצוא פתרון זמני לפסולת חמזחמת לא יעלו יפח.

בתחילת טומן יואב את חפסולת עמוק באדמח, סותם את חבור "יואפילו שחל פרח בדיוק מעליו. ממש מושלם." אך... חפרח נובל... נו, טוב; אין בעיה! יבנו צוללת וישליכו את חפסולת חרחק, חרחק לקרקעית חאוקיינוס. אך... חפסולת שבח וחודרת לקרקעית חיער. אין בעיה! יבנו טיל וישליכו את חפסולת לעבר חירח. אך... "יתראה איזה ענן! חוא מתקרב ומתקרב; יורד גשם ... נוזל מעגיל, מזחם וטגול." וכך אנו מתקרבים לסוף חסיפור. מרוב קשיים נרדמו חשניים וחזועות חאקולוגיות חמשיכו לחתרוש בחלומם. כשחתעוררו ונתנו מבטם במכונה שעמדו לחתקין וחיא עדיין בלתי גמורה חחליטו שעדיף כך; "שתישאר תמיד בלתי גמורה."

דויד מורישון חוא סופר צרפתי לילדים. חתרגום חעברי מעויין אך יותר מכל יש לציין את האיורים חנפלאים. חזיחום צבוע בסגול ובכוונה. חום וירוק חם צבעים חמעידים על טבע בריא; אדמח סגולה חיא אדמה חולה.

לסיפור שלנו יש סוף טוב. ללא חסברים דידקטיים מיותרים, מחליטים חעכברונים-טכנאים שבחעדר פתרון מניח את חדעת לפסולת חמזחמת חם מוותרים על בניית חמכונה. ואנו; מי מאתנו מוכן לוותר על איזה צעצוע טכנולוגי נוסף לטובת איכות חסביבה?

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Filling: 1 8 oz. pkg. fat-free cream cheese, 2/3 cup non-fat yogurt, 1 tsp vanilla, 1/4 cup nonfat dried milk powder, 1/2 cup honey

Cream cheese in medium mixing bowl. Blend in balance of ingredients. Freeze in a freezer container 4 hours until solid.

Cinnamon tortillas: 4 large flour tortillas, 2 tbsps butter, 1/2 cup sugar, 2 tsps cinnamon

Spread each tortilla with butter. Mix cinnamon and sugar together. Sprinkle each tortilla with some of the sugar mixture. Heat in oven for 1 minute at 350°F. Cool.

Ingredients for topping: 1 can cherry pie filling

Warm pie filling if desired. Spoon about 1/2 cup of ice cream into centre of each tortilla. Roll and top with cherry topping.

About Food

Dear Norene

By NORENE GILLETZ

Grilled food tastes great! When the weather turns warm, outdoor cooking is popular. However, it's not the healthiest way of eating. Typical barbecue fare usually features hot dogs, burgers, steaks and chicken, with less emphasis on vegetables and grains.

Leaner cuts are a healthier choice because fat often creates smoke fires, and smoke is full of cancer-causing substances. According to the American Cancer Society, research suggests that cooking meats at very high temperatures creates chemicals (heterocyclic amines, or HAs) that might increase cancer risk.

Here are some helpful barbecuing tips from their nutrition director, Colleen Doyle.

Cook the meat thoroughly, but not so much that pieces are charred and black. Keep the portions small and lean. Trim away any excess fat. Think of meat as a side dish instead of the main course. Try pre-cooking the meat in the oven or on the stove ahead of time, then finish it up on the grill. Don't eat any charred or blackened parts. Enjoy grilled meats with plenty of vegetables, fruits and grains.

Grain-based salads are a great accompaniment for your next barbecue. Prepare a big batch of rice, bulgur, couscous or pasta. When it's cool, add chopped green onions, coloured peppers (red, green, yellow), a handful of fresh herbs (minced dill, basil) and some cherry or grape tomatoes. Add a splash of your favourite salad dressing; season to taste with salt and pepper. Chill thoroughly.

You can "veg-out" at your next barbecue with this easy Mediterranean-style dish. Enjoy!

NANCY GORDON'S GRILLED VEGETABLES

- 1 large sweet onion, cut in chunks (e.g. Vidalia)
- 3 peppers (red, green and/or yellow), cut in chunks
- 8 oz. whole mushrooms (or sliced portobella mushrooms)
- 1 zucchini, trimmed and cut in chunks
- 12 to 16 asparagus spears, ends trimmed (optional)
- 2-3 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 6 oz. (about 3/4 cup) feta cheese, crumbled (optional)
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, thinly sliced

In a large bowl, combine onions, peppers, mushrooms, zucchini and asparagus. Add oil and vinegar. Season with salt and pepper. Marinate at least 30 minutes or refrigerate overnight. Transfer vegetables to a grill basket, reserving marinade. Grill for 15 to 20 minutes, or until nicely browned. Remove from grill. While still hot, mix veggies with reserved marinade, cheese and basil. Makes 4 servings.

Norene Gilletz, a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at* gourmana@total.net

The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

"Hooray for Hollywood"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

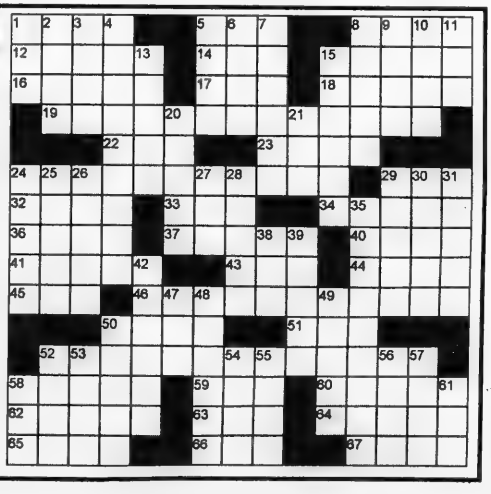
Across

1 Nile bird
5 Van Gogh's lack
8 Shekels, maybe
12 Basketball Hall-of-famer Lieberman-Cline
14 Brew
15 Sought help from
16 Cheese type
17 Foul caller
18 Finish
19 The G in MGM
22 With 23-across, call before Ruth Bader Ginsberg
23 See 22-across
24 Founder of Columbia Pictures
29 Janitor's closet item
32 Rat-___
33 TV guide abbr.
34 In unison
36 Give a hard time
37 Einstein helped invent it
40 Meter or liter
41 Feeds (on)
43 One of Cohn's "Facts of Life" costars
44 Critic Shalit
45 Games inventor Sackson
46 The second M in MGM
50 Satyr relative
51 Not 'neath
52 Head of CBS for more than 60 years
58 MTV fodder
59 Scary thing to say
60 Bird's claw
62 "Neighbor" of Judaism
63 Ben Gurion predecessor
64 Like many Groucho Marx comments
65 Big buffoons
66 Tide rival
67 Salty sea

Down

1 Traveler's stopover
2 Sheepish comments?
3 Machu Picchu builder
4 Like kitsch
5 Abe Fortas colleague Warren
6 "Break ___!" (Broadway advice)
7 Orthodox alternative
8 "___ talk?" (Joan Rivers)
9 Conan O'Brien pal Richter
10 Shock
11 Use one leg
13 "___ pay for this!"
15 A parting gift to Jews?
20 Gulf of Aqaba city, alternatively
21 Adjective for Abner
24 Gefilte fish fish
25 "Missile Command" producers
26 Leveled
27 A tide
28 New Zealand native
29 Tevye's lack
30 Cat-___-tails
31 Director Bogdanovich
35 Spielberg's "The ___ Express"
38 Bell and Barker
39 Jazz offshoot
42 Diann Roffe-Steinrotter's event
47 Yes, to Yves
48 Lacking the tools necessary
49 Fleishigs
50 Dog's bane
52 Frail thing
53 Motionless
54 Othello, for one
55 Pop
56 Peace Nobelist Ducommun or Wiesel
57 Wise film guy
58 By way of
61 Cartoondom's Flanders

(Answers are on page 32.)



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5.05/kg
lb

Chicken Breast Quarters
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2.99
6.59/kg
lb

Fresh Salmon Steaks
Silverbright
3.88
.85/100 g
lb

Freshground Rice Cakes
Assorted Varieties
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170-185 g pkg

Aaron's Best Beef Salami
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375 g

Fresh Sole Fillets
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lb

Streit's Matzo Ball Mix
or Matzo Ball & Soup Mix
4.5 oz pkg
1.99
Sale Starts Saturday, July 8th

Manamim Vanilla Wafers
or Chocolate
500 g pkg
1.59
Sale Starts Saturday, July 8th

Kineret Blintzes
Assorted Flavours
15 oz pkg
3.49
Sale Starts Saturday, July 8th

Empire Chicken Wings
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5.05/kg
lb

Atlantic Smoked Sliced Salmon
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33 oz
1.99
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Fine, Medium or Wide
284 g pkg
1.19
Sale Starts Saturday, July 8th

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40 Pages | Thursday, July 13, 2000 | Tammuz 10, 5760 | 75c

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This Week

National

Chaplains help people cope with life and death issues. *Special Feature.* **Page 3**

Camp Naivelt set to celebrate its 75th anniversary. **Page 14**

Bubies and Zaidies have fun dancing. **Page 17**

Arts & Travel

Jacques Bensimon quits TFO and heads to Banff. **Page 28**

Fort Lauderdale isn't just for hibernating. **Page 29**

Health & Lifestyles

Parenting disabled child is a loving challenge. **Page 32**

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www.cjnews.com

Iran verdicts evoke shock, dismay

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Across Canada, shock, outrage and dismay greeted the verdicts in the trials of the Iran 13, with Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy expressing his government's "grave concern" over the "seriously flawed" proceedings.

The reaction from Ottawa mirrored sentiments in other world capitals. Israel, Britain and France all condemned the verdicts. U.S. President Bill Clinton said he was "deeply disturbed" by the Revolutionary Court's decision, and called on Iran to "overturn these unjust sentences."

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Ehud Barak said in a statement that "Israel condemns the serious convictions that were given to innocent people."

Of the 13 Jewish defendants, two received prison sentences of 13 years; eight were sentenced to terms of four to 11 years; and three were acquitted. Of the eight Muslim defendants, two received prison sentences of two years; two were acquitted; and four remain on trial.

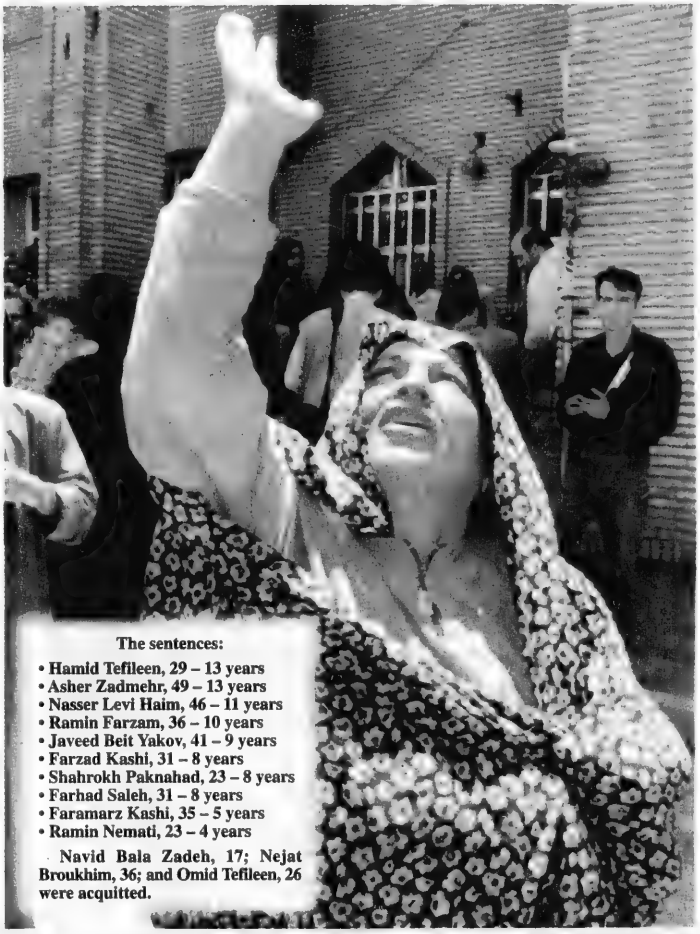
Further coverage pages 8, 9 and 22

Many activists compared the 11-week, closed-door trial with the anti-Semitic blood libels of the 19th century and the Stalinist show trials of the 1930s.

Jewish leaders worldwide vowed to redouble their efforts in the wake of the convictions of the 10, whom many believe were found guilty not of spying for Israel, but simply for being Jews.

In this country, community leaders are urging stepped-up public events, rallies, petitions and letter writing. This past Monday, protests and vigils were scheduled to take place in most major Canadian cities as part of an international day of solidarity with those convicted and with the entire Iranian Jewish community, now said to be under a pall of panic and fear.

Continued on page 22



The sentences:

- **Hamid Tefileen, 29 – 13 years**
- **Asher Zadmehr, 49 – 13 years**
- **Nasser Levi Haim, 46 – 11 years**
- **Ramin Farzam, 36 – 10 years**
- **Javeed Beit Yakov, 41 – 9 years**
- **Farzad Kashi, 31 – 8 years**
- **Shahrokh Paknahad, 23 – 8 years**
- **Farhad Saleh, 31 – 8 years**
- **Faramarz Kashi, 35 – 5 years**
- **Ramin Nemati, 23 – 4 years**

Navid Bala Zadeh, 17; Nejat Broukhim, 36; and Omid Tefileen, 26 were acquitted.

Ramin Nemati's mother appears to be beseeching God and offering up her prayers outside the courthouse two weeks ago in Shiraz after the verdicts were imposed on the Iran 13. Nemati was sentenced to four years in jail. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Camp David Summit

Due to the fact that *The CJN* offices are closed this week, look for full news coverage of the Camp David Summit meeting in our next issue, July 27. Until then, you may follow the latest international headlines in *The CJN* internet edition at www.cjnews.com

The editor

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Chukat-Balak
Candlelighting: 8:39
Havdallah: 9:44

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Summer break! The next issue of The CJN will be July 27.

The News in Brief

CANADA

Zundel Case Dismissed

OTTAWA — The Supreme Court of Canada has decided not to hear pro-Nazi publisher Ernst Zundel's appeal of an Ontario court ruling which said he could not sue parliamentarians for their refusal to let him use a press conference room on Parliament Hill. Moshe Ronen, president of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) said the Supreme Court "rightly decided not to hear a frivolous case such as this one." In 1998, Zundel was denied permission to use a room on Parliament Hill based on an all-party motion banning him. He had intended to speak against the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal hearings examining his Web site. Earlier this year, an Ontario court ruled he could not sue federal parties or individual MPs who had voted to have him banned.

UN Slams Ontario

UNITED NATIONS — A United Nations report that ranked Canada the best country in which to live nevertheless criticizes Ontario for not complying with a UN finding that the province discriminates by not funding non-Catholic religious schools. The UN's annual Human Development Index notes that it does not include religious discrimination among its criteria for ranking, but rather looks at things like adult literacy rates and school enrolments. A chapter in the report slams Ontario for misusing the index to justify its failure to comply with last February's UN finding. Jewish activists hailed the section of the report, and repeated their call for Queen's Park to fund private and faith-based schools.

Concert Cancelled

KINGSTON — A planned Canada Day rock concert organized by the white supremacist Heritage Front was cancelled in the midst of massive media coverage and threats of anti-racist protest. Anti-racism activists from across Ontario had planned to confront patrons of the event, which was to feature four skinhead bands. The concert was abruptly cancelled, apparently after the bands, who were promised an event free of anti-racism activists, refused to play when it appeared there might be a confrontation.

Kessler Takes Over

WINDSOR — Harvey Kessler has been named the new executive director of the Windsor Jewish Federation. Kessler has worked at the United Way and the Canadian Hearing Society. His responsibilities will include I.L. Peretz House, a seniors apartment building; the Jewish Community Centre; and the annual United Jewish Appeal campaign.

ISRAEL

Rabbis Mobilize

JERUSALEM — Some rabbis in Israel are reportedly mobilizing to prevent the integration of women into army combat positions. The Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported that the rabbis believe the move could harm the "sensibilities" of religious male soldiers.

Hitting the Jackpot

JERUSALEM — A woman from Israel has won what is believed to be the largest-ever online casino jackpot. A woman identified as Sharon P. won $171,975.53 (US) from King Solomon's Online Casino earlier this month. She had placed a $3 bet.

WORLD

Aid for Torched Shul

NEW YORK — The umbrella organization for North American Jewish federations is donating $20,000 to a Conservative synagogue in Jerusalem that was set on fire June 24. Ya'ar Ramot, a congregation that many suspect was targeted by haredi Jews, will receive funds from the United Jewish Communities to cover repairs and install a security system.

Survivor Appointed

WARSAW — An Auschwitz survivor named by Israel as Righteous Among the Nations has been appointed Poland's foreign minister. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, 78, also took part in the 1944 Warsaw Ghetto uprising and spent years building Polish-Jewish relations.

Wants Name Removed

NEW YORK — An American Jewish leader is insisting his name be removed from an open letter critical of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Neal Sher, the former executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and a consultant to Canada's war crimes department, said he was unaware that the letter would be so critical of Israeli policy.

War Crimes Setbacks

VILNIUS — A Lithuanian court has indefinitely halted the country's first Nazi-era war crimes trial. The judge cited the poor health of the 93-year-old defendant, Aleksandras Lileikis, who is accused of handing over at least 75 Jews to Nazi death squads. Also last week, a medical commission in Lithuania found that a 92-year-old suspected war criminal is mentally unfit to stand trial. A court will rule this fall on how to proceed with the trial of Kazys Gimzauskas, also accused of handing over Jews to Nazi death squads.

Mossad Agent Goes on Trial

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Switzerland's highest court is forcing Israel's Mossad to relive one of its most embarrassing episodes.

Last week, the Federal Court began trying a Mossad agent for his role in a botched wiretap attempt. The defendant is being tried under a pseudonym, Isaac Bental.

Bental was one of five Mossad operatives caught red-handed in February 1998 while attempting to bug an apartment near the Swiss capital, Bern. The apartment belonged to a businessman with suspected links to the Islamic fundamentalist group Hezbollah. Local police released the other four agents.

When the bugging attempt was made public, red-faced Israeli officials posted nearly $1 million in bail for Bental and issued a public apology to Switzerland. Bental returned to Israel in April 1998 on condition he return for the trial.

Bental, who has admitted his role in the incident, faces charges that include espionage and carrying out illegal acts for a foreign state. The espionage charge alone carries a jail sentence of up to four years.

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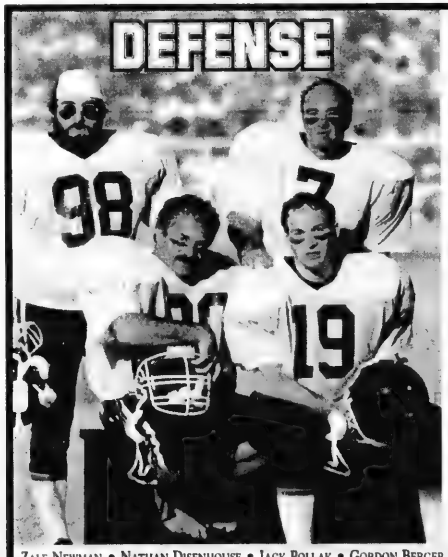

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Chaplains help people cope with life, death issues

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Watching Rabbi Nachum Berlat trying to negotiate his way around the Baycrest Centre is like watching a politician wade through a pre-election crowd. Everyone wants a piece of him, to greet him, shake his hand, exchange pleasantries. And Rabbi Berlat is glad to oblige.

Special Feature

As director of pastoral care at the geriatric facility, Rabbi Berlat seems to know just about every one of the centre's 1,000 residents, and most of its staff as well.

He's an "out there" personality, shmoozing with people in the hallways and cafeteria, delivering one-liners and quips like a borscht-belt comedian. The people seem to love it and he's affectionately known on his home turf as Bugs Ben Bunny Halevi Shlita Meor Hagezer, which roughly translated means, Bugs the son of Bunny the Levite, the Exalted Light of the Carrot.

It's clear that if the New York native ever wants to give up his present gig as chaplain, he would have no problem doing stand up. The lines come fast and furious. But for all its humour, his Loony Tunes title has a more serious connotation. As the rabbi explains it, Bugs Bunny has become the theme of his chaplaincy because like the cartoon character, Rabbi Berlat has "big ears" – he's a good listener.

Listening to others a key part of the job

Listening to others is a key component of his work as a chaplain, he explains. At the Baycrest Centre, where the average age is 87, there are plenty of people with plenty of *tzuris* who would like nothing better than to talk about them.

"Most of the work I do is facilitating persons using their spiritual strength to fight life's issues," he said. "I'm a listener. The biggest tools I have are my ears. That's what I tell my students. I tell them to listen to what [others] are saying and see what they really mean."

Working in an institutional setting in which he ministers primarily to the elderly (as well as to staff), Rabbi Berlat faces a unique set of issues. Many residents face serious illness and death; some are so old, they are in grief after outliving their children; some suffer from loneliness; and Holocaust survivors, who comprise between 40 to 45 percent of Baycrest's residents, can suffer flashbacks to the wartime years. On one occasion, a survivor being transported in a wheelchair thought she was being taken to a gas chamber when an elevator door slammed shut too quickly, Rabbi Berlat said.

That's when a chaplain's empathic nature must kick in, he explained. "You sit with the people, reassure them, tell them they're safe, remain with them until the episode passes."

Sometimes it takes a small effort to make a big impact. On one occasion, a Baycrest resident invited the rabbi to share her apple. Rabbi Berlat, who apparently can't say no to anyone, agreed to do so. He later learned from a social worker just what his time with her meant.

The woman had spent her later years alone in a downtown rooming house. She used to call 411 just to hear a human voice. Offering Rabbi Berlat part of her apple was her way of asking him to sit down and simply talk to her.

The way Rabbi Berlat sees it, "I bring the component of God and God's presence. When everything else is down, God is there as a constant in their lives. I become an ambassador of God's care to people."

As part of his responsibilities, Rabbi Berlat organizes religious education and provides halachic responses to ethical dilemmas.

Baycrest residents can participate in a twice-daily prayer minyans, while on Shabbat and holidays about 150 participate in prayers. On the High Holy Days and for Yizkor (memorial) services, that number can swell to 300.

Rabbi Berlat, who has three master's degrees, and a doctorate in pastoral counselling, is often called upon to present halachic views on numerous life and death issues. Among them are "the do not resuscitate issue, surgery, nutrition and hydration issues.

"I give views on the extent to which we go to preserve a life...We are on a real slope. If someone is in a lot of pain, we can ethically, halachically provide pain medication that may affect breathing, as long as the pain is relieved," he said.

Issues are addressed on a case by case basis. "The needs of the patient are primary and we attend to those first. But in the end, the families must make a decision, although they cannot request doctors and staff to act unethically," he said.

In addition, "We don't believe in either passive or positive euthanasia...Physician-assisted suicide is absolutely against Halachah."

Continued on page 7

Rabbi Nachum Berlat

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Greater Toronto Area

Safeguarding the rule of law

From the editor's desk

Long before the first prohibition was enshrined into the regulations of continental canon law, or the first precedent embedded into the system of Anglo-Saxon common law, the hoary and wise sages of the Jewish people were dispensing justice on the benches of the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, in the lower courts throughout the land of Israel and in the houses of judgment and academies of learning in Babylonia and the many other lands of the Jewish dispersion.

Of course, long even before that, in the electric atmosphere surrounding the gravelly, rock-strewn base of a low mountain in the Sinai Desert, the revolutionary, epoch-setting notion that justice and the rule of law are the bedrocks of governance was delivered to the world.

Justice and its necessary companion, the rule of law, are as endemic to the Jewish people as molecules of hydrogen and oxygen are to water.

Is it any wonder then, much as a beacon of light from a lighthouse draws wary travellers across dark and uncertain waters, that the pursuit of justice, the safeguarding of the rule of law and the protection of individual rights has drawn such great numbers of Jewish activists across the centuries?

At its core, the uproar over the arrest, conviction and sentencing of the Iranian Jews is about the pursuit of justice. Of course for Jews, there is a more patent poignancy in the uproar because of the transparency of the persecution of fellow Jews, once again, in the feeble guise of a trial of guilt or innocence.

The fates of the 10 convicted Jews have been settled; but the arrests and the trial also show that in a real sense, the fate of the entire Jewish community in Iran is uncertain.

Irwin Cotler, MP, one of the world's pre-eminent guardians of the rule of law, issued a statement last week concerning the 10 convictions in Iran. Cotler pointed out that the "convictions violated rights guaranteed under both Iranian law and the international Covenant of Civil and Political Rights to which Iran is a party."

Some of the violations he listed were:

• No official charges of any kind were ever made public or even confided to the accused, thereby denying the defendants the right to know and to make full answer and reply to the charges.

• There was no evidence implicating the defendants in any crime other than the illegally coerced "confessions."

• Prior to the trial itself the defendants were illegally imprisoned incommunicado for over a year, a flagrant violation of the Iranian Criminal Procedure Code.

• The defendants were subjected to adverse and prejudicial trial publicity. For example, the *Teheran Times*, on the eve of the trial, excoriated the Jews, a vulnerable religious minority in Iran, for perpetuating the "biggest fraud of the outgoing century – the Holocaust."

• The defendants were denied the right to a public trial before an independent judiciary.

• The defendants were denied a fundamental principle of justice – the presumption of innocence. Clerics and judges libelled and indicted the accused Shiraz Jews as "Zionist spies" even before the trial began.

In addition to his many roles and responsibilities, Cotler happens also to be the Special Counsel of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ), a non-governmental agency founded 31 years ago by some of the greatest legal scholars and practitioners in the Jewish world.

The safeguarding of the rule of law and the advancement of human rights are the animating forces behind the IAJLJ. Its membership consists of lawyers, judges, judicial officers and jurists in academia in more than 50 countries.

For the first time in the organization's history, it will be holding a conference in North America. In fact it will be meeting next month Aug. 13 to 16 in Toronto.The theme of the conference is: Pursuing Justice in the Global Village.

The trial and convictions of the Iranian Jews will undoubtedly occupy a high place on the agenda.

The motto of the IAJLJ is the biblical injunction, in Hebrew: "Tzedek, tzedek tirdof" (Justice, justice you must pursue.)

Justice is also the name of the organization's quarterly bulletin. It is always a treasure chest of important articles, commentaries and items of news.

The president of the IAJLJ, Judge Hadassah Ben-Itto, wrote a powerful statement of purpose in the Spring 2000 issue of the journal: "One of our main goals is addressing issues that are on the agenda of the Jewish people everywhere. We are particularly committed to combatting racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and the denial of the Holocaust…

"We must realize that racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism do not start on the streets, exactly as wars do not start on the battlefield. They start in the minds of men. Long before they make their appearance on the streets or in the beer halls, they are well hidden away in books and in newspapers, in learned academic lectures and on television interviews. They are stamped on the minds of young people in the form of routine stereotypes…

"[They] are particular issues on the Jewish agenda which an association like ours is equipped to address, and which we, as Jews, cannot afford to ignore."

The IAJLJ conference in Toronto is shaping up to be a very important one.

For more information, contact 416-595-1414 or fax 416-979-1819.

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: **The 50th anniversary party of the Bertha Weinstein chapter of Hadassah-WIZO was held recently in London, Ont. Planning committee members are seen with guest speaker Pat Alpert, immediate past president of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO. From left are Vicki Lubell, Rachelle Chodirker, Naomi Sheinbaum, Susan Blake (chapter president), Evy Wolf, Alpert, Gerry Pfeiffer, Lorna Brooke.**

Greater Toronto Area

Parents challenge CHAT Richmond Hill decision

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A meeting last Wednesday night intended by the board of directors of Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) to provide information about its new northern campus turned into an angry confrontation.

Pleas by CHAT president Baila Lubek and headmaster Paul Shaviv for support, cooperation and a positive outlook were countered by charges of misrepresentation, lack of communication, poor judgment and condescension.

The dispute centres around the opening of a second campus in Richmond Hill for the school. In September, students entering Grade 9 who live in the "L" postal code area (York Region) will begin their high school years there. An extra grade will be added each year.

The interim location of the northern campus of CHAT will be the former Richmond Hill High School, on Wright Street, near Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Boulevard. The facility will be shared, at first, with Rivendell School, an independent school teaching the international baccalaureat program.

The intention is to eventually build at the new Jewish community campus at Bathurst Street and Weldrick Avenue.

Lubek explained that until March, the board had no reason to doubt that they would be able to implement Phase 2 of their expansion plans for the current building on Wilmington Avenue, which would have provided enough space for incoming students, at least until the new campus takes shape.

It wasn't until March, she said, that they were told not to bother applying for the necessary municipal zoning variances, because of strong opposition from local ratepayers and politicians.

Near the end of the meeting, Lubek acknowledged that perhaps the board should have informed the parents of the problem at that time.

After looking at a number of possibilities, among them, she later said, the vacant Sunnybrook store across the street, and Bathurst Heights Secondary School, they decided to renovate the basement of nearby Beth Jacob synagogue to provide five or six classrooms and office space. The decision was confirmed on June 6.

Lubek stressed that the Beth Jacob renovation "was barely enough to fill the needs for 2000-2001, let alone after that."

CHAT Richmond Hill, Lubek said, will "offer a full Grade 9 program, mirroring the full CHAT experience."

"We stand by our decision," she said.

Shaviv said the staff will be a "balanced team" of veteran and "young, dynamic teachers, many of them CHAT graduates," led by senior administrator Gary Levine, who would assume the title of vice-principal.

Levine, director of student activities at CHAT, has been responsible for many of the extra-curricular and non-academic elements at the Wilmington branch. Shaviv said.

An existing cafeteria will be made kosher.

The students will not have the same experience as those at the Wilmington campus, he said, "but it will be just as good."

The presentation by Lubek and Shaviv by no means satisfied most of the over 300 parents who attended the meeting. Several people called for the resignation of members of the board and hinted at applying for an injunction to prevent the new branch from opening.

Speakers were interrupted by shouts, applause or standing ovations.

A group of concerned parents represented by Mark Greenwald attempted unsuccessfully to present a position paper from the podium, but they were allowed to speak from microphones set up at either end of the room.

Their objections, echoed by many others, included lack of peer influence, greater capital cost, alienation from the rest of the student body as well as from the Jewish community, and the lack of extra-curricular life, especially because the youngsters will be bused to and from school.

The most frequently repeated complaint was the lack of communication between the board and the parents of incoming Grade 9 students, referred to several times as "misinformation."

Parents said that they and their children felt they were being cheated out of experiences they had not only been promised but that they had in many cases dreamed of.

"You made a promise, we agreed and signed and looked forward to. We had a contract," one frustrated parent said.

Demands for a meeting that same night, for an emergency meeting of the board and for reversing the decision were not accepted. Board chair Brian Lass said he plans to put together a "working group" to work with the upset parents, although he did not say exactly what would be worked on.

On Friday, the parents opposing the move sent *The CJN* a news release re-iterating their dissatisfaction.

Seymour Epstein, executive director of the Board of Jewish Education, said that while he felt badly that "the parents were disappointed – they felt they had been lied to," nevertheless the new campus is "a fait accompli, and we have to make our peace with it."

In an interview before the meeting, Alan Sandler, president of UJA FEDERATION, who was not able to be present, said that while UJA FEDERATION believes strongly that the community must accommodate all Jewish children who want to have a Jewish education, "we wouldn't have the chutzpah to interfere or try to influence how any institution, organization or school carries out its duties."

One grade always has to be the first at a new school, he said. "We have to take a deep breath, and decide how we can work with the school to make everything work."

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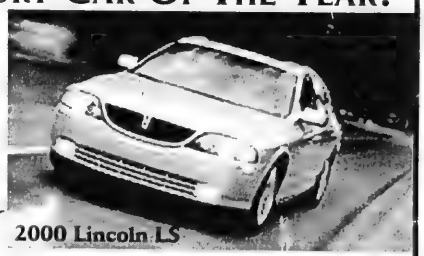

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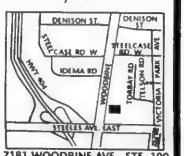

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Greater Toronto Area

Thornhill MPP addresses Reena

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Ontario government has made major improvements to support people with developmental disabilities, said Tina Molinari at Reena's annual general meeting.

This year the provincial government committed $50 million for people with developmental disabilities, in addition to over $50 million committed last year, the Thornhill MPP announced recently at the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre. "This is a priority of our government... it has become a personal priority of mine, as well."

The commitment is designed to help in four areas, she said:

• $30 million in new services to benefit 2,800 individuals and their families, including the creation of group living spaces for 300 individuals;

• a permanent $8 million increase in base funding;

• a $6 million grant to ministry-funded agencies to complete retrofitting required by the revised Ontario Fire Code; and

• an immediate $6.1 million to address human resource issues, such as staffing and wages, in agencies.

The latter amount will grow to $15.2 million next year, Molinari said.

"No one pretends that this announcement will solve every problem," she said. "What it will do is help address a lot of the problems now faced."

The government's goal, said Molinari, is to continue to foster integration.

She praised Reena as a North American leader in its field, helping its almost 1,000 clients realize their potential and treating them with dignity.

Among the 25-year-old agency's recent initiatives is Kids Club, a program for five to 12 year olds, and the Al and Faye Mintz Reena ElderHome, the agency's first. Its official opening will be held Sept. 26, announced Stan Kugelmass, outgoing Reena chair.

But Reena faces formidable challenges, he noted, citing, among other issues, the difficulty of retaining employees at relatively lower wages than those of their counterparts in other fields. "Years of financial cuts are catching up with us."

Reena client, Joe Feldman, left, accepts an Employee of the Year award from Ruth Ladovsky. **[Frances Kraft photos]**

Having advocated for more government resources, he believes those in government "want to hear from us. The voice of a parent or sibling, face to face, has an impact."

Reena ended the year with a deficit of about $50,000, less than the $60,000 projected last June, said Howard Ungerman, treasurer and incoming chair. For the previous two years, the deficit was $200,000.

Among the cost-cutting measures was the sale of Camp Reena, Ungerman noted. The ElderHome was completed on time and on budget, he added, noting that $1.5 million in fund-raising enabled the project to come to fruition.

Tina Molinari

Reena clients will be moving into the home this month, noted Harold Seidel, chair of Batay Reena, which deals with housing.

The evening included a number of volunteer recognition awards, as well as one each for Admar Promotions Group Inc. (Corporate Philanthropy), Supreme Foods (Employer of the Year) and Reena clients Larry Weinstein and Joe Feldman (Employees of the Year).

Paul Bonder, owner of Supreme Foods, accepted his award from Ruth Ladovsky for providing packaging and relabelling jobs to five Reena clients.

"Fridays have now taken on a new meaning for those clients. In some cases, this is the first regular paycheque they have ever earned," Ladovsky said.

"Like any new program, there were growing pains, but with staff support and patience, the program has flourished," she said. "The company has increased productivity."

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Sound of the shofar rings through Mount Sinai

Continued from page 3

Rabbi Berlat is assisted in his work by an associate, Rabbi Asher Turin, and a trained group of 20 volunteers. Nevertheless, the job stresses are substantial. "I know that my responsibility is to try to enrich their lives and I don't get depressed, although I do cry with people," he said.

"I leave it here. And I have my hobbies. Ham radio is my hobby," he said, adding he consults with other chaplains when the pressures of the job get to him.

As Rabbi Berlat is called away to minister to one of his flock, Dr. Albert Kirshen, doctor of geriatric medicine and palliative care, who had joined us in the hospital cafeteria, offers this insight: "He will never tell you, but he's a saintly man. He has endless patience and nearly endless energy...The source of his strength is clearly his faith...He's a truly good man."

By this time, Rabbi Berlat has rejoined us and he's clearly embarrassed by Dr. Kirshen's glowing description. When asked to describe the best parts of his job, this is what he said:

"To see someone feeling better, to see someone smiling. For someone to say it's a good day today, that makes me feel good."

Kirshen and Rabbi Berlat are called away but another of Rabbi Berlat's friends, Andrew Cohen, a member of the rabbi's Bible study group, had joined us. He offers this view of the rabbi:

"We should have more like him," he said. "He's real...He's one of those people who shows derech eretz to everyone. I've learned a lot being with him."

***

Each autumn at the Mount Sinai Hospital, the beeps and whirs of high-tech medical devices are drowned out by a decidedly low-tech sound – the ancient and primal blast of the ram's horn.

For the hospital's many Jewish patients, the sound of a shofar on the High Holy Days is a welcome reminder of life outside the hospital.

As part of the chaplaincy services for Jewish patients at the downtown Toronto hospital, the shofar is sounded on all floors during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The holidays are also marked – for those who can leave their beds – by shortened afternoon prayer services while on other holidays, Jewish patients are invited to participate in religious observances. During Purim, the megillah is read; during Passover, a "model seder" is held; and on a daily basis, patients, staff and visitors gather in the chapel to daven Minchah.

Co-ordinating the traditional religious observances at Mount Sinai is Rabbi Bernie Schulman, for the past six years chaplain to the Jewish patients at what has long been considered the city's "Jewish hospital." For Rabbi Schulman, seeing to Jewish patients' religious needs is one part of a multi-level job description that runs from mundane matters to offering advice on difficult ethical issues.

In a typical day, Rabbi Schulman may be called upon to lend moral support to families of patients who are ill or who have died, or he may be asked to outline the halachic implications of various medical procedures. Or he may simply be asked to provide electric Shabbat candles to make a patient feel more at home.

"Most of my time involves giving support to families," he said.

About 20 percent of the hospital's inpatient case load is Jewish and the number goes up when the outpatients are included. Holocaust survivors can be found in significant numbers and as they age, they can present unusual problems for hospital staff. Some survivors can flash back to the war years and imagine he or she is again in a concentration camp. Rabbi Schulman might then be called upon to counsel both the staff and the patient – to explain to the doctor or nurse what the patient is experiencing and to reassure the patient that he or she need not fear the medical staff.

The job includes many difficult moments. Comforting individuals when a family member is dying is "very stressful, but by being there you give help to them...One does feel the support is making a difference."

'Job includes many difficult moments'

Working in an environment where illness is all around can be difficult, but Rabbi Schulman has found his own coping mechanisms.

"I'm very often amazed that it doesn't do [bother me] more," he said. "I can go home, get into my personal life and leave it behind."

"It's rare that it wears on me...but sometimes I have to leave for two or three hours. A good portion of my vacation is half-days that I take off."

Rabbi Schulman, a native of Rochester, N.Y. who studied at Ner Israel Yeshivah in Baltimore and at Ner Israel in Toronto, says there are plenty of positive experiences to compensate for the rough times. "I saw a patient in intensive care and I wasn't sure I'd see him again. He was here for a number of weeks and got over his crisis period. I was rewarded by running into him on the street and I saw him looking handsome and dapper.

"That's part of the joy that gives you satisfaction on the job."

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Shiraz charade

The trials in Iran of the 13 Jewish defendants may have ended, but the worry and concern for the future of the entire community begins now in earnest. The arrests, the imprisonments, the trials, the verdicts and finally, the sentences of the 10 convicted defendants are like a yellow star of David on the breast pockets of all 25,000 Jews in Iran, marking them as outcasts in their own communities, suspected, vulnerable and warned.

The western world has condemned Iran. But beyond condemnation, what should be the logical and the necessary next steps? Governments and community leaders are in a quandary.

Any "punitive" response to the trials, such as trade sanctions, many leaders argue, would be counterproductive. Such measures would merely harm innocent Iranians, further threaten the Jewish community and bolster the struggle of the"hardline" Islamic fundamentalist forces led by Ali Khameini against the so-called "moderate" forces of Mohammed Khatami. A "punitive" response on the part of western governments, many leaders argue, would simply aid the radical Khameini factions by lending proof to their wild charges of Jewish control of the West, worldwide Zionist conspiracy and Israeli subterfuge.

It is a strong argument against a "punitive" response and in favour of the traditional diplomatic one, namely wagging the western finger of disapproval by registering displeasure, demanding improvements, maintaining an increased watch, but essentially doing nothing.

The argument deserves to fail.

If there are no consequences to the actions of the Iranian government, it will not modify its behaviour. But is that not one of the key objectives of the civilized world in the circumstances – inducing the government of Iran to change its behaviour?

If there are no consequences to the actions of the Iranian government, it will conclude that these outrages against the vulnerable minorities can continue, unchallenged. Such a conclusion by Iran raises the spectre of even more alarming possibilities.

The response of the West must exceed the usual wagging of diplomatic fingers. It must be assertive and sharp. There must be palpable financial and diplomatic consequences, no matter the expected rhetoric from the Khameini forces. Iranian leaders must be isolated at all international venues. Trade with Iran must be severely restricted, if not barred, for a defined period of time.

The trials were a charade. But the fallout must be more than the familiar game of empty gestures.

Camp David revisited

As of this writing, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat are packing their bags for a summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the storied woods of Camp David. Hoping to recreate the historic achievements that unfolded in that same place some 23 years ago, Clinton has decided to gamble that the seclusion of the setting, the intensity of the situation and the urgency of the hour will yield positive results. We hope he is right, for there is a grim sense of looming disaster spoiling the air above Jerusalem.

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Editorials and Letters

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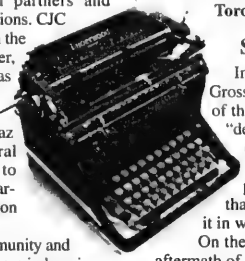
Denies alleged inaction on Iranians

I am writing in response to two letters that have appeared in the Canadian Jewish News: "We should be shouting" (June 8) and "Inaction over Iran intolerable" (June 22). Both decry alleged inaction over the situation of 13 Iranian Jews.

In fact, across Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and other organizations have led and supported numerous community vigils and manifestations of solidarity with Iranian Jews and have circulated an international petition in co-ordination with the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations. In consultation with an international Working Group on Iran, CJC has also worked quietly but effectively over the last year in gaining support for the Iran 13 from our interfaith partners and international human rights organizations. CJC has maintained constant liaison with the Canadian government on this matter, and the minister of foreign affairs has demonstrated outstanding leadership in ensuring ongoing Canadian pressure both in Tehran and in Shiraz where the trials took place. Several MPs and senators who wished to express concern and solidarity in Parliament were assisted with information from CJC.



The campaign of the Jewish community and the related international pressures were in keeping with the wishes of the families of the accused and of the Jewish community of Iran, and they appear to have had some impact on events in this biased judicial process, if only to ensure that no death penalties were involved. We have been and continue to be mindful of the safety and security of the Iranian Jewish community as a whole.

CJC does not accept the guilty verdicts and the sentences meted out to 10 of the Jews by the revolutionary court because they are not just, although we are relieved that three are free to rejoin their families. We will be working with partners across Canada to raise this human rights issue in the public mind, to urge our government to continue to take moral leadership and to press for the immediate release of the prisoners.

Rubin Friedman
National Communications Director
Canadian Jewish Congress

* * *

Minister knows what she's doing

Stephen Stern of Ajax compares the forced return of the illegal Chinese would-be immigrants to the plight of the Jews who tried to leave Germany (Letters to the editor, *CJN*, June 29).

There is absolutely no comparison. When Jews were refused entry by just about every country in the world, we were tortured, gassed and persecuted. Our property was stolen, as is well documented. Even in Shanghai, China, where my parents and I spent 10 years, a ghetto was erected. After the war had ended in 1945, we had no place to go. Nobody let us in until we came to Canada as visitors in 1949. We spoke English well and were never a burden to the government.

The Chinese migrants are not being persecuted. They are coming to this country to seek a better life. They are not hounded or tortured and their property is not stolen by the regime. How anyone can compare the Jews of 1938 with the present day Chinese is beyond me. There is a legal way to enter. Being illiterate, perhaps these unfortunate souls don't know how, so they pay a lot of money to come here. Minister Elinor Caplan knows what she is doing.

Susan Muller
Toronto

* * *

Surprised at rabbi's letter

Imagine my surprise when Rabbi Zalman Grossbaum took offence at *The CJN's* editing of the release he sent, substituting the word "death" for "passing." (Letters to the editor, *CJN*, June 29) Is death so strong a concept that the rabbi needed a euphemism? Is it so overpowering an idea that he could not bring himself to express it in writing?

On the other hand, can it be a skirmish in the aftermath of the death of the Rebbe six years ago? Is it part of the battle equipment of those who say that he did not die but "passed" and will rise again? Where have we heard this before? I am greatly disappointed by what this reveals.

Sam Wolfson
Toronto

* * *

Correcting the record

I wish to correct an inaccuracy in the June 29 article about the recent Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue concert celebrating "1,000 Years of Yiddish." There was a statement purportedly quoting me, which read: "Most of those attending were grandchildren of Holocaust survivors who have learned to appreciate Yiddish from their bubbies and zaydes." What I actually said was: "Many who attended were grandchildren of early immigrants – those who came prior to and following the First World War – who lived in extended family households where they learned to speak and cherish Yiddish from their bubbies and zaydes."

For all who shared in this experience, the very sound of a Yiddish word or a Yiddish melody continues to open a treasury of family history.

Deanie Rumack
Concert Chair
Continuing Education Committee
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Iran: how should the West respond?

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

As the international community condemns the prison sentences given to 10 Iranian Jews, a growing chorus of Jewish politicians and activists is demanding that Iran somehow be punished.

The observant Jews were convicted for allegedly spying for Israel. Their sentences ranged from four to 13 years in prison.

But the demands for punishment raise several troubling questions:

• Would the use of sanctions – and the suffering they would cause to the Iranian people – actually deliver a victory to the Iranian hardliners, who seemed to orchestrate the entire trial precisely to damage the mild detente developing between Iranian reformers and the West?

• Should Western efforts to warm relations with strategically important Iran be derailed over the fate of 10 Iranian Jews?

• Would the further isolation of Iran only worsen the situation of the remaining 25,000 Jews in Iran – and Iranian society in general?

"It's a very delicate balance, and not a black-and-white situation," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

"But if there are no consequences for Iran, you're saying it's OK."

In the wake of the verdicts, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook has already postponed a planned trip to Iran.

Now, Israel and North American Jewish groups are pressing Germany to cancel a planned visit by Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who was to arrive in Berlin next week.

Hamid (Dani) Teffilin, received a sentence of 13 years in prison.

Consideration of the potential unintended consequences of punitive steps against Iran should dominate any sanctions-related debate, say Iran-watchers and emigres in North America.

They suggest that in Iran, where fundamentalists still control the key levers of power – including the judiciary, the military, the police and, most importantly, the state-controlled television and radio – the hard-liners would frame any sanction, however small, in their typical "the-world-is-against-us" propaganda.

Sanctions could also weaken the position of Iranian reformers.

Though they recently won a majority in the Iranian legislature, the reformers are still embattled. In recent months, for example, 19 reformist newspapers have been shut down.

Sanctions could make their Western-friendly rhetoric more unpopular. More relevant to North American Jewry, blame could easily trickle down and exacerbate an already-tense climate for Iran's Jews.

The hard-liners "have used this trial to present these Jews as aggressors and spies, and [to suggest] that all Jews have hostile tendencies toward Iran," said Pedram Moallemian, a non-Jewish Iranian emigre who is director of a Toronto-based human rights group, the Canadian Iranian Centre for Liberty and Equality.

"Some sort of backlash or sanction would prove their point that Iranian Jews are working with the enemy" Moallemian said.

"And if there were, say, no milk for babies, Iranians looking to blame someone might find the easiest target to be the Jew on the street."

With that in mind, Jewish lobbyists know they must tread a fine line.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said that with the verdict in, Jewish leaders will now begin "Phase 2" of the campaign on behalf of the Iranian prisoners.

While the pressure earlier was on the Iranian judiciary, now the spotlight will be on Khatami, the reformist.

"We know about the internal opposition and the problems, but now is the time for Khatami to act and undo this injustice," Hoenlein said.

A file photo of Javeed Beit Yakov kissing a member of his family some weeks before the verdict was delivered. Beit Yakov was sentenced to nine years in jail. [Kahl photos]

"We aren't looking to embarrass him or to create circumstances that will make it even more difficult for him to make moves. But this is a test case for him. He has to show whether he really is interested in reform."

Yet this, too, may only backfire for the West and potentially undermine whatever reform efforts are underway, Moallemian said.

"Even if there were support for such a thing, it would be used against the moderates to weaken them," he added.

"The propaganda machine is not in [the reformers'] hands. Any expectations of them taking such action would be unrealistic to say the least."

Moallemian also cautioned against any sanctions. Instead, he said, frustration with Iran ought to be channelled into support for the opposition.

"I understand the need for immediate vengeance and to inflict pain is something we've all felt at times," Moallemian said.

"But sometimes, it's more important to sit back and reflect on the bigger picture of what may be the impact of any action we might take."

Timeline of events

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

The following is a timeline of key events in the trial of the Iran 13:

January-March 1999 – Thirteen Iranian Jews are arrested in the southern province of Fars.

June 7, 1999 – The Iranian government charges the 13 Iranian Jews with spying for the United States and Israel. Both countries deny the charges, which are punishable by death. Israeli officials worry that the men may have been arrested simply for being Jewish.

Feb. 2, 2000 – The Iranian government releases three of the prisoners on bail, amid announcements that a trial for all 13 is imminent. Advocates for the prisoners worry that the accused will not receive a fair trial, and that a trial is not likely to occur until after Iran's upcoming elections.

March 15, 2000 – It is announced that the remaining 10 prisoners will not be allowed to hire independent attorneys.

April 5, 2000 – After an appeal by Iran's leading rabbi, the Iranian judiciary announces it will allow all 13 Jews to hire their own lawyers.

April 13, 2000 – The trial of the Iran 13 officially opens, but is postponed until May 1, after Passover.

May 1, 2000 – The alleged leader of the Iran 13, Hamid "Dani" Tefileen confesses to spying for Israel on state television. More of the prisoners make "confessions" in the following week. By the end of the month, eight prisoners plead guilty, one admits to some activities but not spying and four plead not guilty, including the three released earlier on bail.

June 13, 2000 – Four of the prisoners retract their "confessions," while a Muslim accused of collaborating with the Jews also denies the charge.

July 1, 2000 – Ten of the Iranian Jews are convicted of spying for Israel and sentenced to prison terms of four to 13 years, drawing condemnation from Israel and U.S. President Bill Clinton. The judge, who also acted as prosecutor, acquits the three other Jews. The defense lawyer vows to appeal.

In this file photo, Itzak Zadmehr, centre, importunes prison officials to let him speak with his accused brother Asher. Asher was sentenced to 13 years in prison.

Canadian census

The year 2001 will see the population of Canada once again responding to census questions. There was some discussion about dropping any questions related to the ethnic or religious background of respondents, but objections from various groups, including Jewish organizations, opposed this trend, because they believed that this information was vital for maintaining meaningful programs for their communities. The government has now agreed that the questions that have been asked in past censuses in this regard will be retained.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Here is a sampling of some of the questions that we will be asked when the doorbell rings and someone identifies himself/herself as a census-taker or – as may be the case – when we fill out our own census forms.

"Can this person speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation? What language(s) other than English or French can this person speak well enough to conduct a conversation?"

"What is the language that this person first learned at home in childhood and still understands?"

"To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong?" Among the samples given are Canadian, French, English, Portuguese, Jewish, Greek, Somali, etc.

"Is this person an aboriginal person, i.e. North American Indian, Metis or Inuit? What is this person's religion? Indicate a specific denomination or religion even if this person is not currently a practising member of that group." Mentioned are Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic, United Church, Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, etc.

In the past, minorities were often squeamish about having their identities noted in the census, but the doubts have now largely disappeared, and the positive consequences of knowing the size and nature of a group have great organizational advantages.

Still, lingering questions remain, for the Orwellian image of Big Brother does not seem to go away. I have sympathy for this anxiety, having lived in a totalitarian state for several years. A census conducted in an undemocratic society should frighten all its citizens. But no such worries beset me in Canada.

A well-conducted census generally cannot even be construed to be an intrusion into one's privacy, because the answers do not identify the person who gives them.

The real question is: What uses are actually made of the census results? We know some of the answers, but I think we ought to have a clearer understanding of how the government turns a huge expenditure to the advantage of all our citizens. There are those who believe that a 20-year interval is sufficient. That argument would have cut muster in the past, but our fast-changing times demand more frequent updates.

Barak's sellout or pragmatism?

The recent furore over the bill to exempt haredi yeshiva students from military service places the issue squarely on the legislative agenda for the first time in Israel's history.

First, some history: Israel's secular and religious parties have always coexisted in an uneasy but necessary series of patchwork political compromises. Mapai, Labour's predecessor, and later Likud, made numerous concessions to the haredi and national religious parties in an effort to gain their political support. The Israeli system of coalition government breeds what has become an unsavoury form of political horse-trading.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

The exemption from the draft for haredi students dates back to the early years of the state, when David Ben-Gurion agreed to exempt the then-small number of seminary students. He never considered that the numbers would swell to the thousands that now exercise their right to the exemption.

The situation has two problematic results. By not shouldering the burden of military service that is shared by other Israelis – including many thousands of religious soldiers – the haredi students have removed themselves from a key national consensus. And since they can only exercise the exemption as long as they study and do not work, they and their large families remain on the welfare rolls.

In an effort to appeal to secular and traditional Israelis during the last election campaign, Barak tapped into the simmering resentment over this issue. His promise to level the playing field and to draft the yeshiva students quickly foundered against the realities of Israeli politics and society. A private citizens' challenge led to a Supreme Court ruling that the earlier, ad-hoc arrangements governing the exemption were illegal. The court challenged the government to legislate on the issue within one year.

The Tal Commission, appointed by Barak and chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Moshe Tal, recommended acceptance of the exemption, with an important proviso. At the age of 23, if yeshiva students decided to join the workforce, they would only be obligated to serve an abbreviated term of four months. In this way, the economic burden of support by the state would hopefully be alleviated.

But the timing of the bill was influenced as much by recent political developments as the pressure of the court. Shas, who recently returned to the coalition, pressed for its passage now. And this is precisely why the furore erupted as it did. The vehement and vitriolic reaction of secular Israelis to Shas and its political manipulation in general came to a head over this latest legislative initiative. There has been little room in the heated debate for a sober analysis of the issue.

Ironically, the Supreme Court ruling and the proposed bill are a step forward on this divisive issue. The debate has now moved from the back rooms of political negotiations to the legislative arena, as one of a series of domestic issues that Israelis must negotiate – if not resolve – as they shape their society for the future. It juxtaposes the conflicting visions of life and responsibility against one another in a parliamentary forum.

While the bill provides some progress in its recognition of the economic imperative of thousands of non-productive citizens who will now be challenged to enter the work force, its major weakness is the absence of any limitation on numbers included in the exemption.

The vote pointed to the new shape of Israeli politics in the post-peace era. Much to the chagrin of the religious parties, the Likud voted against the bill, thereby aligning itself with the secular opposition of Meretz and Shinui. And in Barak's own party, numerous MKs would have voted likewise, if not for the party discipline imposed on them. What many political observers have identified as a secular-traditional axis in Israeli politics, that crosses party lines and is the shape of the future, was apparent last week.

Much can happen along the way from first to final reading. The bill that was passed will likely not be the one to return after committee hearings and beyond. But Barak will never be forgiven for being the sponsor of the bill that legitimized the very practice that angers and unites his supporters and the Israeli secular community more than any other.

A new Birthright Jewish studies program

I would like to propose a new Birthright Jewish Studies program, similar in purpose to the exciting Birthright Israel program launched this past year.

Bithright Israel takes thousands of North American Jews aged 18 to 26, who have not been on an organized Israel trip, on an intensive, free, 10-day tour of Israel.

Marion Weinfeld in Montreal

Initial reports of the experience have been very positive, and it has succeeded beyond all expectations.

The basic idea of these trips is to offer a material incentive – a free trip – to help raise Jewish identity. My proposal builds on that basic model.

I suggest the use of material incentives to encourage the same target group of students and young adults to complete Jewish studies courses.

Taking a Jewish studies course is no guarantee of a future Jewish commitment. Nevertheless, the large majority of professors are positive Jewish role models. Most of the students taking these courses have positive Jewish identities.

A typical course is spread out over 13 weeks. Such a course exposes students to the intellectual breadth and depth of the Jewish heritage. It complements the experiential dimension of a trip to Israel. While it can never replace Birthright Israel, there would be synergistic benefits for both.

Apart from the intrinsic benefit of more students taking Jewish studies courses, this idea has advantages from a communal perspective as well. It is inexpensive on a per participant basis. There are almost no start-up costs and indeed no marginal costs. There are no tours to be organized. The university courses are already on the books, the classes are being given, but they are not full.

One option would be to link Birthright Jewish Studies and Birthright Israel directly. The easiest way – and one with no extra cost – would be to set as a condition for taking the trip completing a recognized university Jewish studies course, for those applicants still at school.

Those who have graduated could complete a recognized Jewish adult education course offered by a synagogue or by the local Jewish community.

Most university students have to take elective courses, regardless of their major. Why not Jewish studies?

Charles Bronfman, Michael Steinhardt, and other visionary founders of Birthright Israel have been adamantly opposed to setting any conditions for participation.

There is something inspiring about making this trip available at no cost and with no strings attached, particularly as an effort to reach uncommitted Jews. But apparently 9,000 applicants were turned away while close to 6,000 were selected for the trip.

Setting such a condition might help select those who want the trip most, or might make best use of it. Another possibility is to make this program available to those students not chosen for Birthright Israel.

But there is no need for any link with Birthright Israel, which after all has enjoyed a remarkably successful first year.

Here is a second, stand-alone option. Consider a program that would pay Jewish students a fellowship for taking Jewish studies courses. This is not far-fetched. Many yeshivot and their charitable supporters do precisely that.

Suppose the payment is $300 per course, up to a maximum of two courses per student during their university career. The maximum outlay per student would be $600, less than the estimated $1,800 US cost per Israel trip. That would buy the student 26 weeks of a Jewish intellectual experience.

Such programs could be administered by Hillels and/or federations. This program would give philanthropists interested in Jewish studies another option, apart from the important one of endowing Chairs.

They could also endow fellowship funds to increase the supply of students taking the courses. Assuming there are 50,000 students currently taking Jewish studies courses in North America – that would work out to $15 million per year.

There are various ways to vary the fee schedule, including a kind of lottery if the demand – the additional Jewish studies enrolments – became too high. The details need not be resolved here. The annual cost of Birthright Israel is estimated at $60 million and the benefits flow to fewer students.

The purpose here is to lay out the basic principle. Birthright Jewish Studies is a low-cost insurance policy, which would enhance the impact of the Israel trips. A high-quality trip to Israel, combined with one or two Jewish studies courses, would be a formidable combination for previously marginal Jews.

These courses are like airplanes flying with empty seats. Why not fill them up?

Russian Jews transform a community

Germany's Jewish community is being radically transformed by newcomers from the former Soviet Union. But the immigrants, admitted under a special quota, are struggling with a panoply of problems, notably catastrophic joblessness which consigns them to the purgatory of welfare rolls.

Sheldon Kirshner in Germany

In the past decade, upwards of 113,000 Russians, the vast majority from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Odessa, Kiev and Riga, have settled here. They are drawn primarily by the promise of prosperity and a brighter future for themselves and their children, by cultural and climatic similarities, and by generous social benefits.

Of these, 55,000 are halachically Jews, though less than half of them have Jewish spouses. The remainder are not considered Jewish. However, under Israel's more liberal Law of Return they are Jews, according to Judith Kessler, a Berlin-based specialist on Russian Jews in Germany.

As German officials are fond of saying, Germany is not an immigration country. Nevertheless, seven million foreigners, mainly Turks, live here. Only two groups, ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe and Russian Jews, enjoy seemingly limitless access to, as well as preferential treatment in, Germany.

Judith Kessler

"There are no limits," said Kessler, referring to the number of Russian Jews who will be allowed to settle in Germany in the coming years. By all accounts, an additional 30,000 to 40,000 Russians already have applied for German visas, usually a two-year process.

Germany's open-door policy, a function of the historical debt it owes to Jews after the Holocaust, has dramatically changed the Jewish community in terms of size and national complexion.

Prior to 1990, Germany was home to about 30,000 Jews, most of them Holocaust survivors from Poland, Hungary and Romania, and growth had slowed. Now, thanks to the Russian influx, there are approximately 100,000 Jews, 80,000 of whom are officially registered as such.

This means that 70 percent of registered Jews in Germany today are of recent Russian origin, a figure that would have been inconceivable before the Soviet Union liberalized its immigration policy in the late 1980s.

"Without the Russians, the community would have declined quite a lot," said Michael Brenner, a professor of Jewish history at Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich and the son of a Polish Jewish father. "Without them, there would not have been a future. They enrich the community, though not all of them will stay in it."

Rabbi Walter Rothschild, a native of England who has worked in Berlin since 1998, agrees with Brenner's assessment. "In a way," he observed, "they're the hope of the community."

Russians began streaming into Germany before its reunification in 1990. They regarded Germany as a land of opportunity where anti-Semitism was not a serious problem and where Jews were given a generous head start, said Susan Stern, a Frankfurt writer who settled in Germany 30 years ago.

Over Israel's objections, Heinz Galinski, the late leader of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, encouraged the German government to accept the refugees.

His successor, Ignatz Bubis, who died last summer, walked a fine line. "We do not invite Russian Jews to come to Germany," he explained, "but if they come, we do what we can to help them."

Jewish Agency emissaries in Germany still troll for Russians, but not as aggressively as they once did. Certainly, they have failed to lure back 500 Russians who left Israel during the height of the 1991 Gulf War, when Iraqi Scud missiles were crashing into Israeli cities with terrifying thuds.

Under a 1991 agreement between the federal government and the 16 lander (states), Russian Jews are resettled throughout Germany. The net result is that some 15,000 Russians can now be found in eastern German towns such as Rostock, Dresden, Erfurt, Potsdam, Leipzig and Halle, which had no Jews or hardly any following World War II.

"In some towns," said Kessler, who was born in Gdansk, Poland, and moved to the old German Democratic Republic in 1971, "100 percent of the Jewish population is Russian."

Moishe Waks

Eligible for citizenship after seven years, the Russians receive social and housing assistance, language lessons, job retraining and unemployment benefits. In an effort to acclimatize them to local conditions, Jewish communities provide further help in the form of extra language training and religious socialization.

Paul Spiegel, the current chair of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, has said that the government can do more to assist the newcomers, two-thirds of whom hold university degrees.

Asked to cite deficiencies, Kessler ticked off a litany of woes. German language classes have been cut back to six months from one year. Skills-upgrading classes need to be expanded, given the Russians' 80 percent unemployment rate. Programs for the elderly, who comprise a third of the Russian population, are insufficient.

Relief, however, is not in sight. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, a cost cutter, said recently that increased payments to aid in the absorption of new immigrants cannot be expected at a time of fiscal austerity.

For Russians struggling with demoralizing joblessness, this represents a major blow. Kessler, whose task it is to co-ordinate vocational training and language classes for the Russians, empathizes with their plight.

"Many have non-transferable professions and qualifications which do not meet German standards. Most will not find jobs in their field. Very often, they have unrealistic expectations."

A handful, ground down by an inability to adapt and by sheer rejection, have given up and gone back to Russia.

Moishe Waks, vice-president of Berlin's community, said that the Russians have yet to establish themselves economically. Many, too, have difficulty learning German. "And they are far away from Jewish life," he added.

When they arrive, the Russians, having been raised in a secular and atheistic milieu, possess little or no knowledge of Judaism and Jewish culture and history. In some cases, they do not even care to learn.

This problem is all the more acute in smaller, more remote communities that cannot afford to integrate the Russians into the Jewish mainstream.

It might be best if they were consolidated into five or 10 larger communities that could better bolster their identity as Jews, said an official with an American educational foundation in Berlin who prefers to remain anonymous.

Xenia Fuchs

"Russian Jews should be free to live where they want," said Kessler, explaining that they are forced to reside in towns and cities chosen by the government during their first two years of residency in Germany.

Despite the problems which currently depress and weigh them down, the Russians probably have a good shot at establishing themselves in Germany.

"Younger Russians have no difficulty adapting," said Kessler, an opinion shared by Rabbi Rothschild. "The kids of Russians will probably feel more comfortable. They're not carrying the same angst as their parents."

Xenia Fuchs, a 17-year-old student from Moscow who has lived in Berlin for the past nine years, summed it up: "I feel comfortable here."

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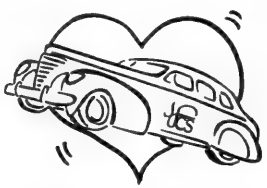

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Jewish Life

Jewish weddings – part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last time, I looked at some of the many Jewish wedding resources on the Internet. Today, one of the most beautiful and distinctive features of a Jewish wedding is the chupah or wedding canopy.

First the chupah's origins. We find two biblical references to chupahs: Psalm 19:6 compares the rising sun to a groom's radiance as he exits his chupah **[http://www.breslov.com/ref/Psalms19.htm]**; and Joel 2:16 exhorts a bride to leave her chupah, and the groom his wedding "room," to ask Divine forgiveness and avert national disaster **[http://www.breslov.com/ref/Joel2.htm]**.

According to the Jewish Wedding site, the chupah, open on all four sides, "is reminiscent of Abraham, our forefather's house which had entrances on all four sides in order to warmly welcome any approaching guests." **[http://dcubed.com/ajw /four.html]**.

In his essay, *Huppah: From Eden to Today*, Eliezer Segal explains that today's weddings under the chupah harken back to the "paradigm of all weddings: the Revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai. In the biblical account of the marriage between God and the people of Israel our sages also discovered allusions to the presence of a chupah, whether in the enveloping cloud of darkness that hovered over the people, or in the fact that the Israelites, about to enter into their marriage with God, were made to stand 'beneath the mountain' – just as the bride stands beneath the sheltering chupah on her wedding day." **[http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/Weddings_Index.html]**.

Although couples dream for perfection under the chupah, reality often is more difficult. Rabbi Ari Cartun, former Hillel rabbi at Stanford University, looks at those issues in *Under the Chupah: Divorced Parents, Non-Jews, and Photographers* **[http://www.stanford.edu/ group/hillel/Being_Jewish/weddings.html]**. Rabbi Cartun suggests that "There are two ways to approach the problem of divorced parents and the chupah: keep everyone out or bring everyone in.

"You can have no one stand under the chupah but the officiant(s), the couple, and maybe the best man and woman... Or, should you want your parents there with you, then add siblings and friends, too. It is good to place siblings between squabbling divorced parents. I do not recommend including divorced parents' new partners under the chupah's fringe unless they are personally meaningful to you, or unless both parents are re-coupled, and they all get along."

There are many online sites where you can view and order your chupah such as e-chuppah **[http://www.e-chuppah.com/chuppah_home.htm]** and chuppah.com **[http://www.chuppah.com]**. But Marc Cardinalli and his wife found a more personal approach **[http://www.ohr.org.il/ask/ask269.htm#PD]**. "We asked our friends to decorate a 1-foot square piece of 100 percent cotton cloth with any memories, thoughts, words, pictures, whatever they thought. My bride-to-be took the squares to a seamstress who put them all together onto an old family heirloom square about 8 foot by 8 foot. We lost my mother last year, but her chupah square remains as a lasting memory of her. We have hung our chupah on our wall so we can see it every day. Someday, perhaps, our children will get married under the family chupah."

Next time, another enduring tradition from the chupah: the ketubah.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home.co

History at our doorstep

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

During this month, Tammuz, there is a minor fast that occurs on the 17th day. Tradition tells us that on this day the walls of Jerusalem were breached by both Nebuchadnezzar (586 BCE) and Titus (70 CE) marking the beginning of the end of Jewish political sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Three weeks later, the Temple was destroyed. Some Jews believe that since Jerusalem was reunited in 1967, there is no longer a need to fast on the 17th of Tammuz. Yet the Mishnah tells of another event that also occurred on this day.

According to the Mishnah (Ta'anit 4:6), Moses broke the first tablets of the Ten Commandments on the 17th of Tammuz. This act was in response to Israel's sin of worshipping the golden calf.

According to the Torah, Moses was delayed in returning from Mount Sinai and Israel assumed he was dead. At the nation's insistence, Aaron agreed to fashion a golden calf and Israel declared it the Israelite god, worshipping it in pagan fashion.

Seeing the idolatrous activities of Israel, Moses is told to quickly descend because God is planning to destroy all of Israel. Moses convinces God to relent on this decree and thereby saves the nation. According to the midrash, Moses presents a rather daring argument to God.

In the midrash, Rabbi Huna argues that the situation can be likened to a sage who opens a perfume store for his son on the street where the harlots conduct their business. One day the sage catches his son with a prostitute and yells: "'I'll kill him!'" The sage's friend is with him and he rebukes the sage by asking him what he expected. The father is reminded that he chose the perfume business and located the shop amidst the harlots. Why is he then surprised at the outside influence that his son embraced?

Likewise, Moses reminds God that it was God's choice to enslave Israel in Egypt amidst idolaters. Why does God then blame Israel for embracing outside practices and forgetting their own beliefs?

The 17th of Tammuz may seem to be a day forgotten by history. The two events mentioned have very different venues. The political threat to Jerusalem occurs within the land of Israel while the influence of foreign powers occurs outside of the land. The armies of ancient Assyria and Rome seem distant to us, but the controversies over the politics of Jerusalem are still very real.

For the moment, we live in a time with a geographically unified Jerusalem and strong Jewish convictions, but the fate of Jerusalem is not a certainty.

The Israeli government has been saying that it is committed to maintaining Jerusalem intact, come what may. Yet there are those who believe that it is simply a city and should be part of a negotiated settlement. The venue is the land of Israel; the event is the dialogue of history.

The second event of the 17th of Tammuz occurs outside the land of Israel. Today we live in strong Jewish communities among foreign peoples and beliefs, and outside cultures clearly have an effect on us.

The external influence is both positive and negative. Society at large reminds us of our responsibilities to the human community. However, at times it remains a struggle to sort out what is the Jewish way to function secularly.

We need one day a year to remind us that Jerusalem's walls may still be breached. One day a year to remember that outside cultures have strong influences and we could still end up worshipping the golden calf.

Jewish Life

Nashira Shabbat: outreach for young adults

By BRAM AARON

A new outreach program is bringing the voices of young Jewish adults together for a unique kind of Shabbat experience.

Since February, on the second Friday evening of every month, Nashira Shabbat has brought together Jews in their 20s and 30s from across the Greater Toronto Area to worship, sing and socialize together.

Guest Voice

Based on similar programs in the United States, Nashira Shabbat was established by Rabbi Yael Splansky, associate rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple, and her planning committee of young people from diverse Jewish backgrounds. The committee recognized a gap in worship opportunities and social programming for young Jews who may have moved out of their parents' homes or finished school, but who don't yet have their own families.

"That leaves those critical years when people can feel detached from the synagogue. Often, there isn't – or people feel there isn't – a lot of outreach during those years, and that's where we come in," Rabbi Splansky says.

"I think young people want something authentically Jewish that lets them express their Jewish identity in both individual and collective ways. I think they already have many good study opportunities, like Kolel in Toronto, but they may lack opportunity to worship with peers in an intimate and non-threatening environment, and that's what we wanted to provide."

Ellen Lefkowitz, 28, is a Nashira Shabbat committee member. An educator at Leo Baeck Day School, she believes prayer and worship are important parts of the Jewish life cycle at any age.

"I wanted a comfortable space to pray, and there are very few places that have attracted young people to pray," she says. "I love being part of a community that worships and celebrates Shabbat together, and it's certainly something I want to continue when I have a family. Nashira Shabbat helps to introduce that tradition to people who aren't comfortable doing it completely on their own."

Lefkowitz says the synagogue can be a place where many young people feel alienated. "Prayer is often associated with bad experiences. Perhaps they only remember what they knew from Hebrew school, which they were forced into by their parents," she says.

"There are a lot of young people out there who want to shape their own Jewish identities, and the opportunity to pray with people who are looking for a similar outlet is very comforting and encouraging."

Kevin Zeilig, 28, is another Nashira Shabbat committee member. "I think there are many young people in the Toronto area who want to get involved in Jewish or synagogue life, but they need some encouragement, and it's much more comfortable to take that journey with others in a similar situation," says Zeilig. "I think sometimes our spirituality isn't quite developed, and this service can help people who have that inkling."

The liberal, egalitarian service is for young Jews from all denominations, even the unaffiliated. Its focus is on participatory singing. "The structure is not that different from a lot of other services," says Zeilig.

During the service, various committee members give relevant readings and Rabbi Splansky explains the importance of the prayers and readings.

"I think a lot of times, in congregations, prayer loses its spirituality and becomes rigid and confining. The rabbi tends to perform the prayers for the congregation," Lefkowitz says. "Rather than the congregation praying for themselves, they're just kind of passively observing. We wanted to get people away from that and get them involved in the service."

In Hebrew, Nashira Shabbat literally means "Let us sing Shabbat," but the committee prefers to interpret it as "bringing our voices together."

"We hope Nashira Shabbat provides something meaningful and relevant for each individual, and helps add to the prayer world voices which are not always heard," Lefkowitz says.

In the fall, Nashira Shabbat will rove to other Toronto-area synagogues, including the Narayever, but "Holy Blossom felt that because of its central location and physical size, it should provide the facility" at first, says Rabbi Splansky.

Nashira Shabbat has so far been well received; average attendance is 60 to 80 people.

"People are really singing. There's great ruach in the room," Rabbi Splansky says.

"The consensus has been very positive," Lefkowitz adds.

It has been so positive that UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto has approved funding to allow Nashira Shabbat to continue and enable the committee to expand programming to educational and social events.

The next Nashira Shabbat service is at 7:30 p.m. July 14, at Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst St. Future services will be on Aug. 11 and Sept. 15. For more information, call 416-789-3291, ext. 529.

Marty, Avrum make keeping kosher easy

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Marty Galin and Avrum Rosensweig took their passion for food and turned it into a magazine column, a radio and television show and a line of kosher food products.

The pair, who met at a Passover seder 14 years ago, now write a column for the Mississauga-based magazine *Hot Toronto,* host a Saturday evening radio show on CFRB that attracts about 25,000 listeners, and have their label, Marty and Avrum Eat Here, on a range of food products including pretzels, sorbet, individual cheesecakes and pasta.

They recently met with ONtv to finalize the details for a television show which will have them going out to different functions, looking at the food being served, and coming back to the studio to cook the dish. As well, together with Unico Foods, they are planning a cookbook featuring 12 chefs.

Galin and Rosensweig started up the line of pasta, manufactured by Pasta Quistini, after owner Elena Quistini appeared on their radio show. "We had an instant connection and we decided to do pasta together," says Galin.

Quistini designed the label and created three kinds of pasta-cheese ravioli with sun-dried tomato pesto; vegetable tortellini with black olive pesto and gnocchi with herb and garlic pesto. "We married the sauce and pasta to create a quick – they're ready in about five minutes – easy, kosher [under cor]

Marty Galin and Avrum Rosensweig

main dish, and at about $3.99 for two dinners, it's selling at a good price."

She also created three flavours of pizzeli (cracker-like cookies) – tutti frutti, strawberry with chocolate drizzle, and lemon and anise – and is planning to co-package a line of soups.

Galin, a former actor, says the number one rule about their food products is that "we have to like them. If we don't find them tasty, we won't put our names on them. Consumers don't give products a second chance.

"The first time I saw our picture on a product, I felt an enormous responsibility. If our name is there, I want people to be happy. Our products are personality driven, and we are passionate about them. I want people to smile when they see our picture," he says.

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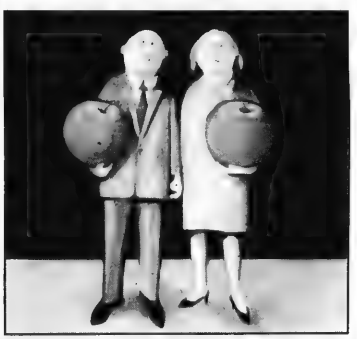

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Greater Toronto Area

Camp Naivelt celebrates its 75th anniversary

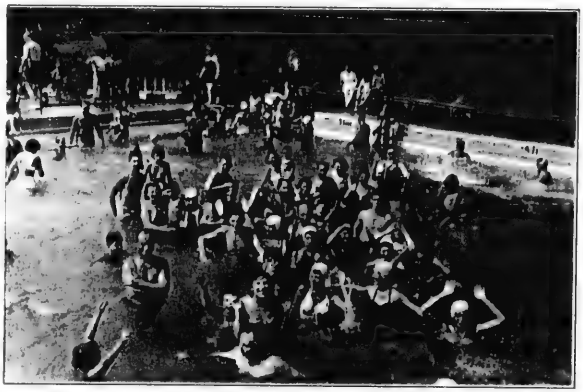
By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When Camp Naivelt celebrates its 75th anniversary on Aug. 6, it will be a coming together of people whose lives were touched indelibly by the camp, say reunion organizers.

Then known as Kinderland, the camp first began in a cottage as a children's camp run by the Jewish Women's Labour League, a secular Jewish organization, in order to keep their children off the streets during the summer.

Within the first few years, the Labour League took over running the camp, and adults began setting up tents nearby.

In 1936, it bought the present El Dorado site near Brampton. Members of United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) – it emerged from the Labour League – contributed $5 each for a share in the property, borrowing money from their credit union to raise funds for the down payment, and some 90 cottages were built on the site near the children's camp. At its peak in the 1930s,'40s and '50s, Camp Kinderland served over 300 children each summer, adults came to Naivelt for the weekend by the busload, and the dining room served three meals a day.



Some of Camp Naivelt's original campers.

The organization closed the overnight camp in 1962, and a daycamp continued until 1971. But adults have always come to the camp over the summer.

Despite some difficult times, and some decline in population, Naivelt continued, and today there has been a revival, says Maxine Hermolin, executive director, UJPO, whose family has been part of the camp for several generations.

"It is a thriving community of young families who have come to love the connection with a Yiddishkeit with which they can identify," says Hermolin.

David Abramowitz, who has been at camp since he was one year old, said that living there for the summer was a "whole lifestyle. There was a shtetl-like setting. Adults, mostly working people, would pitch tents for the weekends and feel part of the community."

The values and philosophy of the camp – social justice, secularism, Yiddishkeit and a concern for humanity – were taught in a variety of ways, Hermolin says.

"In the beginning, they promoted better working conditions, the formation of trade unions, civil rights and medicare. Now, we fight for the homeless, youth at risk, native Canadians, and anti-racism.

"This is not only formal support. There are people who give their time and hands-on support," she says.

Ester Reiter, an associate professor at York University, says that the reunion is a day of rejoicing, and an opportunity for people to think about what the camp meant to them.

"Most campers came away from camp with a lifelong gut feeling that to be Jewish is to care about issues beyond yourself. That was a constant throughout the generations."

There were stories of fun, she said, but the fun had a unique centre.

Lee Schecter, whose family has been connected with the camp since 1933 when she was a camper, says that "the camp created something that stays in our memories; memories that are deep and wonderful. Both the camp's philosophy and the friendships have endured."

Many of the professionals who have emerged from camp have gone on to work in humanitarian areas, says Rita Bergman who has been at camp since 1935, and whose father built one of the first permanent cottages from a wooden garage. "The philosophy has carried with them into their professional life."

Hermolin said that among the talent that emerged from camp included folksingers The Travellers; Sharon Hampson of Sharon, Lois and Bram; songwriter Eddie Schwartz; and Zal Yanovsky of the Lovin' Spoonful. Pete Seeger and Phil Ochs appeared at camp in concert.

"Camp Naivelt today is a diverse mix of people – artists, social activists, lawyers, teachers, retirees and babies."

The reunion will include a concert featuring The Travellers, songs, sports, stories and a campfire.

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1020

Former Maritime Jews hold picnic in Toronto

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — They may live in Toronto now, but their hearts are in the Maritimes where they were born and lived for many years.

About 50 Jewish Maritimers recently attended a picnic in Earl Bales Park, where they traded memories. A torrential downpour earlier in the day had left pools of water but did not dampen their spirits.

Friendly rivalry between Cape Bretoners and Newfoundlanders enlivened the scene. For example, both Larry Nathanson, volunteer program director at Baycrest Terrace, who is from St. John's, and Dr. Samuel Newman, a periodontist from Sydney, insisted that each one was the host of the picnic.

Newman and Nathanson had worked together to organize the get together.

Nathanson's brother, Danny, was once mayor of New Waterford in Cape Breton, Larry Nathanson said.

In fact, there were 250 Jewish families in the Cape Breton communities of Sydney, Glace Bay and New Waterford in 1935 when coal was being mined five miles out into the Atlantic Ocean, said Dr. Philip Simon, a dentist and former president of the Cape Breton Jewish Club, who has retired and lives in Toronto. Now it is hard to find a minyan in Glace Bay, he added.

Of the five synagogues in that area at that time, only two, one in Glace Bay and one in Sydney, remain, according to Newman.

The large number of Toronto physicians, dentists, engineers and other professionals who are former Maritimers also included Dr. Doug Wilansky, a family practitioner, and Lou Kirsh, originally of Moncton, N.B., an engineer with the federal government in Ottawa for 30 years, who were among the early arrivals at the picnic.

Another guest was Moishe Kantorowitz, a Holocaust survivor from St. John's who was awarded an honorary doctorate by Memorial University there for his Holocaust education work. He arrived in Newfoundland before it became part of Canada on April 1, 1949, a move which led to friendly arguments among the Maritimers. Some still don't think it was a good idea.

"Our parents were immigrants who worked hard to earn a dollar and wanted their children to get a higher education," said Newman. Many Maritimers were descendants of mishpachah from the United States, attracted to the bustling area by relatives who were doing well, he said.

The picnic invitation bore the Gaelic motto, *Ciad Mile Failte* (A Thousand Welcomes) since so many Maritimers rubbed shoulders with Scottish folk who spoke Gaelic. Many Jews in Cape Breton and other parts of Nova Scotia learned to speak Gaelic to do business when they went from farm to farm.

Not to be outdone, Newfoundlanders have their own welcoming expression: "Long may your big jib draw," according to Robert Reitman, a young Toronto lawyer, who hails from St. John's.

Other guests included Shila and Sholom Auerbach, who had married in Israel before coming to the Maritimes, and their children, Philip, 8, and Danielle, 6.

Gloria Houser of St. John's came with her husband Cyril, a retired Toronto chartered accountant.

Jim and Betty O'Dell of Glace Bay joined their Jewish friends at the picnic, and remember the giant coal mines in that area. Jim said the rivalry between Cape Breton and Nova Scotia was so intense that a whole busload of people entering the connecting causeway was once held up for hours because a Cape Bretoner insisted on being identified as such, and not as a Nova Scotian.

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* * *

Bloorview Macmillan Centre is looking for volunteers to help at Play and Learn, a summer program for preschool children, some with disabilities. Program located at Eglinton and Spadina runs weekday mornings until mid-August. Activities include helping with with arts and crafts and snack times. Contact Volunteer Centre of Toronto, York branch, 416-781-0902.

* * *

Train to become an educational puppeteer. An eight-week training program begins in August. Volunteers must memorize scripts, work well with teammates, have a dramatic flair, speak in a clear, strong voice and perform for young people in a school setting. Commitment is for one half-day per week for the school year. Contact Volunteer Centre of Toronto, North York branch, 416-631-6117

* * *

Les Centres d'accueil, an agency offering housing, community services, and long-term care to francophone adults in the Toronto area, is looking for French speaking volunteers to fill the following positions: friendly visiting (visit someone who is lonely – take a walk, write a letter or simply sit and chat); bingo assistant (greet clients, sell bingo cards, call the numbers in English and French); escort (accompany or transport clients to medical appointments or shopping). Call Le Centre d'action bénévole 416-927-0254.

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Greater Toronto Area

The Bubies and Zaidies have fun with dance group

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to the CJN

TORONTO – You are as old as you feel. And when the performing group of seniors called the Bubies and Zaidies sing and dance, they feel young.

"Some performers tell me that when they feel terrible, when the music starts, they forget their aches and pains," says Fred Field, 79, who organized the group more than 10 years ago and serves as master of ceremonies and director.

"So, when we perform, mostly for seniors, I tell our audience that when they participate, it will make them feel good."

The Bubies and Zaidies, who rehearse weekly, present a one hour musical entertainment program of song, dance and humour, says Field. "It is totally uplifting in nature, and where possible, we involve our audience – and the Bubies and Zaidies enjoy their applause and smiles."

Kitty Cohen performs at the Wagman Centre.

The group performs in the Toronto area—the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Briton House, Pine Villa, Terrace Gardens, Forrest Hill Place, Saranac Senior Residence, Westbury United Church, Lansing Residence, and many others.

Field says that when he retired from his fur business, he wanted to find a way to express himself. He was a drama pupil at the Bathurst Community Centre for five years when he formed Bubies and Zaidies.

With initial funding from a government program called New Horizons, they were able to purchase sound equipment. They are now fully self-sufficient and not affiliated with any organization.

At a recent rehearsal, the troupe of some 15 ranging in age from 65 to almost 90, belted out the joyous music of *Aroom Dem Fire, Rozinkes Mit Mandlen, A Little Bit of Mazel, Take Me Out to the Ballgame, When the Saints Come Marching In,* as well as other tunes which filled the auditorium of a seniors' residence on Bathurst at Lawrence Avenue.

Tom Weiss works with Field on the arrangements and plays the accompaniment on the piano. Murray Kaye plays the concertina and Bunny Jacobson assists as back-up on the piano. Guest tenor is Ray Evans.

Ben Rosenberg, who has been with the Bubies and Zaidies for two years and serves as the stage manager, told *The CJN* that he enjoys singing with the group and "I look forward to coming each week – it is a nice sociable group."

Rose Gerry, who also joined two years ago says the group is "like coming for therapy. It lifts me up. And there is so much talent."

She adds that she "loves show biz" and also volunteers with the performing group at the Hospital for Sick Children.

The solo dancers in the group (they also sing) are Kittie Cohen, 87, Marion Green, 80, and Gerry who says about her age, "I am the youngest of the dancers."

Some of the others in the chorus include, Frank Goldblatt, Ruth Bleiwas, Sam Day, Gertrude Sax, Mike Glayt, Frank Harris and Edith Stillman.

Field says that he is the leader because "in a secret meeting, I was voted in as the member with the least amount of talent – so I became the producer and director. I am also responsible for bringing in the cookies for our coffee break at our weekly rehearsals.

"They are a great group of people and I get much satisfaction from working with them," Field adds. "Many of them also do wonderful volunteer work in the community."

As the rehearsal ended, the group belted out the spirited *Halleluya*. Their vitality and enthusiasm declared that this is exactly the way these bubies and zaidies felt – and they are happy to share their joy with others.

BBYO LEADERS: BBYO recently held elections for the 2000-2001 program year. Seen here is Elaine Raifman, Council N'Siah, and Brandon Kovshoff, Council Godol.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER
What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, July 17, is deadline for July 27 issue and Monday, July 24 is deadline for Aug. 3 issue. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Friday, July 14

SINGLES ONEG SHABBAT
Inter-Synagogue Singles Oneg Shabbat features **Rabbi Yossi Sapirman** speaking on The Deli-Lama, What Jewish Humour Reveals About Jews. 8 p.m., Beth Torah Synagogue. For information, **Mollie** 733-3634.

Wednesday, July 19

ENJOY SUMMER WITH LAF
LAF (Lively After Fifty), Jewish Women International, entertaining and educational afternoon beginning with lunch at noon followed at 2 p.m. by a guided tour at the Royal Ontario Museum of The Arts of the Sikh Kingdom. Exhibit features textiles, paintings, weapons reflecting history of the Punjab Region during Sikh rule.Tour $9.50. Attendance by pre-paid reservation only. RSVP **Bettie Raibmon** 905-881-4213.

45 & LOVING IT!
Non-traditional Jewish Women International group guided tour of the Gardiner Museum of Ceramics. Tour begins 6:15 p.m. Dinner follows. Tour admission $11. Attendance by pre-paid reservation only. Reserve by July 14, 630-9313. (leave message if necessary).

Thursday, July 20

BETH RADOM SISTERHOOD
Beth Radom Synagogue Sisterhood meets 8 p.m. Guest speaker is **Alvin Abram**, author and storyteller. $10 per person. RSVP synagogue 636-3451.

Wednesday, July 26

MAN TO MAN
Man To Man and Side By Side prostate cancer awareness meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m, Civic Garden Centre, Garden Auditorium, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Agenda: Building a Partnership With Your Family Doctor presented by **Dr. James S. Rodgerson**, Humber Regional Hospital, and Advances in Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research with **Dr. John Trachtenberg**, Princess Margaret/Toronto Hospitals. 932-8820.

And What Else Is New

FOR CHILDREN, AGES 3-6
The Jewish Youth Learning Centre presents Jewish arts and crafts and storytelling for ages 3-6, Sundays July 16, 23 and 30 from 1-3 p.m. at the Albert and Temmy Latner Library in the Lipa Green Building. Reserve. **Rabbi Danny Bahar** 827-5952 or TAP-JYLC.

STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP
Jewish Vocational Service Study Skills Workshop for students in grades 7, 8, and 9, Aug. 28-31. This is a 3-morning workshop highlighting topics such as test-taking, time management, note-taking, essay writing and more. Students will learn work habits that will improve their school success. The last morning of the workshop will teach parents how to reinforce these study skills. Cost is $150. Classes held at 74 Tycos Dr. To register, call **Pat** at 787-1151.

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL
Saturday morning services are being conducted in the country home of **Leslie** and **Anna Dan** in Atherley (east of Orillia). Guest leaders: July 29, **Lionel Sharpe;** Aug. 5, **Rabbi Loewinger;** Aug. 12, **Cantor Tom Schwartz;** Aug. 19, **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**; Aug. 26, **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld.** 705-327-7069.

YIDDISH CLASSES
Semester of 10 lessons begins

Continued on page 19

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What's New

Continued from page 18

the first week of September at Adath Israel Congregation 635-5340. By popular request, a beginners class as well as intermediate class, both taught by **David Newman**. Register early for either class as both classes will be filled early. **Louis Gula** 495-0919.

VENDORS WANTED

For craft and gift sale being held at Bayview Shopping Centre (Sheppard and Bayview) Monday, Sept. 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Under the auspices of Beersheba Club, Na'amat Canada. 636-5425 days, or **Ruth Jacobson** 493-1089.

RESOURCE CENTRE

The Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. **Bernice Friedman** 905-882-8509.

Meet early intervention specialist **Joan**, and discover how to occupy your children with summer activities that are both fun and educational, Wednesday, July 19, 1-4 p.m.

Summer Splash Tuesday, July 18 and Dress-up Disney Day Tuesday, July 25. Activities all day.

Shabbat party every Thursday 11:30 a.m. to noon.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors special event, To Our Good Health, Thursday, July 27, Earl Bales Community Centre 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Various speakers and **Nat Garnick**, line dancing, free drinks and dessert. Bring a brown bag lunch. Free to members, guests $3. Reserve. **Goldie** 635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club Casino Rama July 19, Aug. 2, 16, 30; Catskills trip to Paramount Hotel July 23-30; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23. Line dancing Tuesday mornings during July and August. 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: *Damn Yankees* at Drayton Festival Theatre Aug. 22; Painting classes every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. **Lena** 785-5773.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. July 13, lecture, Absorption of Newcomers to Israel, **Ofer Isarov**; July 20, bingo; July 27, Israeli comedy movie. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

LZA Seniors picnic, scheduled for July 18, has been cancelled. Dance classes take place every Thursday 1:30 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Senior's Cultural Club meets every Tuesday 10 a.m. in the boardroom. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Young at Heart Seniors vacation at kosher Raleigh Hotel July 28-Aug. 6, everything included. **Helen** 635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

A Midsummer Night's Dance Sunday, July 16, 7:30 p.m. Members $5, non-members $7.

Brain Aerobics Millennium Edition, stimulate your mind, enhance your memory, improve your concentration and problem-solving skills Thursdays July 13, 20, 27, 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Joan** ext. 126.

Healthy Cooking with **Andrea Sturk,** dietician/nutritionist, Tuesday, July 18, 1:15 p.m.

Literary Luncheon featuring *To Die in Spring*, reviewed by the author **Sylvia Moultash-Warsh**, Wednesday July 19, noon to 2:30 p.m. Members $10, non-members $12. Tickets at ticket sales desk. **Bookie Kwart** ext. 116.

Arthritis Management Clinic with therapist **Bev Tobe** Thursday, July 20, 1-4 p.m. Make appointment ext. 131.

Understanding Labels on Foods and Supplements with holistic nutritionist **Fran Chodek** Thursday, July 20, 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Osteoporosis Support Group focuses on Calcium for a Lifetime Beyond Bone Health. Highlights of proceedings of the recent conference sponsored by the Dairy Farmers of Ontario will be discussed Tuesday, July 25, 1-3 p.m. **Joan Turner** resource person.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. July 18, lecture; July 25, summer party. **Anna** ext. 110.

Sunday 8 p.m. movies, *Steel Magnolias* July 16, and *Double Jeopardy* July 23.

ABOUT PEOPLE

REGIONAL APPOINTMENT

Nancy Chowet of Montreal has been appointed the new Eastern Regional representative of the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science. Chowet, a graduate of McGill University with a BA and a major in psychology, also holds a certificate in women's studies from Vanier College. She has been an active member of the Montreal community, has travelled to Israel and has held numerous volunteer positions within the B'nai Brith Youth Organization.

HONORARY DEGREE: York University recently conferred an honorary degree upon Aharon Barak, president of the Supreme Court of Israel. Gerald Sheff and the firm of Gluskin Sheff and Associates hosted a luncheon on behalf of York University's Centre for Jewish Studies to provide an opportunity for invited guests to meet Barak. Pictured above (from left) Marshall Cohen, chair, Board of Governors, York University; Julia Koschitzky, chair, Centre for Jewish Studies, Advisory Committee; Aharon Barak; Gerald Sheff; Michael Brown, director, York's Centre for Jewish Studies.

DJDS COMPLETES SECOND YEAR: Downtown Jewish Day School staff recently marked the completion of the school's second year. Pictured from left are: (back row) teachers Gaby Fridman, Janice Feldman, Brenda Enchin, Debbie Cohen; (front row) supervisor Laila Lipetz, director Joan Schoenfeld, administrator Doris Weisz. The DJDS began with 10 students in September 1998, more than tripled in 1999 and has over 50 students registered for September 2000. For information, phone 924-6211.

IN MEMORY: Club Savoy, which evolved from the pre-World War II Jewish Boys Club, disbanded over 55 years ago, yet from time to time former members gather for a reunion. Now, as one or two pass away, "the boys" remember each other in a unique way. In memory of Eddie Cutler, who operated Cutler Forest Products (wholesale lumber) for more than 30 years, they donated a MacIntosh computer for a children's computer area at the Albert and Temmy Latner Jewish Public Library. Eddie's wife Ruth (left) and daughter Jill are seen here at the presentation.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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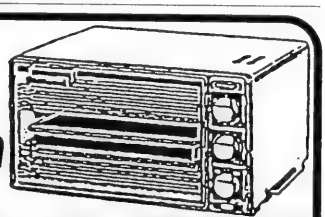

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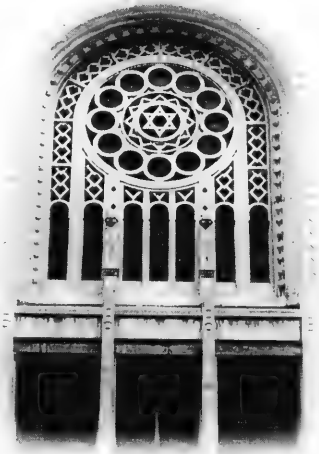

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Where are the rallies?

Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

Given the right circumstances, Jim Peterson can still wax nostalgic about his first encounters with the Jewish community as a Liberal MP. The issue was the community's struggle to bring attention to the plight of Soviet Jews and their bid to immigrate to Israel.

The struggle bore fruit, and a trickle of exit visas turned into a flood. To a large extent, Canada led the fight for Russian Jews and Parliament was no bit player in the drama. A great number of people participated in the fight.

A quarter-century later, most of the same players can be found on the Hill, but somehow, the spirit and determination of the '70s is no longer evident.

If one were to ask Peterson about his involvement back then, he would readily acknowledge the central role played by B'nai Brith Canada and the Canadian Jewish Congress in Canadian efforts.

In contrast, the efforts to draw attention to the plight of a group of Iranian Jews have barely generated a "beep" on the political radar screen.

Lloyd Axworthy made a statement about them in the House, but a scan of Hansard (the transcripts of parliamentary business) reveals no statements from the other four parties. No all-party resolutions, no petitions, no committee hearings, no questioning of the government during question period.

The Montreal Board of Rabbis recently organized a demonstration on Parliament Hill; but there have been no big rallies on the part of the entire community.

Where has the activism disappeared? Both of these organizations have a presence in the nation's capital and one runs across them from time to time on the Hill. Perhaps the strategy is different and there has been a decision to rely on discreet lobbying tactics.

That must be the case. Even an individual like Irwin Cotler, a respected human rights activist who served as counsel to Natan Sharansky and Nelson Mandela and now sits in the House of Commons, has kept a relatively low profile on the matter. His quiet voice is out of character – unless it is deliberate.

Still, a lingering doubt remains. Is it possible that the strategy of quiet diplomacy is a reflection of "the tactics of default"? Have organizations simply run out of steam (or capability) to mount a credible political campaign? One would hope not. But either way, Jim Peterson and his Jewish constituents need to know.

It's deja vu all over again for Saint John senior

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

SAINT JOHN – It was more than a normal Shabbat in Saint John, N.B.

Sixty people filled the pews of Sharrei Zedek Congregation which usually attracted 15 on a good Saturday. But this was different. Harry Holtzman was about to have a bar mitzvah. It wasn't to be a regular bar mitzvah because Harry Holtzman was celebrating his 88th birthday.

When he chanted the haftorah, Metzora, on Shabbat Hagadol, it wasn't the first time or the second the enthusiastic senior had sung it. It's his haftorah almost every year. But on this day, Mr. Holtzman celebrated the 75th anniversary of his bar mitzvah, with the same haftorah in the same shul when he reached 13 years of age in 1925.

"It wasn't supposed to be anything special," he said. "I hadn't really mentioned that it was the 75th anniversary but word leaked out. I usually had the haftorah on that Saturday anyway, but my family made it beautiful."

He said he received more presentations – certificates from the shul, the sisterhood, Hadassah, several trees planted in Israel – than he had on his original bar mitzvah day.

"I was asked to make a speech and I was really overcome. The whole thing really touched me."

It touched others as well. "He told us at his first bar mitzvah, his mother had a party for him that evening – boys only," laughs long-time Saint John resident and Holtzman's niece, Holtzman's niece Marsha Koven. "And Abe Davis was the only one here who was at his first bar mitzvah."

"My father probably does a dozen haftorahs a year," said Holtzman's son Norman, immediate past president of the congregation. "This is something he really wanted to do, something that meant a great deal to him. But he'll probably do a haftorah again next week when he has yarzheit. Physically and mentally, he's at the top of his game. He walks with a cane but still drives his car."

His sister Aida (90) and brother Moe (85) were there, as well as his grandson Jeffrey, his daughter Myra Freeman, who is the newly installed lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia, and her husband Larry and daughter Debra.

"I was so proud of him that at this stage of life, he has kept tradition," said Freeman. "He told us that he had a great fear of speaking in public at his first bar mitzvah. He said he stopped speaking entirely on that day. When it was his turn, there was a long silence until the rabbi started the haftorah, my Dad chimed in and everything was OK."

She referred to him as a "pillar of the community. He goes to shul every Friday night and Saturday and even belongs to a shul in Florida where he does the same thing."

Ottawa to honour Holocaust survivors

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is expected to attend a fall ceremony paying tribute to 55 Holocaust survivors who have made positive contributions to Canada.

The Sept. 27 ceremony, scheduled to take place on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, will be followed by a private reception sponsored by the Speaker of the House of Commons and a gala dinner at the Westin Hotel, to be attended by hundreds of family and friends of the honourees.

The survivors will be presented with specially inscribed certificates.

This is the second time Holocaust survivors will be honoured by the federal government. In 1998, 50 survivors received citations and were feted by Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray and Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Hedy Fry before 400 family members and well-wishers. The event coincided with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ceremony set for September

This year, sponsoring groups – Canadian Jewish Congress, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and B'nai Brith Canada – will team to host the day-long tribute. Defence Minister Art Eggleton and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan have agreed to be honorary co-patrons.

Organizers chose 55 survivors to dovetail with this year's slogan for the tribute: "55 Years After," referring to the end of World War II.

As well, the survivors will reaffirm their Canadian citizenship oaths in a ceremony to be presided over by citizenship judge and Jewish community activist Sigmund Reiser.

The day will also include formal recognition of the survivors in the House of Commons and a tour of the Parliament buildings.

"We are trying to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive, and to recognize the many accomplishments of survivors," Reiser told *The CJN*. He said the honourees "don't have to be rich or famous. They could be anyone who rebuilt their lives, raised a family and helped make Canada a better place in any small way."

The deadline for applications is July 31. A survivor may be nominated for the honour by family members or friends.

Applications may be obtained by calling the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at 416-785-1333.

Mazel Tov

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Happy seventh birthday Joshua Foreman. Love Mitchell, Melanie and Hailey Foreman, Marilyn & Stanley Beder, Marilyn & Albert Foreman.

Happy third birthday Hailey Foreman. Love Melanie, Mitchell and Joshua Foreman, Marilyn & Stanley Beder and Marilyn & Albert Foreman.

Mazel tov to Pearl & David Goldberg on their 50th wedding anniversary. Love, Sorel, Garry, Marci, Danny, Tova, Geoff, and all nine grandchildren.

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Verdicts evoke shock, dismay

Continued from page 1

In a July 5 memo to communal leaders, Canadian Jewish Congress president Moshe Ronen urged ongoing pressure on the Iranian government.

"The government of Iran would like to believe that with the rendering of the verdict and the issuing of the sentences, the Iran 13 case is closed," Ronen said. "It is our responsibility as a Jewish community, working with our governments, to disabuse it of this notion."

An international consortium of human rights lawyers, including one representing CJC, will prepare an appeal to be submitted to Iranian authorities. These authorities, Ronen added, "irrespective of their denials, have shown a definite concern regarding international opinion."

CJC will also be pressing Canada to undertake a number of diplomatic initiatives.

In the meantime, "public events now are very much in order."

Reaction to the verdicts, handed down July 1, was swift.

In a statement issued on Canada Day, Axworthy expressed Ottawa's concerns.

"Canadian concerns about the trial and ensuing sentences stem from the closure of the trials to the public and the fact that the defendants were held without access to lawyers for one year and had only limited contact with their families during their incarceration," Axworthy stated. "In addition, the televised confessions of several of the defendants undermined the stated need for closing the trials and raised questions about the integrity of the judicial process.

"Canada has serious concerns about the manner in which the trials were conducted and the verdicts arrived at. We urge the government of Iran to allow for greater transparency and openness during the appeals process," Axworthy added, noting Canada will continue to monitor events "closely."

CJC flatly said it "rejects all the guilty verdicts. Any convictions and sentences are unacceptable since the accused are innocent of the charges and have been subject to political and arbitrary arrest and imprisonment over the last year and a half."

Congress added: "It is essential as well that no harm befall the Jewish community of Iran. This is a situation that must be closely monitored by the international community and if called for, vigorous action must be taken at any time."

As far as B'nai Brith Canada is concerned, the verdicts amounted to "a crude attack on Orthodox Jewish observance in Iran" and "a warning to all observant Jews in Iran that their religious observance makes them suspect."

Indeed, in his verdict, the judge reportedly noted that all 10 men were guilty of contact with Israel, devotion to the Jewish state and study of Torah. Several of the 10 were religious leaders in the southern city of Shiraz, an observant community. The religious leaders received the harshest sentences.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre called on Canada to recall its ambassador to Iran for consultations.

Montreal Liberal member of Parliament and McGill University law professor Irwin Cotler, who has observed the proceedings from the start, slammed the "show trial" and convictions as a "travesty of Iranian and international justice…a prosecution and persecution of innocents that violates every canon of a right to a fair trial as guaranteed under the Iranian constitution and international law."

Cotler has documented numerous legal violations which "were of such magnitude that the charges should have been dropped even before the trials began."

Jewish advocacy groups say that protecting Iran's 25,000-member Jewish community must be pursued alongside the campaign for the freedom of the convicted.

As Cotler put it, "it is Iran itself that is on trial. If Iran does not reverse the convictions and release the imprisoned Jews, it will indict the whole Jewish community. Iran will enter the millennium as a pariah of the international community, and it will have only itself to blame." – *With files from* CJN *news services*

Iranian Jews said to be living in fear

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The recent Iranian show trial could auger heightened danger for Jews still living in the Islamic republic, according to an Iranian expatriate living in Montreal.

"We have information that they [Iranian Jews] don't live like before," the source stated. "They are afraid of their neighbours. Iran promised that more arrests are coming soon. Everybody thinks [he's] next."

The source of those comments asked that we not reveal his name, while others contacted by *The CJN* declined to be interviewed. *The CJN* has learned that Iranian Jews are worried relatives living in the Islamic state will suffer for comments they make in Canada.

According to the Montreal source, who has lived in Canada for 30 years, Iranian Jews are living in fear. "Even on the phone they are very scared to talk about it," he said. "They are afraid someone is listening on the line."

The trial that prompted the latest wave of concern was the result of a power play between Islamic clergy and government forces, the Montreal speaker stated.

Ely Gabay of Toronto, who has no close family remaining in Iran, agreed the alleged spies were innocent victims of Iranian politics. "Iran and the Muslims want to take advantage of this case," he said. "They are using it for propaganda. It was absolutely not a fair trial.

"Their families are very concerned," he continued. "They know better than I do that the situation is not a good one. Iran does not want to kill them. It wants them as a sort of hostage against the United States and Israel, to use them for political benefits."

Gabay, who escaped from Tehran two years after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, said his family employed 345 people in a manufacturing and importing business. They were forced to flee the country with only 10 percent of their assets. "The situation wasn't safe for Jews, especially wealthy families," he said.

As for the estimated 25,000 Jews still living in Iran, "every single minute is a danger.

"The whole situation is a political struggle between two groups, the clergy and the government," the Montreal source stated. "I think this situation [was created by the] Islamic clergy to get an advantage and make them powerful internationally."

Once the Iranian clergy invested so much effort in the cases, they had to convict and impose harsh sentences. "If they made lower sentences, they would lose face before international public opinion," he suggested. "The sentences were set up before. We expected it."

In Los Angeles, home to 35,000 Iranian Jews, anger at the harsh prison sentences far outweighed any sense of relief that the prisoners had been spared the death penalty, according to a *JTA* report by Tom Tugend.

"My wife has been crying ever since," said Cyrus Javaherian. His wife Nezrim is the sister of Nasser Levi Haim, who was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

"We never expected that Nasser would get such a long sentence," said Javaherian. "He worked for a power company and taught Torah. That's what he did all his life. He only did good."

A 21-year-old student at UCLA who asked that his name be withheld because his parents still live in Iran, grew up in Shiraz. "I knew the 13 who were arrested," he said. "They were my teachers and the friends with whom I played soccer. I know they did nothing wrong."

Western countries should use economic leverage to push Iran to release the prisoners, the Montreal source stated. "It's now or never to intervene for those innocent people."

"People should watch what's going on, become involved and don't forget that the 13 are part of those 25,000 other Jews in Iran who are our brothers," he added.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

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אברהם גאָלדפֿאַדען, דער גרונטלייגער און שאַפֿער פֿון ייִדישן פֿאָלקס־טעאַטער, איז געבוירן געוואָרן דעם 12טן יולי, 1840 אין אַלט קאָנסטאַנטין, וואָלין. זײַן פֿאָטער, אַ זײגערמאַכער, איז געווען אַ מַשכּיל; זײַן מוטער איז פֿון אַ חסידישן אָפּשטאַם. דער פֿאָטער האָט אים צוגעצויגן צו לערנען עבֿרית, וויל ער פֿלעגט שיקן קאָרעספּאָנדענץ אין העברעישע צײטונגען. דער זײדע פֿלעגט אים נעמען אין חסידישן שטיבל אַריין. אָזוי איז אים אָנגעגאַנגען אַ מלחמה צווישן די צוויי באַוועגונגען: השפּלה און חסידים. אין דער היים האָט געהערשט אַ פֿראָגרעסיווע אַטמאָספֿערע. מיט אַ לערער איז שטוב האָט דער יונגער אברהם זיך געלערנט רוסיש, דײַטש, תנ״ך און אַנדערע לימודים.

גאָלדפֿאַדען האָט זײער יונג אָנגעהויבן שרײַבן ייִדישע לידער און אַרטיסגעגעבן אַ בוך פֿון 108 זײַטן. אין 1857 ענדיקט ער מיט אַן אויסצייכענונג די ייִדישע קרויַנשול, איינע פֿון די בעסטע לערן־אינסטיטוציעס אין איידאָפּע. נאָכן ענדיקן אין ער געוואָרן אַ לערער אין אַ רעגירונגס שול אין סימפֿערופּאָל און אָדעס. אין זשיטאָמיר גיט ער אַרויס זײַן ערשט העברעיש ביכל לידער „ציצים ופּרחים" און מיט דער הילף פֿון אַ קחל, אַ פּאַניסט, שאַפֿט ער מחיק צו די לידער. פֿון דעמאָלט אָן איז ער אינעראַיציג, אַז כּדי צו געווינען די הערצער פֿון אַ בריטן עולם, מוז די לידער אויך האָבן מחיק.

נאָכן אַרויסגעבן אַ צאָל צײטשריפֿטן צוזאַמען מיט זײַן חבֿר לינעצקי, וואָס איז, אגב, פֿאַרבאַטן געוואָרן דורך דער צאַרישער מאַכט, אַנטווויקלט זיך בײַ גאָלד־פֿאַדענען אַן אידעע פֿון אַ ייִדיש טעאַטער. ער פֿאָרט קיין יאַס, רומעניע, וווּ די משכּילים האָבן אים אויפֿ־געוואָרפֿן מיט גרויס כבוד. זײ ווינדן אַ גאַנצן אַפּטס, וואָס איז גרייט אים צו העלפֿן. דאָרט האָט ער געשריבן דרײַ שטיקלעך: די בראָדער זינגער, וואָס האָבן געוווּנען זײערע לידער. חוץ דעם האָט מען אים אַליין געגעבן די געלעגנהײַט צו זינגען זײַנע אייגענע לידער. דאָ האָט ער טאַקע גענליגט דעם גרונטשטײן פֿאַר ייִדישן טעאַטער.

גאָלדפֿאַדענס פֿאַרמעסט פֿאָרן ייִדישן טעאַטער איז געגאַנגען אין עטלעכע ריכטונגען: שאַפֿן פּיעסעס און היסטאָרישע אַפּערעטעס, ווי „שולמית", „בר־כוכבא", אַנאַושיין אַקטיאָרן; צוזאַמענשטעלן אַנסאַמבלען און ביזע טעכניקערס, כּדי צו האָבן אַרגאַניזירטע טרופּעס, מיט וועלכע ער פֿאָרט אויבער גאַנץ איידאָפּע. אין 1883 פֿאָרבאָט די רוסישע מאַכט צו שפּילן ייִדיש טעאַטער.

אין 1887 נעמט גאָלדפֿאַדען אָפּ אַ גרוס, אַז אין אַמע־ריקע שפּילט מען ייִדיש טעאַטער מיט גרויס דערפֿאָלג, ספּעציעל מיט זײַנע פּיעסעס. אין 1888 שאַפֿט ער אין ניו־יאָרק אַ דראַמאַטישע ליגע אויף אויסצובילדן ייִדישע שושפּילערס. ער פֿאָרט אַרום מיט קאָנצערטן, אָבער נישט געמאַט גרויס דערפֿאָלג. אין 1889 קומט ער צוריק קיין איידאָפּע און באַזוכט לאָדזש, פֿאָרט און וואַרשע. ער פֿאַרלייבט אַ לעגערע צײַט אין לעמבערג.

צו זײַן 60סטן געבורטסטאָג איז אין לאָדזש אָרגאַני־זירט געוואָרן אַ גרויסע מסיבה און עס איז געשאַפֿן געוואָרן אַ פֿאָנד פֿאַר אים צום לעבן. גאָלדפֿאַדען האָט אָנגעשריבן אַרום 60 פּיעסעס, אָבער קיין גרויסע פֿרנסה האָט ער ניט געהאַט, טראָץ דעם, וואָס אַנדערע האָבן יאָ געהאַט.

גאָלדפֿאַדען איז געשטאָרבן דעם פֿטן יאָנואַר, 1908. זײַן לוויה האָט צוגעציען קנאַפּע 70 טויזנט באַ־גלייטערס. זײַנע לידער און זײַנע פּיעסעס ווערן נאָך אַזוי הײַם געוווּנען און געשפּילט אין ייִדישע ישובֿים איבער דער וועלט.

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On Campus

SAC president, student rep tackle issues at U of T

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Two high school buddies who served on the student council of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) have graduated to the big leagues of student politics.

Adam Bretholz, a former CHAT student council president, was elected president of the University of Toronto's Students' Administrative Council (SAC) in the spring. In the full-time paid position, the 22-year-old presides over some 33,000 students at three campuses, the largest student organization in the country, he noted, with a larger constituency than that of some towns.

His friend Josh Koziebrocki, 20, who also served on CHAT's student council, was elected to one of only eight student positions (of which only two are filled by full-time undergraduate students) on U of T's Governing Council, the administrative body that runs the university and which receives input from SAC.

Adam Bretholz (left) is president of U of T's Students' Administrative Council. Josh Koziebrocki is on the university's Governing Council. [Frances Kraft photo]

Bretholz, a human biology major who has just completed his fourth year at University College, is taking one course this summer and another over the coming academic year. A native of Guelph, Bretholz grew up in Thornhill, but now lives on campus.

As president of SAC, his first priority is the rising cost of tuition, a subject SAC addressed within a more comprehensive presentation at Queen's Park last year. The cost for first-year medical students, Bretholz noted, has risen to $14,000. (Undergraduate arts programs, by comparison, cost $790.20 per course, or $3,951 for a typical five-course load, in addition to $700 in incidental fees.)

Twenty years ago it was "an acknowledged part of our society that we support education and that will better society as a whole," Bretholz said. These days the "whole notion [is] those who can pay will pay and those who can't will get a loan.

"There's either going to be an acknowledgment that part of being Canadian is our social programs, not just health care but education as well – or maybe there'll be a huge amount of apathy and everybody will want to be American. It's not a secret that that's where things are going."

Among his other concerns are student housing, which is scarce and costly in the downtown area; food prices on campus; space for student clubs; the brain drain to the United States; a planned multi-faith prayer facility; and revitalizing the campus bar, The Hangar.

Koziebrocki, a political science major entering his fourth year at New College, shares Bretholz's concerns. He said it's easy to critique if you're sitting back and watching.

"But who are you to judge if you're not trying to implement change for the better yourself?" he asked rhetorically, during an interview in the mid-19th-century SAC building, an early-summer breeze wafting through the open window of the former observatory overlooking King's College Circle.

Among Koziebrocki's other involvements, he was the founding vice-president of the Jewish fraternity AEII at the University of Toronto. Both he and Bretholz are members of the Jewish Students' Union.

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

War vet gets his BA

TORONTO — From the theatre of war in El Alamein to a lecture hall at the University of Toronto, Michael Kestenbaum has pressed himself to learn.

And at 82, the recent graduate of U of T has no plans of stopping his quest for knowledge any time soon.

"As long as I can see, talk and not cause discomfort to my family, I shall study," says the Haganah and British army war veteran.

Michael Kestenbaum

Kestenbaum was encouraged to learn early on in Beregsas, Czechoslovakia, where his father hired a private tutor to teach him secular and Judaic studies.

When World War II broke out, Kestenbaum's studies were briefly put on hold, but the staunch Zionist continued to pursue an academic track, spending several months as a student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1941.

As war raged, Kestenbaum understood the importance of gaining British support for a Jewish state, so he joined the Haganah, where he led an entirely Jewish unit in the prestigious British eighth army.

In 1942, as a leader of a platoon, Kestenbaum was sent to El Alamein in Egypt. Quickly learning the secrets of enemy sabotage, Kestenbaum once spotted a mine field, and helped his fellow soldiers avoid catastrophe by telling them to remain in a truck.

Kestenbaum was discharged from the British army in 1946 and continued to defend Israel, first as a soldier in Jerusalem, then as a member of the Israeli army's intelligence unit.

Business opportunities brought him to England, where he worked in the saw mill and knitting machine industry until 1964. He emigrated with his wife, Henrietta and daughters, Naomi and Deborah, to Montreal and then Toronto.

Kestenbaum worked at the clothing company Forsythe until he retired in 1991, but never gave up on his desire to study.

After watching Middle East analyst and Prof. Janice Stein report on the evening news about the Persian Gulf War, Kestenbaum says he "got hooked."

"I phoned her [Stein] and asked if I could audit her lectures. She said, 'Sure, as long as you can find a seat.'"

He managed to find a seat in the crammed lecture hall, and eventually enrolled as a student at U of T at the age of 79.

He says being a senior citizen did not make him feel out of place with younger students.

"I sat at the computer and wrote 15 to 20 page essays just like any other student," he says. "I didn't expect to be treated differently"

With a bachelor of arts in history under his belt, Kestenbaum is eagerly eyeing graduate work.

"I want to acquire more and more knowledge," he says.

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See Page 30

Knesset approves military draft bill

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — One of Israeli society's most painful rifts – the religious-secular divide – resurfaced last week as the Knesset gave preliminary approval to a bill on drafting haredi yeshiva students.

The bill would allow the students to be exempt from military service until age 23, when they would decide whether to continue their studies or join the military for a shortened tour of service.

The bill spurred a public outcry from those who demand that the burden of Israel's mandatory military service be equally shared by all.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak

Haredi leaders in turn maintained that Torah study is at least as important to preserving the Jewish state as military service.

Outside the Knesset, some army veterans launched a hunger strike, demanding that the yeshiva students not be given any special dispensations.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak faced conflicting pressures from members of his coalition. Haredi lawmakers supported the bill, while members of his own One Israel bloc lashed out against the bill.

Barak, who only weeks ago emerged from a different coalition crisis with the haredi Shas party, is trying to keep his fragile coalition together in the hope of securing broad backing for a future peace deal with the Palestinians.

In a last appeal following hours of heated Knesset debate, Barak urged left-wing legislators not to let their opposition to the bill jeopardize the "real struggle" – pursuing the peace process.

Barak declared the vote a motion of confidence in his government.

The bill passed 52-43, with seven abstentions. It was sent to parliamentary committee, which will prepare it for second and third votes.

The vote created some strange political alignments. The secular Meretz party, which recently left Barak's coalition to enable Shas to remain, voted no-confidence in the government by opposing the bill.

Opposition leader Ariel Sharon also voted against the bill, a move some commentators suggested might come back to haunt him if and when he tried to reach alliances with the haredi parties.

It was not immediately clear what political costs Barak incurred in the vote and whether the promises he made would offset them.

Before he was elected, Barak had opposed draft exemptions for the students. Last week, when he tried to explain why he had changed his position, he said the bill was the "best compromise" under current circumstances.

The bill was drawn up after a government commission, led by former Supreme Court Justice Zvi Tal, issued proposals regarding the yeshiva students' draft exemptions.

The Tal Commission was formed in the wake of a 1998 ruling by the High Court of Justice that cancelled a decades-old arrangement under which the students are entitled to the exemptions.

The justices said at the time that the arrangement had created a growing sense of inequality in Israeli society.

In 1954, when the agreement was signed, some 400 yeshiva students were granted deferrals.

According to recent estimates, there are now some 30,000 yeshiva students getting deferrals and draft exemptions.

PRINCESS VISITS ISRAEL: The daughter of Jordan's late King Hussein visited Israel as the guest of the IDF. Princess Aisha, who holds the rank of colonel in the Jordanian army, heads its women's corps. [RNS photo]

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None of the verdicts are final: Iran lawer

CJN News Services

SHIRAZ, Iran — The lawyer representing the 10 Jews who received prison terms July 1 on charges of spying for Israel is confident the sentences will be reduced on appeal.

"None of these verdicts and sentences are final and all can be appealed," said Esmail Naseri. "We are relieved that there were no death sentences…This was a small victory for us. I urge family members of the defendants to remain calm."

But there was little calm when news of the decision of the Revolutionary Court spread in the town of Shiraz, 900 kilometers south of Tehran.

Relatives of the 13 Jews, who arrived at the courthouse in Shiraz on foot because of Shabbat, cried out when the sentences became known. One family member fainted.

Naseri stressed that "this verdict is one big mistake. This is a political [verdict] that is not acceptable to the families or to the lawyers." He added that "neither the verdict nor the convictions are final and each and every one may be appealed."

A foreign ministry spokesman in Tehran said he was satisfied with the verdict.

"Despite a propaganda campaign waged by Israel, the judicial system succeeded to manage the trial in an independent manner and according to the national interests," the spokesman stated.

In Israel, officials protested the verdicts and sentences and denied the accused ever worked for the Jewish state.

> ***'Israel will not rest until all the prisoners are released'***

"Israel will not rest until all the prisoners are released, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shiron."

"The sentences are harsher than we expected. Our community expects the sentences to be much lighter after the appeals process," said Maurice Motamed, the single Jewish representative in the 290-seat Majlis, or parliament.

The case has cast a pall over Iran's Jewish community. It has also attracted international scrutiny, with critics questioning whether the accused could be fairly tried in a process in which there was no jury, in which the judge also acted as prosecutor, and from which observers were banned.

Iranian Jews are allowed to freely practice their religion, but like all Iranians, are forbidden any contact with Israel.

At its height, Iran's Jewish community numbered about 100,000 and was still around 80,000 just before Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. Now there are about 25,000 Jews, the largest community in the Middle East outside Israel.

For their part, Iranian officials attacked Western criticism of the verdicts, saying it was a violation of its national sovereignty. Some Iranian officials said the verdicts were too soft and might not deter others from spying against the country.

There were also reports the Jews may be punished with fines and lashes – a common penalty for guilt.

No Iranian official was quoted as offering any reassuring words to the rest of the Jewish community.

That only adds to the panic and fear that is said to be pervading the community. Any Iranian Jew who is even outwardly religious may be vulnerable to similar accusations and punishment, according to American Jewish officials.

Since 1979, 17 Iranian Jews accused of spying have been executed, most recently in 1997 and 1998. The difference now, say American Jewish advocates for the Iran 13, is that the earlier arrests were virtually kept secret.

There are chilling similarities, however. Then, as now, the charges were trumped up, with the Jews used as pawns in the political battles within the Iranian leadership.

China helps Iran, Syria develop long-range missiles

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — China is aiding Iran and Syria in projects to develop more advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, according to U.S. sources.

The Americans add that notwithstanding Washington's and Israel's protests to China, Beijing is helping the two Middle East countries set up a factory to make missile engines, guidance systems and solid fuels.

Israeli sources confirmed that on several occasions, including the recent visit to Israel by Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Jerusalem has asked China to refrain from assisting those countries in missile development.

Chinese support for the missile projects is mainly being implemented in Iran in ways that experts consider critical to the development of long-range missiles: that is, selling Iran materials for the development of solid rocket fuels, the setting up of a factory for making the NP 110 missile engine, and the transfer of missile-guidance technologies.

The guidance systems are meant both for long-range ballistic missiles and shorter-range Scuds, already available in Middle Eastern arsenals, and include sensors that are generally used on satellites.

China built a missile range with all the necessary telemetry equipment for long-range ballistic missiles in Iran. China built a supersonic wind-tunnel in Libya to help the North African country test its missiles.

China's missile-technology transfers to Syria and Iran were mentioned by the United States in talks with Israel over the sale of the Phalcon spy plane to China, over which Washington and Jerusalem have repeatedly disagreed.

The Americans have argued that, on the one hand, Israel is willing to ignore the military aid China provides to Iran and Syria in exchange for Chinese cash. Yet, on the other hand, Israel demands that Washington act forcefully to block Russian missile deals with Iran, but does not hold Beijing to the same standard. American sources say they see this as a puzzling contradiction in Israeli policy.

The unofficial Israeli response has been that while Israel knows about Chinese activities in Iran and Syria, it still hopes to influence Beijing diplomatically in its favour. In the past, Israel has believed it has sufficient influence to block the Chinese sale of M9 surface-to-surface missiles to Syria.

In any case, it is clear that Israel has not succeeded thus far in stopping Chinese sales. China though, remains within the parameters of international norms by selling only parts of systems and not the complete missile systems.

China does agree not to sell Iran or other countries technologies that will assist them in developing nuclear weapons.

INDIA WANTS CLOSER TIES WITH ISRAEL: Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh, left, was welcomed last week in Jerusalem by his Israeli counterpart David Levy. Singh is the highest ranking Indian government official to visit Israel since the two countries established full diplomatic relations in 1992. **[Isranet photo]**

Panel to investigate OU handling of complaints

NEW YORK — The longtime leader of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, Richard Joel, is heading an independent panel to investigate how the Orthodox Union (OU) has handled sexual harassment complaints.

Individuals interested in contacting the panel headed by Joel can call 1-877-905-9576 or e-mail inquiryncsy@yahoo.com.

Rabbi Baruch Lanner resigned from the OU after the *New York Jewish Week* published an article in which numerous people said Rabbi Lanner had harassed or molested them when they were teens.

The Week in Israel

July 3

• The trial of an Israeli agent allegedly involved in a bungled Mossad operation in February 1998 opened in Switzerland.

• Israel and India agreed to form a joint commission to combat terrorism.

July 4

• A parliamentary committee voted unanimously to lift the immunity of former cabinet minister Yitzhak Mordechai so that sexual harassment charges may proceed against him.

July 5

• Vandals attacked the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. Several glass windows were smashed and the word "Satan" spray-painted near the building.

July 6

• Prime Minister Ehud Barak said he told French and British leaders during his visit to them this week that Israel would take "unilateral steps" of its own if Yasser Arafat declares an independent Palestinian state without a peace deal.

• Barak urged some parties not to rush to pull out of the government because of the impending summit at Camp David. The parties are opposed to the concessions they expect Barak will make to the Palestinians under the pressure of the situation.

July 7

• The Yesha Council of Jewish Settlements and other right-wing organizations began preparing widespread protest activities, including hunger strikes, ahead of the Camp David Summit scheduled to begin next Tuesday.

• President Ezer Weizman was expected to submit his resignation on Monday.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Canada Day in Tel Aviv

Clockwise from above, Doris Weiser-Small and Carole-Ann Levine; Sid Tenenbaum (right) with Rabbi Shalom and Debbie Schwartz; MNA Michel Moreyn; and Ambassador Michael Bell addressing the group. [Viva Press photos]

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

With an eclectic mix of Alanis Morissette, Barenaked Ladies and French Canadian music playing in the background, about 300 people congregated on the sprawling front lawn of the Canadian ambassador's residence in Savyon for Canada Day.

With Canadian flags everywhere, it was hard to remember this party was taking place in Israel. There was Canadian lox, Canadian cheddar, Canadian wines and beer, Canadian maple candies – and Canadians everywhere.

The annual event attracted dignitaries including Ambassador Michael and Mrs. Linda Bell, Members of the National Assembly, MP Irwin Cotler, UN peacekeepers, and Members of the Knesset.

Also in attendance were expatriates who have made aliyah. Michael Bell made a toast to Canada and to Israel's and Canada's continued friendship.

"Happy Canada Day and l'chaim," he said.

Both country's anthems were sung, with *O Canada* being sung in French and English.

"It's a wonderful experience," said Quebec MNA Michel Moreyn. "After years of teaching [about Israel's history], it's a different experience seeing it." Moreyn, a history teacher, was in Israel for his first time.

Roslyn Schneidman, executive vice-president of Emunah Women of Canada, said she was thrilled to be at the party. "It's a great way to celebrate Canada Day," she said.

The party was held on June 29, two days before Canada's 133 birthday.

Promoting peace through advocacy

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Participants in this year's McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building (MMEP) recently met in Israel for training.

The fellows – four Israelis, four Palestinians, four Jordanians – will arrive in Montreal at the beginning of August to take part in the program.

Rad Hadid, 27, is one of this year's Jordanians participating in MMEP which promotes peace through community advocacy.

"I hope to get experience about the Canadian social welfare system," said Hadid, who has been working as a project co-ordinator in Jordan's Red Crescent Society in Amman. "I'm hoping to adjust it to Jordan."

Similarly, Miri Segel, one of the Israelis taking part in MMEP this year, hopes to get new ideas in how to implement community awareness.

"I really believe in citizens' empowerment and the connection between social justice and peace," said the 44-year-old, who works for Community Advocacy in Jerusalem's Katamonim neighbourhood.

"MMEP is a remarkable opportunity to see different ways people are doing things, to get new ideas, to get more tools that I can bring back with me to Community Advocacy."

Participants of MMEP study at McGill University for one year and then work in communities back in their homelands for the second year.

MMEP targets professionals including social workers, lawyers, doctors and business people who are interested in working in community-based services.

"We are bringing people together and focusing on their similarities rather than their differences," Nicky Aumond, MMEP's project manager, said in a telephone interview from Montreal.

Professor of social work at McGill, Jim Torczyner created MMEP for Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians because, as he says, he is "a peace builder."

Torczyner, who believes everyone deserves an equal opportunity, started the MMEP so that he could teach others how to get involved and win their fight for equal rights. He believes that without equality, peace is unattainable.

Amal Asana, 28, agrees that equality and peace are the answers to the conflict in the Middle East. Asana was one of MMEP's first students. She is now the co-ordinator of social rights for Bedouins in the Negev.

Asana works in getting equal rights for women and children, and getting people and their villages recognized by the state.

"If people are living in poverty and very bad conditions they will only see their suffering and see everything from their eyes as poor people. When people get their rights and feel better they'll see things better," Asana said. "We have to work more in bringing people together and have them work on similar things and people will start to feel differently towards one another."

"People have to feel recognized," said Salah Al-Louzi, director of the Practice Centre in the Eastern Neighbourhood of Sweileh City in Amman. Al-Louzi studied at MMEP two years ago and is now working in Jordan trying to put his studies into action. He came to Israel to see how Asana's community work is going.

"We are forging a new culture of understanding and tolerance predicated on the principle that all people share the same rights," said Torczyner who has been in Israel for the past month.

The community advocacy centres now set up in Amman, Nablus, Beersheva, and Jerusalem by MMEP graduates have all been influenced by Project Genesis – a community outreach program based on citizen empowerment set up by Torczyner in 1975.

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Jacques Bensimon quits TFO and heads to Banff

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The For Sale sign outside Jacques Bensimon's modest detached house in a quiet mid-town neighbourhood signifies change. Yet another chapter in his career has run its course.

Last month, he stepped down as managing director of TFO, the French-language service of TVOntario, and announced that he was going to Canmore, Alta., to be executive vice-president of the Banff Television Festival.

The 21-year-old annual one-week festival takes place in June and attracts the leading lights of the industry. "It's a world event," said Bensimon, who assumes his new job on Oct. 1.

Bensimon left TFO, which caters to Ontario's 500,000 francophones, following a philosophical difference with its new president, Isabel Bassett, a former provincial cabinet minister who lost her seat in the last election.

"I began to notice a political agenda, and Bassett was the embodiment of it," he explained. "I started saying to myself, 'It's time to move on. This place is being transformed into something else.'"

Bensimon joined TVOntario in 1986 when French programming was broadcast only on Sundays. He transformed TFO into a strong public institution which reflected Ontario's francophone reality.

Broadening its perspective and its reach by creating new and original programs, he franchised its signal to cable TV companies in Quebec and New Brunswick, sold its cassettes to TV stations across western Canada, and entered into co-production agreements with countries in Europe, Africa and Asia (including Israel).

Jacques Bensimon

"We made the francophones of Ontario visible on the map," said Bensimon, a Moroccan Jew who was an editor and a director at the Montreal-based National Film Board of Canada from 1967 to 1986.

Widely considered to be the father of TFO, he assiduously honed its mandate, establishing a balance between what he describes as "formal and informal education."

Peter Herrndorf, Bassett's predecessor, said that Bensimon fashioned TFO into "a combination of the cerebral and the populist."

By Bensimon's estimation, his Jewish sensibility helped enormously, sensitizing him to the perspectives and needs of his French minority audience.

Born in Agadir 55 years ago, Bensimon is from a middle-class family which left Morocco in 1958. Like many Moroccan Jews shaped and influenced by the long French colonial presence, the Bensimons panicked when Morocco regained its independence in the mid-1950s.

In common with thousands of Moroccan Jews, they immigrated to Quebec, thinking that they would feel at home in French.

Emile, his late father, was a tailor and then a builder of hotels and villas who had commercial interests in France. In Montreal, however, he lost his magic touch and was forced to turn to tailoring to make ends meet.

His mother, Fiby, who still lives in Montreal, along with her three daughters, Marguerite, Therese and Georgette, was more successful. She ran a shoe business, and as Bensimon fondly recalls, kept the family together.

Bensimon, whose wife Vera is also of Moroccan origin, decided to become a filmmaker after watching Francois Truffault's movie, *The 400 Blows*.

Graduating from Montreal High School, he studied at Sir George Williams University before switching to City College and New York University, where he majored in film.

There, he started a biographical documentary titled *Once Agadir*, which he finished after being hired by the National Film Board of Canada.

Bensimon was involved in the production of more than 30 documentaries. Among them were *Twenty Years Later*, which turns on Sephardi immigration to Quebec, and *Moroccan Diaries*, a trilogy concerning his past, Jewish identity and the contributions of Jews to Moroccan society.

In filming *Moroccan Diaries*, Bensimon was granted an interview with King Hassan, who died last year. "His dream was to rebuild the Jewish infrastructure eroded by the emigration of the Jews," he said.

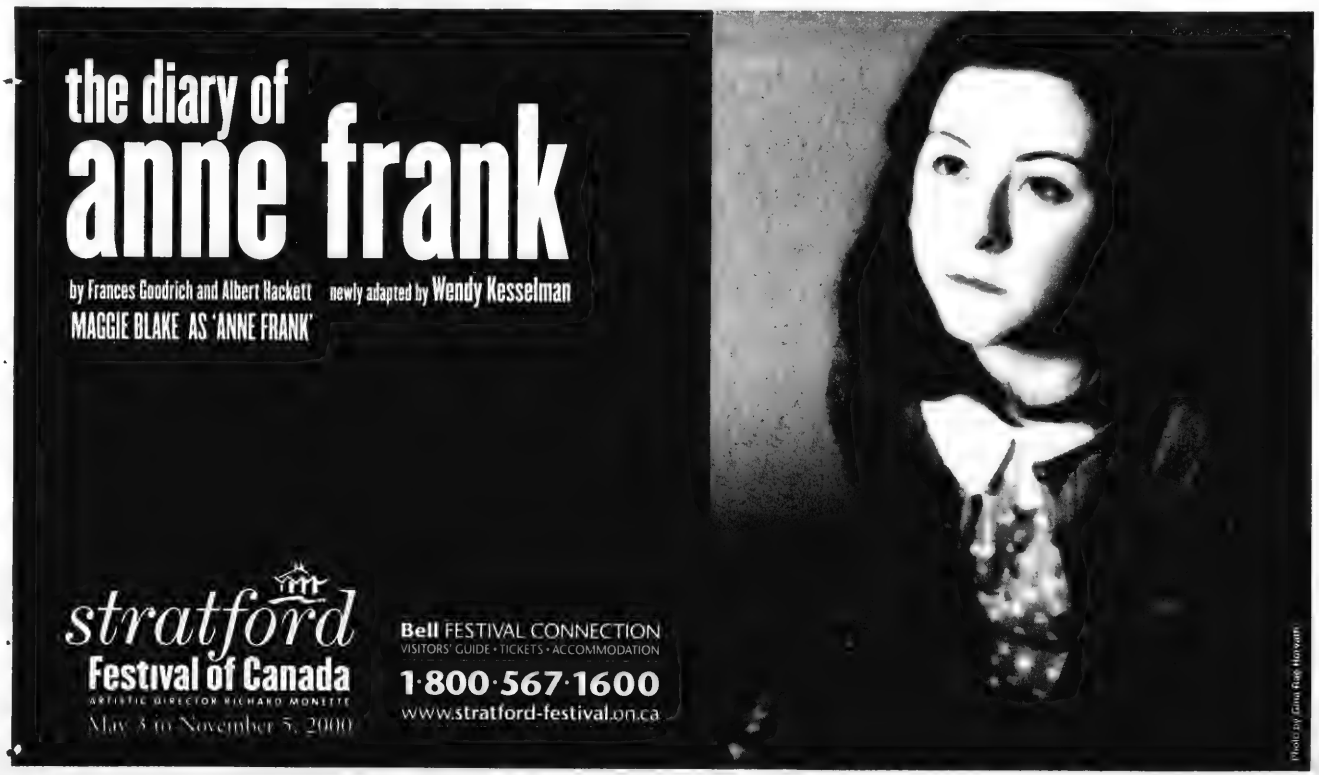
Bensimon, who has been back to Morocco about a dozen times since his family's departure, is optimistic about the future of its dwindling Jewish community.

A member of Toronto's Temple Emanuel and the self-help Sephardic Network, he is chary of the separatist movement in Quebec, home to about 25,000 Moroccan Jews. While he respects Quebecois culture and hopes it will prosper, he is wary of nationalism which, he believes, "always excludes someone else."

On the other hand, he feels that "Canada couldn't be Canada" without francophones."

He and his wife, who have two boys (Jonathan, 20, and David, 17), look forward to their new lives in Alberta.

"Is there a synagogue in Canmore?" he asked a reporter. Probably not. But Calgary, with a substantial Jewish community, is only an hour away by car.



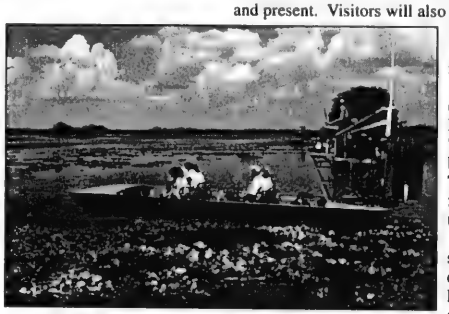
Arts & Travel

Fort Lauderdale is not just a place to hibernate in winter

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

FORT LAUDERDALE — Fort Lauderdale isn't just a place for bubbies and zaydes to go in the winter. The greater Fort Lauderdale area on the East Coast of sunny Florida offers a plethora of activities for the entire family, all year round.

Of course, the first thing to do in Fort Lauderdale is check out the 37 kilometres of sandy beaches. They include Hollywood, Dania Beach, Fort Lauderdale Beach, Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach.



Alligators await in the Everglades.

The Clean Beaches Council has designated all of them as Blue Wave Beaches, which means they are clean, safe and user friendly.

With many canals, Fort Lauderdale boasts of being the Venice of America. The best way to see the sights along these intricate inland waterway passages is to hop aboard a taxi boat. Passengers are allowed to embark and disembark at their leisure at one of 20 stops at shoreline hotels and attractions. An all-day pass for the Water Taxi of Fort Lauderdale costs $16 (US), children are half price, and free on Sunday when accompanied by an adult.

For kids 5 to 12 years old, there is a unique Ocean Adventure Camp called The Funky Fish Kids Day. At a cost of $45 for the first child, $35 each additional child. The program, approved by the Broward/West Palm Beach County School Board, offers five hours of fun activities including snorkeling lessons in the pool and the shallow ocean, T-shirt tie dying, games and a graduation ceremony.

The program is available at 10 hotels and resorts and open to all Fort Lauderdale visitors by calling 954-561-4499.

If you've never met an alligator up close and personal, you can at the Sawgrass Recreation Park.

Although you can't script the emergence of alligators from the waters of the Everglades, the airboat tour operators are pretty adept at coaxing a few out with morsels of food. Adjacent to the ride is a Seminole Indian Village and a small sanctuary housing alligators, exotic snakes, turtles, monkeys and a very cute Florida Panther – and I don't mean Pavel Bure.

Just 10 minutes away from the park is Sawgrass Mills, an outlet mall featuring over 300 retail stores, name brand discounters, eateries and entertainment venues. While mom and dad search for bargains, kids can spend hours at Gameworks, a high-tech arcade with all the latest video challenges.

More great shopping and tourist hot spots can be found on trendy Los Olas Boulevard, the Los Olas Riverfront and Beach Place on A1A. Expect crowds at all hours of the day and night.

After serious shopping, you can relax amongst nature with a 25-minute tram ride through Flamingo Gardens' native and exotic flora. There is a birds of prey exhibit and a wildlife encounter show daily.

Although the folks in Fort Lauderdale will never admit to it, there are a "few" rainy days in this tropical vacationland. When weather does turn foul, there are a number of wonderful exhibits to occupy your day. Attractions of note include the Museum of Discovery & Science with its Blockbuster IMAX 3-D Theatre on a five-story screen. Don't miss the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum with interactive games and virtual fishing, even fun for those of us whose idea of a good catch is already cooked and on the table.

Next door to the IGFA is the Outdoor World Bass Pro Shops, a mega-sporting goods store featuring a 136,000-litre indoor aquarium and archery and rifle ranges.

The Graves Museum of Archaeology and Natural History showcases artifacts from cultures around the world both past and present. Visitors will also encounter life-like dinosaurs including bambiraptor feinbergi, the most complete raptor ever found.

Bambi is named in honour of Florida philanthropist Michael Fineberg who "adopted" her and financed her preparation and mounting. This juvenile raptor stands free, unlike other specimens that are locked in stone.

In the evening you can stroll the beach strip where the clubs are hopping till dawn. For those who prefer a more quiet evening – horse drawn carriage rides are available down the most fashionable boulevards in town.

The performing arts are very much alive at a number of theatres, including two at the Broward Centre For The Performing Arts. During hockey season, fans can check out more Florida Panthers in their natural habitat at the National Car Rental Centre.

For more information contact the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau at 954-765-4466 or at www.sunny.org.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

THE SOUND OF NO HANDS CLAPPING

Judge Barrington Black, a playgoer in London, England, recently faced a dilemma after watching **David Edgar's** play *Speer*, directed by **Trevor Nunn** at the National Theatre Company. The play covers a 50-year span, and features **Alex Jennings** as the Nazi architect Albert Speer, and **Roger Allam** as Hitler.

Black felt that Allam, who depicted Hitler's character "ranging from a strutting despot to a hunched madman," gave a particularly fine performance. However, he began to feel uneasy as the 3½ hour play was coming to an end.

"The cast deserved applause, but what if Allam took a curtain call on his own?" Black asked in a letter to the *London Jewish Chronicle*. "Could I bring myself to applaud a man dressed as Hitler, despite an outstanding performance?

"Alas, when the time came, he did appear alone, the audience thundered appreciation, but my hands made their own decision. They remained still."

Despite appearances, Black is certainly not alone. Many – especially those with first-hand memories and their children – have already voted with their feet and kept away from the theatre.

Others in attendance may have also felt a similar hesitancy to applaud the actor's "outstanding performance" in the persona of Hitler, but remained sensible enough not to make the classic mistake of "shooting the messenger" because of the message he bears.

Even a century from now, Jews and others will likely still be gripped by a similar dilemma when the Nazi dictator is represented on stage, no matter how excellently.

The Nazi Fuhrer had desired to establish a 1,000-year Reich, but instead he cursed and besmirched his own name and that of his regime for millennia.

After all, do we not still razz, castigate and denounce the name of Haman at Purim, much as playgoers would hiss the villains of old-fashioned theatrical melodramas?

* * *

Gebirtig Remembered: The Toronto Yiddish poet **Simcha Simchovitch** has completed an English translation of the poems and songs of the great Yiddish folk poet and composer **Mordecai Gebirtig**, murdered by the Germans in Krakow, Poland, in 1942.

The 150-page manuscript, including the translator's introduction, was edited by Canadian poet **Raymond Souster**. Its publication by the Mosaic Press of Oakville is imminent.

A small committee under the chair of **John H. Pollock, QC** was formed to help in the publication and promotion of the work.

* * *

Blake Celebrated: As it embarks on its 25th season, the Inner Stage Theatre Company presents *Sweet Smiles*, an interactive theatre experience for children.

The performance combines **William Blake's** poetry (*Songs of Innocence*), dance, music, masks and audience participation. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst Street. Adults $8. July 13, 2000, 10:30 a.m.

* * *

First Book of Poems: "I want to write poems that deal with Jewish subjects from the inside – not as an alienated witness, but as a participant," says **Adam Sol**, a poet whose first collection of poetry, *Jonah's Promise* is due for publication in August.

The American-born and -educated Sol, who also writes literary and music criticism, lives with his wife, Rabbi Yael Splansky, in Toronto.

Pop lyricist overcomes illness

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

Karon Bernstein

TORONTO — Though in great pain a lot of the time, Karon Bernstein has overcome her arthritis to pen the lyrics and be executive producer of the hot album *If I Could* and of a soon-to-be released single *Let's Go*.

"I've always dreamed of being a writer of hit pop lyrics, and I wouldn't let anything interfere, even though I was trained as a classical pianist," she told the *CJN*.

Bernstein, 25, has had juvenile arthritis since she was six, making walking difficult and dancing out of the question.

Her inspiration is pop artist Lorraine Lawson, who sings the lyrics of *If I Could* and will perform on July 12, at the Capitol Event Theatre, 2492 Yonge St.

"Lorraine is a terrific person and was my vocal teacher for two years," Karon said. Lawson and Greg Kavanagh are the co-producers of *If I Could*.

To cope with her arthritis, Karon maintains a rigorous 2½ hour daily exercise routine, which includes riding a stationary bicycle and swimming in an indoor pool at her Castlefield home.

She had a double hip replacement in April and August of last year to offset the bone damage caused by her arthritis.

"For those my age, this kind of operation is uncommon as it's usually done on older people whose bones have deteriorated,"she said, adding that the titanium prostheses have helped her.

Despite two months spent recovering at St. John's Convalescent Hospital, Karon said she was able to cope because of the love and support provided by her older brother David, 28.

She also continued to write lyrics, allowing her heart to take her to places her body could not go.

Primadonna a dig at opera

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — "I was bitten by the theatre bug at age 11 when I played the part of a bar mitzvah boy in a Shalom Aleichem play at the Winnipeg YMHA and from then on theatre has been my life," says Tom Diamond.

A director in the United States and Canada, Diamond, 43, is at the helm of a month-long production of *Primadonna, the First Farewell Tour*, which opened July 4 and runs until Aug. 5, at the Canadian Stage Theatre.

The star of the one-woman show is soprano Mary Lou Fallis. "She is a joy to work with," Diamond says.

As the title implies, the show is a sly dig at opera singers, and Fallis, he says, has been described as "probably the funniest soprano in the world."

Diamond spends half his time in Canada and half in the United States and other countries. "It doesn't matter whether an actor is from Toronto or Timbuctoo, if the talent is there," he says.

He is delighted to work on this comedy, which he says is "completely different" from the version that played last year at the same venue for a month.

Diamond gained international recognition when he directed *Squonk*, a zany performance art play, which he said was held together with "chewing gum and baling wire."

Squonk was highly praised by New York senior drama critic Ben Brantley and became the first musical to play off-Broadway in 2,000. "I got a call from a person asking me to rescue this play and the first work I did on it was in Toronto. Some day I hope it will play in Canada," Diamond says.

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'Crusty, tough-minded' judge shows different side to himself

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

David Vanek, a retired provincial criminal court judge, has produced a highly readable volume of memoirs that illuminates his family's early history in the Toronto area, numerous historical matters pertaining to the local Jewish community, and his 21-year career on the Ontario bench.

Fulfilment: Memoirs of a Criminal Court Judge (Dundurn Press, $25.99) shows the warm human side of the man whom the *Toronto Star* once described as "a crusty, tough-minded, fiercely independent provincial court judge."

The book indicts Vanek as a fair-minded, rational, and frequently funny man who does not shrink from admitting his faults. Although his courtroom demeanour did not hint at it, the judge is a talented raconteur.

Vanek was born in a hamlet near Newmarket in 1915. His parents ran a tiny resort called Cedarholm Park at Lake Wilcox, just north of Toronto, which offered a bandstand, cottages and a refreshment stand specifically for Jews, who were then excluded from neighbouring establishments.

At the University of Toronto, where he studied law, he joined the first Jewish fraternity and met Lou Weingarten and Frank Shuster, who would become the famous comedy team of *Wayne and Shuster*.

Later, as a soldier in wartime England, he encountered them unexpectedly during one of their performances for the troops. To the great surprise and hilarity of all three, he stepped forward just as they called for a volunteer for a magic trick. "What perfect timing!" he writes. "Ascending the stage was virtually involuntary. I could not possibly have resisted the temptation."

Another memorable moment occurs as Vanek, stationed in an English town at war's end, makes an unauthorized visit to London as the victory over Japan is announced.

"I was one of the huge throng that lined Whitehall to witness the procession of royalty for the opening of Parliament that day. I was also amongst the huge gathering of people, joyous and tearful, celebrating VJ Day at Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circle. Finally, I was crammed within the immense gathering in front of the palace wildly cheering the royal family as the King, Queen and princesses appeared on the balcony and waved to their subjects and well-wishers."

After an admittedly indifferent career as a soldier, Vanek led a distinguished career as a lawyer and judge, and became involved in numerous public causes. As he relates, he once ran for office as a Conservative MPP at Queen's Park. He also helped to found the Credit Counselling Service of Toronto as well as an influential midtown ratepayers' association.

Without question, Vanek is best known for his handling of the sensational Nelles case, in which a nurse was charged with murdering four infants at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. In *Fulfilment*, he offers an illuminating chapter describing the preliminary inquiry he conducted and his eventual ruling that insufficient evidence existed to bring Susan Nelles to trial.

He made that decision knowing that another 20 babies had also died at the hospital under highly suspicious circumstances. "In the end," he writes, "how twenty-four babies, who were not expected to die, came to their death ... remains a mystery."

In *Fulfilment*, Vanek combines personal family history, social history and legal history into a highly fulfilling read.

Furrier describes life in Ghetto

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to the CJN

Jack Klajman, a 69-year-old furrier in London, Ont., has written *Out of the Ghetto*, a book that describes how he survived the Holocaust as a boy.

The 154-page softcover book was published recently by Vallentine Mitchell, a British publishing house, and should soon be available at bookstores in Canada.

Out of the Ghetto details Klajman's experiences as a child in the Warsaw Ghetto. Creeping through holes in the wall to get to the Christian part of the city, he posed as a Christian child and begged for food, which he smuggled back to his family.

In one incident, he met a machine-gun-toting German major nicknamed Frankenstein just as he was returning to the ghetto with a bag full of smuggled goods.

Knowing Frankenstein's penchant for shooting Jewish children, the boy begged for mercy, speaking in Polish and showing off the crucifix around his neck to persuade the man that he was a Catholic trying to make some money for his parents. Miraculously, the ruse worked.

After he had fled to the safety of a nearby building, witnesses of the encounter surrounded him, amazed that he was still alive. "My boy, you have just been reborn," one of them said. "You have just escaped the devil himself. If he did not take your life, it means God is good to you. He wants you to live. You are going to survive the war.... If you can make it past him, you can make it past anyone."

Klajman called it "the scariest moment I ever had crossing the wall" and said he was traumatized for days afterward.

He fled the annihilation of the ghetto by hiding among dead bodies, and later fleeing through the sewers. He survived by posing as a Christian child and eluding authorities as much as possible. He lost his entire family and about 100 relatives.

"It's a story I started to write 40 years ago," said Klajman recently in a telephone interview. "I started to write a few pages and I got nightmares, so I threw it away.

"I had a customer who was a psychiatrist and he said, 'Jack, you write it and it'll be the best therapy for you. You might get nightmares again, but it'll be worth it.'"

Klajman said the book took him six days to write. "The things that happened, you can never forget. It's all locked in your head, anyway. A story like this stays with you for life."

A son, Ed, a journalist, helped prepare the manuscript for publication.

Klajman reached Toronto in January 1948, when he was 16. Because his father had been a furrier in Warsaw, he apprenticed in the fur business in London, Ont., at a starting salary of $10 a week. He opened his own store within five years.

He married Sonia 41 years ago. They have three sons and a daughter. "I wrote it for the kids, and for my grandchildren," he said. "I wasn't thinking of publishing it in the beginning. But my son (Ed) said, 'You have to publish it.' So he took care of it.

"I sent a copy of the book to Oprah (Winfrey) a couple of weeks ago," he said. "It may take a couple of months before I hear anything. If Oprah's staff really like it and Oprah gets to read it ... it's got to catch on in the States."

Klajman still works as a furrier, although he is semi-retired. His store, Klyman Furs, is located in London, Ont.

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Parenting a disabled child is a loving challenge

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Celebrating a child's tenth birthday is a milestone in any parent's life. To Miriam Edelson, it is almost a miracle.

Ten years ago, Edelson's son Jake was born with a rare disorder – his brain stopped developing between 12 and 14 weeks after conception. She was told that children with this disorder, lissencephaly, are unable to sit up, walk or speak, and that most don't live past a couple of years.

In her recently published book, *My Journey with Jake, A Memoir of Parenting and Disability* (Between the Lines), Edelson talks about the months before Jake's diagnosis, and the emotional roller-coaster ride she has experienced throughout his life.

Edelson, who has kept journals since Jake's birth, says she wrote the book because "we do not hear very much about medically fragile children. Unless a tragedy happens, these kids are invisible.

"Their care is not mandated by legislation, and the courts do not get involved unless the child is abused or neglected. These are the kids that suffer when there are budget cuts."

Few palliative care facilities exist for infants, she says. "Bloorview MacMillan Centre has five palliative care beds, but that is five beds for an entire city.

"It is very difficult for people to think about infants not surviving. They just don't like to go there. I wonder if that gets in the way of getting them the care they need."

Even if a suitable home care program is found, she says, they are highly vulnerable to government spending cuts, and continuity of staffing is unlikely.

Edelson and her ex-husband Jim, Jake's father, began searching for a home for Jake after realizing they could not provide him with the kind of 24-hour care he needed.

Their search culminated in a referral to Gail Bench-Grant, who runs a home – Susie's Place – near Belleville. "I liked her immediately, even over the telephone. It was obvious that she was experienced and knowledgeable, and that she had respect for the parents."

Edelson credits Bench-Grant for keeping Jake alive. "I believe he has lived this long because of the tremendous care and love he is getting. There should be many more places like this."

Death, however, "is always present in the universe…It sometimes dangles very close, only to be put temporarily on hold...Perhaps that is why our story is so much like one of a relationship between new lovers: All senses are heightened and one cherishes every single breath together," Edelson writes.

At home with her younger daughter Emma, Edelson says Jake's presence is always missed. "At the community seder we wished he were there, but we've learned to make peace with the situation. We have to make the best of it.

"With Jake, I learned to love fully. Early on, I let myself love him 100 miles per hour… I want it documented that it is possible to love little ones like this."

There are moments when she wonders how much she should tell her daughter about Jake's condition, "but the truth is the best. That will help her to know her brother, and to let him enrich her life."

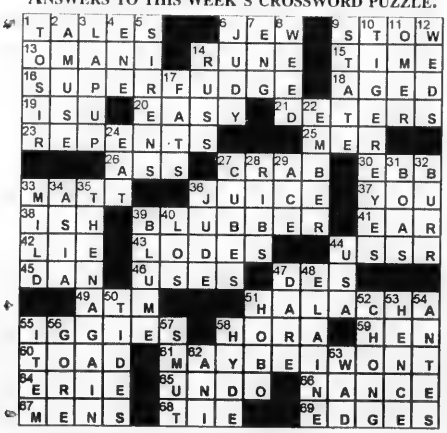
Jake can't say 'Mommy' and wrap his arms around her neck, she says, but "he seems to recognize my voice when I sing to him, and he knows that he is loved when he's in his dad's arms. For any child to be loved and comforted, and above all safe, is the bottom line."

More parents than we know about deal with special needs kids, she says. "I'm hoping this book will help them put things into perspective. I cannot take away their pain, but I can help them see that there are ways to celebrate their child's life."

Families need practical help, such as respite care, says Edelson. "People need to break away a little; it is good for the kids, as well. The government needs to provide care for these families so they can live the best life possible under the circumstances. People should not have to fight for every single thing they need."

Although she has been separated from her husband since 1996, he is still very much involved in Jake's care. "Jakey pulls people together," says Edelson.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Israeli scientist working to lessen burden of chemotherapy

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — While chemotherapy is a life-saver for many cancer sufferers, the side effects of the treatment are often painful.

Shmuel Bittner, an Israeli scientist, is hoping to change that.

The 62-year-old organic chemist who has worked at Ben Gurion University (BGU) since it opened in 1968, said the major pitfall of chemotherapy – the treatment that destroys cancer cells – is that it "doesn't differentiate between healthy cells and sick cells. This is the reason your hair falls out… and other bodily functions stop."

Bittner is working on a project that strives to direct chemotherapy specifically at cancerous cells, leaving healthy cells alone.

The technique involves taking a series of compounds known as quinones and bonding them with a hormone called LHRH (luteinizing hormone releasing hormone), which attaches itself to the receptors of cancer cells.

Once the LHRH hormone "attaches itself to sick cells, a signal is triggered and the quinones start to explode," destroying the cancer cells exclusively, Bittner said.

Currently on sabbatical at the University of Toronto, Bittner noted that trial runs of the chemical reaction were successful in test tubes and the technique is now being tested on animal fluids at the Weizmann Institute in Israel.

Although Bittner's project has had positive results thus far, Malcolm Bersohn, an organic chemist, said Bittner's goal is still "a hope, not a fact. Cancer cells are not that different from normal cells, so for a chemical to discriminate [between healthy cells and cancerous cells] is a rare breakthrough."

Bittner has received a three-year grant from the Israel Academy of Science for the project. While in Toronto, he corresponds daily with his colleagues in Israel to check on any new developments in the research.

Bittner recently attended the 10th annual meeting of BGU's Toronto chapter, to thank Canadian donors for supporting scientists and other researchers at BGU.

At the meeting, Michael Wynston, the outgoing president of BGU's Toronto chapter handed over the reigns to new president Barry Lipson.

Wynston noted BGU has seen its student population skyrocket to 15,000 – double that of five years ago. Twenty-five percent of its student population is in the health and natural science fields.

Dental hygienists name new director

TORONTO — The board of the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA) has elected Carolyn Rose as a director.

A registered dental hygienist, Rose brings a broad range of knowledge and expertise to the position. As director, she joins a team of professionals whose main objective is to ensure public access to dental hygiene services.

Dental hygiene is among the largest of the regulated health professions in the province. In working more closely with government and allied health groups, the ODHA hopes to promote dental hygienists as a knowledgeable health resource within the community.

As a member of the board of directors, Rose will take an active role in promoting the ODHA's public campaign during National Dental Hygiene Week, Oct. 15 to 21, and Dental Health Month (April), in a continued effort to build awareness about the role and contributions of dental hygienists.

Established in 1963, the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association has more than 5,200 members.

Dental hygienists focus on prevention, and, thus make an important contribution to overall health. In addition to cleaning teeth to help prevent cavities and gum disease, they provide examinations of the mouth, neck and tongue. As well, they implement treatments, offer customized home oral care programs and evaluate individual oral care needs. ODHA members are regulated by the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario.

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The Canadian Jewish news

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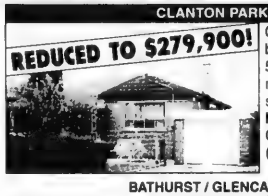

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330 OBITUARIES

GRUWER, ARON - On Tuesday, July 4, 2000 at Humber River Regional Hospital Finch Site. Aron Gruwer, beloved husband of Bronia. Loving father and father-in-law of Mark and Donna, and Rose. Devoted grandfather of Michele, Carlo, Darlene and Anthony. Devoted great-grandfather of Brandon, and Phillip. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, July 5, 2000. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the U.J.A., 416-631-5685.

FRANKEL, Seymour - on June 7, 2000, late of 1200 Don Mills Rd., #304.

ZINMAN, Allan - on June 8, 2000, late of 105 Heath St. W., #8.

ROSS, Helen - on June 9, 2000, late of 429 Walmer Rd.

GOLDBERG, Jack - on June 10, 2000, late of 429 Walmer Rd.

SOS, Zoltan - on June 10, 2000, late of 5444 Yonge St., #711.

BRUNSWICK, Alan - on June 12, 2000, late of 62 Baynards Lane.

LIBFELD, Ted - on June 13, 2000, late of 1 Clark Ave. W., UPH#5.

PREZES, Paul - on June 13, 2000, late of Calgary, Alberta.

GROSS, Dr. Ben - on June 14, 2000, late of 3 Concord Pl., #2205.

TENENBAUM, Jack - on June 14, 2000, late of 43 Russfax Dr.

MARTIN, Eric Frank - on June 15, 2000, late of 70 Ruddington Dr., #306.

ARONOVITCH, Seymour - on June 16, 2000, late of 2 Glade Carsway.

MILLER-FOXMAN, Terrie - on June 16, 2000, late of 299 Mullen Dr., #147.

PATLIK, Myer - on June 18, 2000, late of 4001 Bayview Ave., #1007.

KAPLAN, Murray - on June 19, 2000, late of 88 Garnier Crt.

SILVERSTONE, Dorothy - on June 19, 2000, late of 11 Regatta Cres.

WAGMAN, Toby - on June 19, 2000, late of 3900 Yonge St., #303.

ETLIN, Sylvia - on June 20, 2000, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.

ALTER, Eva - on June 21, 2000, late of 2121 Bathurst St., #923.

GERTNER, Hilda - on June 21, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GELLER, Belle - on June 19, 2000, late of 55 Ameer Ave.

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NYUL, Alex - on June 14, 2000.

ROSENBLATT, Gordon - on June 14, 2000.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

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SUGARMAN, Sam - on June 15, 2000, late of 62 Waterloo Ave.
GOTLIEB, Louis - on June 16, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
JACKSON, Ned - on June 16, 2000.
WEISS, Renee - on June 16, 2000, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
MANKOFSKY, Jack - on June 18, 2000, late of 2075 Bayview Ave.
WARGA, Harry - on June 18, 2000, late of 56 Codsell Ave.
ZUKER, Jennie Ruth - on June 18, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BAIN, Mildred - on June 19, 2000, late of 98 Wenderly Dr.
SILBER, Andrei - on June 19, 2000.
FRIDMAN, Moisey - on June 20, 2000, late of 6020 Bathurst St.
FELDHENDLER, Bilha - on June 21, 2000, late of 267 Haddington Ave.
LEVINSON, Ulysses - on June 21, 2000, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. W.
ZAFFIR, Menachem - on June 21, 2000.
GERENDASI, Imre - on June 22, 2000.
COCHEN, Samuel - on June 23, 2000, late of 260 Scarlet Rd.
KAFKA, Louis - on June 23, 2000, late of 17 Brill Cres.
EISENBAUM, Esther - on June 24, 2000, late of 130 Faywood Blvd.
KESHEN, Rosaline - on June 26, 2000, late of 268 Ridley Blvd.
GOMORI, Elizabeth - on June 26, 2000.
HERLING, Morris - on June 26, 2000, late of 24 Carousel Crt.
ISENBERG, Solly - on June 26, 2000, late of 55 Skymark Dr.
SHERMAN, Yana - on June 27, 2000, late of 75 Weldrick Rd.
KRYCHEVSKA, Elka - on June 28, 2000, late of 155 Antibes Dr.

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WHITE, Ruth - on June 27, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
KLEIN, Joseph (Lucky) - on June 27, 2000, late of 21 Charleswood Dr.
SOLOWAY, Louis - on June 28, 2000, late of 2 Buchan Crt.
LUSTIG, Luisa - on June 28, 2000.
BRUDNO, Svetlana - on June 28, 2000, late of 4866 Bathurst St.
CERESNEY, Isabella Ida - on June 29, 2000, late of 152 Almore Ave.
GELLER, Anna Ernestina - on June 29, 2000, late of 8 Donway E.
GOLDLIST, Bella - on June 28, 2000, late of 35 Gailcrest Circle.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Muslim Temple Mount building sparks protest

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Analysis

It was a rare phenomenon in Israeli public life. Leading Israeli personalities, from writer Amos Oz on the left to former Defence Minister Moshe Arens on the right, were among those signing an ad published in local papers protesting the "intolerable archaeological crime" perpetrated by Muslim officials on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

The ad, which was also signed by 75 legislators from across the political spectrum, attacked massive construction work conducted by the Wakf, or Islamic religious authority, aimed at expanding their places of worship on the Mount.

The petition urged Prime Minister Ehud Barak to take immediate action to stop the Wakf from continuing the work.

For his part, Barak refused to take such a step. In recent months, thousands of tons of gravel were removed from the construction site, including a considerable number of archeological artifacts, the ad charged. It also said the work was being conducted with no supervision from archeologists.

"I signed the petition as an archeologist, not as a politician," Prof. Trude Dotan of the Hebrew University told JTA. "You don't dig in such a sensitive site with bulldozers."

The controversy erupted just as Israel was trying to persuade the Palestinian Authority to conclude a final peace agreement that would defer what is perhaps the most sensitive issue confronting them – Jerusalem – for future negotiations.

The ad was just the latest chapter in the ongoing controversy over Jerusalem and who would exert control over an emotional centre – the Temple Mount.

For the past two years, Islamic officials, supported by volunteers and money from Israeli Arabs, have been engaged in huge construction works on the Mount. Among their goals was the construction of a third mosque to join the Al-Aksa and Dome of the Rock mosques already at the site.

Israeli officials did not interfere.

A.B. Yehoshua, one of Israel's foremost writers, said he is not concerned that his having signed the newspaper ad may help right-wingers in their campaign against Israel's making any concessions regarding Jerusalem.

"Palestinians should be concerned not to harm archeological assets no less then Jews," Yehoshua told JTA. "I followed my conscience. In my view, sovereignty in the Old City of Jerusalem should be multireligious, and the Palestinians should have their share. But one cannot always justify the Arabs."

Not all archeologists agree that the digging has caused damage.

Veteran archeologist Meir Ben-Dov, a leading expert on digs around the Temple Mount, downplayed the importance of the artifacts that were removed from the site.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert is firmly on the other side of the debate. According to Olmert, a supply line of construction material should be cut off at the Lion's Gate, the eastern entrance point to the Old City. This, he reasons, would spare the need to enter the Temple Mount itself to put an end to the work.

"No one suggests that we storm into the Temple Mount compound with bayonets," said Olmert, but "cautious, intelligent" action should be taken "in order for us to regain control of the Temple Mount."

For his part, Barak is in a bind. When the fate of a U.S.-hosted peace summit aimed at reaching a final Israeli-Palestinian peace deal is touch and go, a potential flare-up over Jerusalem is about the last thing he needs.

Following high-level consultations last week, Barak gave Muslim officials approval to continue with tiling work on the Mount, as long as no archeological damage is done.

The prime minister rejected a recommendation by Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and the Israel Antiquities Authority to halt or limit the work.

He also vetoed Olmert's recommendation to prevent the entry of heavy machinery, trucks and tractors to the Temple Mount.

Just the same, Barak directed Israeli officials to maintain "reasonable supervision" of the traffic entering and leaving the compound.

"We will do everything to maintain the status quo, but not to change it – not in our favour and not in anyone else's favour," said Danny Yatom, Barak's senior security adviser.

The "status quo" principle won unexpected support last week, when Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron sent letters to Muslim and Christian clergymen. In the letters, Israel's rabbinical authority stated, for the first time, that the status quo on Temple Mount should be preserved, because any change "could desecrate the sanctity of the site and lead to bloodshed."

The letters infuriated the extreme right.

"Even if you are a chief rabbi," said Itamar Ben-Gvir, a former activist in the now-banned Kach movement, "you cannot decide that the House of God will be under Palestinian administration. This is definitely crossing a red line. This is a black day."

Indeed, Barak is also concerned that right-wing extremists, agitated by the Wakf's construction work may try to break into the site or take other action to protest the damage they claim is being done to sacred Jewish antiquities at the site, where the First and Second Temples stood.

The Arab presence in Jerusalem dates back to 638, when a Muslim army conquered the city.

Meanwhile, Sheik Najah Bakirat of the Islamic Movement, a leading Israeli Arab political party, insisted this week that the construction has caused no damage.

"I can assure you that during the construction work we have found no Jewish" artifacts, he said.

He also maintained that there was "no proof" that was the site of the Jewish Temples. "I suggest that the Jews look for the Temple somewhere else," he said.

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Single Jewish female, 31 yrs, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, adventurous, caring, sincere, enjoys long walks and having coffee at cafes. Seeking male, 30-40 yrs, who has traditional Jewish values and similar interests. **AD#1284**

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Single female, very attractive, fit, no children, loves life, seeks male handsome, financially and emotionally stable, single Dad's or divorced okay caring honest down to earth, clean shaven, well groomed and loves life. **AD#1331**

FREE SPIRIT
Single female, Jewish, 38 yrs, 5'6", slim, pretty, fit, Dr. of natural medicine, teacher, open minded, spiritual, fun loving, dancer, writer, artist, actress, emotionally stable. Seeking male, fun, fit, romantic, easy going, good communicator. **AD#1550**

HAPPINESS IS KEY
Female, 41 yrs, green eyes, auburn hair, pretty, fun loving, kind, humourous, open minded, love for humanity and animals. Seeking kind, open hearted, generous gentleman, age/height/weight not important, financially secure, similar qualities, who'll treat me with respect and kindness. **AD#1607**

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Retired female, successful Jewish business, professional, widow, 52 yrs, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, caring, fun loving, positive, passionate, and looking for excitement in life. Seeking successful, tall, Jewish, businessman, or professional 50-62 yrs. **AD#1118**

LOVE'S LIFE
Single Jewish female, slim, young looking, attractive, kind, warm hearted, outgoing, enjoys theatre, reading, nature walks, art, movies, tradition, travel and dancing. Seeking male, 49-59 yrs, with similar interest, who's ready to share life to the fullest. **AD#1215**

SERIOUS COMMITMENT
Attractive Jewish female, 59 yrs, sincere, compassionate, fun loving, selective, and unincumbered, enjoy bridge, tennis, jazz, books, movies and dining. Seeking handsome male, who's elegant, intelligent, independent, and non-smoker, to share the best years of life. **AD#1332**

LASTING RELATIONSHIP
Single Eastern European, born female, 55 yrs, 5'7", independent, intelligent, and a smoker, seeks male for a loving and lasting relationship. **AD#1432**

LIFE'S PLEASURES
Attractive single professional female, educated, independent, compassionate, imaginative, athletic, sensual and vibrant, enjoy nature, the arts and enlightened conversations. Seeking cultured, witty, literate, accomplished and kind male, 40-50 yrs, who thinks, outside the box, to sample life's pleasures together. **AD#1010**

SERIOUS INTENTIONS
Single female, fit, full of energy, blonde hair, hazel eyes, seeks male, attractive, fit, 37-45 yrs, emotionally and financially stable. **AD#1386**

SHARE LIFE
Female, with many interests, enjoy theatre, movies, dining out and quiet times at home, seeks male 65+ to share interests with. **AD#1230**

SECOND CHANCES
Divorced Jewish professional female, 51 yrs, Eastern European background, speak Hebrew, loving, caring, romantic, great personality, sense of humour, family values, enjoys good conversation, walks, movies, theatre and travelling, seeking male, 51-58 yrs, with similar qualities and interests, for long term relationship. **AD#1323**

MARRIAGE ONLY
Separated female, attractive, Hebrew teacher, with 5 yr old daughter, seeking only attractive, financially secure male 30-38, who wants quiet family life, must love my daughter and be ready to care her as a father. **AD#1229**

TAKE A CHANCE
Single professional female, 43 yrs, with one 14 yr old daughter, originally from Eastern Europe, attractive, slim, enjoys dining, reading and long walks. Seeking financially independent male, 45-55 yrs, with similar interests. **AD#1194**

MY BEST FRIEND
Divorced Jewish professional mom, 43 yrs, 5'6", lives in Thornhill, seeks intelligent, stable, optimistic, happy, healthy and energetic single Jewish mensch, with family values, sense of humour, for long term committed relationship based on honesty and friendship. **AD#1133**

MULTI-FACETED
Female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, unpretentious, fun loving, compassionate, of substance depth and soul, enjoys good food, conversation, walks, quiet times. Seeking male, romantic, affectionate, gentle, emotionally/financially secure, with integrity, traditional values, style, who's ready and available to explore life. **AD#1170**

SHARE LOVE AND LAUGHTER
Divorced Jewish female, early 50's, 5'6", attractive professional with 2 grown children, honest, sincere, romantic, enjoys opera, classical music, theatre, travel, dining, dancing. Seeking male 45-56 yrs, same interests, caring, financially independent, respectful, fun loving, traditional values, for love and laughter. **AD#1242**

LET'S CONNECT
Single female, 52 yrs, a high school teacher with 2 grown daughters, enjoy hiking, plays, sewing, music, gardening, Jewish studies, and computers. Seeking kind, warm and loving male, who wants a real relationship, devoting time and energy to develop a connection. **AD#1225**

MARRIAGE MINDED
Separated Israeli, female, mother of 1 child, 5 yrs, attractive, Hebrew teacher. Seeks male, professional or self employed, handsome, 5'10" or over, non-smoker, non-drinker, fluent in Hebrew for serious relationship. **AD#1193**

CLASSY LADY
Single Jewish female, 62 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, selective, enjoys music, the theatre. Seeks male elegant, classy, for loving monogamous long term relationship **AD#1054**

FAMILY ORIENTATED
Single divorced Jewish female, attractive, elegant, sophisticated, intelligent, romantic, warm with great sense of humour. Seeking male, 50-60 yrs, kind, generous, romantic, knows how to treat and respect a lady who was previously married and experienced family life. **AD#1396**

ANIMAL LOVER
Single Jewish female, tall, with long dark hair and dark eyes, enjoys travelling, the outdoors, and loves animals. Seeking a tall male, with a good sense of humour, who's easy to talk to. **AD#1387**

LET'S LAUGH
Single female, 40 yrs, a beauty, zestic, fun loving, lives large and respects life. Seeking nice Jewish male, 35-75 yrs, who's open hearted and minded, is financially secure for a wonderful friend and kind loving companion. **AD#1392**

FRIEND AND COMPANION
Single Jewish female. window, 55 yrs, 5' attractive, intelligent, caring, raised with traditional values. Seeking male, 55-65 yrs, with similar qualities, for friendship, companionship, to share laughter and more. **AD#1618**

BE MY MENSCH
Attractive female, 5'8", creative, active, adventurous, youthful and elegant feminist. Seeks emotionally available mensch, 50-56 yrs, to share arts, nature and more. **AD#1408**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single mom, 40 yrs, attractive, slim, 1 ten year old son, university educated, employed, ambitious, outgoing, enjoys dining dancing, cooking, reading, long walks, sports, cross country skiing. Seeks male, non-smoker, social drinker in the same age group with similar interests. **AD#1359**

MUSIC LOVER
Divorced female, from the Hamilton area, originally from Montreal, vivacious, fit, attractive, early 50's, enjoys travel, dining and dancing, theatre. Seeks male, outgoing, financially independent, likes classical music and jazz good sense of humour, loves tennis for possible long term relationship. **AD#1606**

COMPANIONSHIP
Female, 5'2", blonde hair with medium build, employed full time and works out at YMCA. Seeking gentleman who's nice and honourable as a companion. **AD#1357**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Jewish female, divorced, 40 yrs, very attractive, well educated, physically fit, good sense of humour. Seeking male with same attributes, who's financially and emotionally secure, professional, honest, reliable, 40-50 yrs, and knows how to live life to the fullest. **AD#1642**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Divorced female, 40 yrs, with 10 yr old son, 5'3fi, very attractive, slim, adventurous, university educated, employed, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys movies, sports, dancing and taking walks. Seeking male who's university educated, non-smoker and drinks very little. **AD#1369**

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LET'S TALK
Single male, 34 yrs, not shy, loves exercise and conversations, seeks female with similar qualities. **AD#1334**

ORTHODOX PREFERRED
Single Jewish male, late 40s, 5' 10", great blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, compassionate, with a great sense of humour, enjoys theatre, long walks in the park, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking single or widowed female, intelligent, 32-45 yrs, with similar personality and interests. **AD#1097**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single male, Shoma-Shabbas, professional Jewish educator, warm, caring, handsome, and eclectic, seeking Jewish observant, female, who's spiritual, with jois de vive, for love, marriage and children. **AD#1248**

SUMMER ROMANCE
Divorced male, Jewish, 37 yrs, handsome, athletic, 5'10", no children, condo owner, enjoys tennis, squash, movies, reading, dining and dancing. Seeks female, Jewish, 32-42 yrs, slim, attractive, for possible long term relationship. **AD#1160**

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 36 yrs, 5'7", blonde hair, never been married, fun loving, easy going, happy, with good sense of humour, enjoys sports oriented, activities, and going out to movies. Seeking female of similar age. **AD#1422**

LOVING GENTLEMAN
Single male, tall, youthful appearance, active, fit, loving, considerate, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks amiable female for companionship and friends first relationship **AD#1086**

HEART OF GOLD
Single senior gentleman, tall, youthful active, thoughtful, loving non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks female similar for companionship. **AD#1244**

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, non-observant Jewish male, widow, 50 yrs, professional, no kids or other dependents, very fit, works out 4 times a week. Seeking female, 45-50 yrs, with very similar attributes, for a relationship. **AD#1241**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, professional accountant, enjoys sports, long walks, dining and dancing, keeping fit, movies, reading travel. Seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1445

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Divorced male, 44 yrs, Toronto born and raised, 5'10", smoker, lived in Israel for 11 yrs, variety of interests, seeks female, sexy, attractive, adventurous, fun loving, for romantic relationship. **AD#1375**

LET'S TALK
Caring nature, semi-retired, 67 yr old, professional male, non-smoker with many interests and hobbies, seeking easy going, down to earth female, who's slim, attractive, and fun to be with. **AD#1094**

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Semi-retired male, 5'11", 165 lbs, slim, blue eyes, healthy, attractive, casual, romantic, enjoys intimate restaurants, sea, sun, walks on the beach sports, swimming, tennis, 60's music and kissing, seeking attractive female, caring, humourous, financially secure, physically and emotionally fit. **AD#1524**

POSSIBLE ROMANCE
Single male, 48 yrs, 5'10", 175 lbs, attractive, friendly, outgoing, romantic, passionate, straight forward, open-minded, employed, enjoy movies, dining, walks in parks, sporting events, golf, cuddling and watching TV. Seeking female with similar qualities and interests, for friendship and perhaps romance **AD#1623**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people. Sedks female similar qualities and interests **AD#1388**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single male, 48 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography. Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with. **AD#1038**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family. **AD#1370**

SPECIAL SENIOR DOLL
Single retired male, living in Toronto and Florida, seeking female, 65+, who's good looking, slim, and must have a good sense of humour, for meaningful relationship. **AD#1120**

LOVE WAITS
Single male, 5'7", Greenish blue eyes, handsome, poor starving writer, reliable, enjoys sports, swimming, tennis, very down to earth, ready to start a family. Seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. **AD#1195**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 34 yrs, seeking female with professional status, intelligent, good conversationalist, who enjoys movies, sports, dining, dancing, walks, reading, having fun and tender moments. **AD#1190**

IT'S SPRING!
Single male, 46 yrs, special education teacher, 2 grown children, 23 yrs & 21 yrs, romantic, self-confident, enjoys roller-blading, travel, country walks, have eclectic tastes, good sense of humour. Seeks female with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1488**

FAMILY MAN
Separated male, 50 yrs, 5'7", 160lbs, with 3 teenage children, family oriented, fairly intelligent and financially secure. Seeking female who enjoys dining, theatre, movies, outdoor activities and welcomes anyone with family. **AD#1533**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Single Jewish male, 33 yrs, good sense of humour, honest, nice, intelligent, happy, warm hearted, energetic. Seeks female, happy go lucky who's wants some good laughs. **AD#1442**

TIMELESS LOVE
Single male, 49 yrs, 5'11", Brown hair, Brown eyes, handsome, successful, caring, supportive, romantic, passionate, sensual, open honest with feelings, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cooking quiet evenings at home. Seeks attractive female 35-45 yrs, affectionate, emotionally healthy, passionate about herself and the man in her life. **AD#1377**

WANTS FAMILY LIFE
Divorced male, 53 yrs, a writer, no children, good hearted, good looking, good humoured and good brain. Seeking female to have children with and start a family. **AD#1151**

TO SHARE LIFE
Single male, 41 yrs, seeks female who's attractive, nice, good sense of humour, lives in the Toronto, enjoys theatre, having a good time and the great outdoors to share my life with. **AD#1265**

SCHOLARLY MYSTIC
Attorney and international entrepreneur, cultured, sereodite, talmud, chachim, kabalist, thaumaturical healer, violinist, poet, parachutist, scuba diver, wishes to a new period. Seeks slender, intelligent, attractive, adventurous lady who's emotionally/financially secure as my queen. **AD#1386**

GOOD IN EVERY WAY!
Divorced male, 53 yrs, no children, good hearted, good humoured, good looking. Seeks female for loving relationship. **AD#1600**

WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS MOST
Single male, 47 yrs, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies-especially Hitchcock, and drives in the country. Seeking female, professional or non-professional, non slim okay, children okay, smoker on non-smoker, a basically nice, down to earth person. **AD#1055**

WARM & CARING
Single white male, 57 yrs, warm, caring, romantic, self-employed. Enjoys travel, movies, quiet romantic evenings, good conversation. Seeks female with similar interests and qualities. **AD#1565**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single male, young looking, 45 yrs, 5'11", brown hair, brown eyes, cute smile, university educated, employed professional, good manners. Enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, sporting events. Seeks female 30-42 yrs, for casual relationship, possible long lasting relationship. **AD#1598**

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 35 yrs, 5' 10", honest, sharing and caring, down to earth, enjoys movies, dining, and dancing, concerts, quiet romantic evenings. Seeks female with similar interests. **AD#1660**

LOVE AWAITS
Single Jewish male, late 40's , 5' 10", grey blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, loving, good sense of humour. Enjoys the theatre, long walks, bowling, tennis. Seeks female, 32-33 yrs, single or widowed, orthodox preferred but not required, intelligent, with similar interests. **AD#1161**

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER
Single Jewish male, widower, blue eyes, brown hair, medium height, good looking, non smoker, very fit, work out, enjoy movies, dining, travelling, beach holidays, skiing. Seeking a female, attractive, good natured, to enjoy life with. **AD#1393**

GOOD MAN
Divorced male, 53, no children, good hearted, good looking, good sense of humour. seeking a female to share life with. **AD#1178**

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
Single male, unique and special, with traditional values, attractive, young looking, healthy, successful, enjoy life. Seeking a female with similar qualities. **AD#1212**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, sincere, no children. Seeking a physically fit and sincere female, 25-35, for serious relationship. **AD#1189**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single Jewish semi-retired business man in beauty supply, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, short dark hair, mustache, traditional, family oriented, enjoy swimming, bicycling, lot of educational reading. Seeking a Jewish female to have children and a family. **AD#1322**

TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME
Single Jewish male, traditional, 50, 5'8", 145lbs, well educated, semi-retired, in the beauty supply business, handsome, short dark hair, mustache, enjoy swimming, cycling, educational reading, family life, ready for marriage and family. Seeking a single Jewish female, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1006**

LIVE LIFE FULLY
Single male, divorced, father of 2, 48, 5'7", slim, fit, generous, Family Physician, enjoy philosophy, cultures, Latin dancing, cross country skiing. Seeking a younger female, attractive, slim, highly intelligent, passionate, giving, sincere, emotionally and financially secure, likes children. **AD#1311**

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Reisses' pitches noticed by Major League teams

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Parents, they say, have no trouble telling identical twins apart. Baseball scouts, on the other hand, may not have it quite that easy, so it's a good thing that Stephen and Michael Reiss wear their numbers on their backs of their jerseys. With skill sets uncannily alike, there's virtually no other way for major league scouts to tell them apart.

Both are six-foot-four, 175-lbs. Both are tremendously competitive high achievers. Both can hurl the ball at a whistling 93 miles per hour; both pitched for their high school baseball team, the Vaughan Voyageurs; both pitched no-hitters for the Voyageurs on the same day; both were in the starting rotation for the Thornhill Reds midgets; both played for Team Ontario; and both will pitch this summer for Canada's national junior team.

Oh yes, both have received offers for full athletic scholarships from the University of Houston. About the only difference between the two is that one uses a changeup as his strike-out pitch, the other a curve.

With tonnes of talent and fiery spirit to boot, the Reiss brothers were among 35 young Canadians chosen recently by Major League teams in the 2000 MLB Draft.

Michael was taken by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 26th round, 771st overall, while Stephen was picked by the Twins in the 27th round, 792nd overall.

Their stock appears to have fallen in the months leading up to the draft, partly as a result of speculation they had committed themselves to the University of Houston and would want fat contracts to dissuade them from college careers.

Last December, six months before the draft, Michael had been ranked as the top Canadian prospect by the *Toronto Sun* in its annual pre-draft forecast. *Baseball America* ranked Michael 29th overall in North America.

"Rumours before the draft were that we wanted second round money, $500,000 (US) or $300,000, but that wasn't true," Michael said. "That pushed us down in the draft, and also because we had committed to Houston and because we wanted to be together."

Despite their relatively late selections, both brothers were thrilled to have been drafted. "It was shocking and then, oh my God, all that work paid off," Stephen said. "All the hours I spent working out paid off. It's like a dream come true."

"There are really no words to express how you feel," added Michael. "It's what you worked for all those years. I was just thrilled to be drafted by Milwaukee, a quality organization."

Quality is the kind of word that comes easily to Neil Sagal, their high school baseball coach, when he talks about the twins. "They are outstanding young men," he said.

"These guys are in a league of their own in Canada," he said, but it's the extras they bring that really impressed Sagal. Stephen and Michael often help out coaching younger high school players. "It just makes my day to let them take charge and it's wonderful to see how the youngsters look up to them.... The Grade 9s already have their autographs."

Perhaps one day they'll have their baseball cards too. But despite the high emotions of draft day, both brothers are weighing their futures coolly and rationally. They know their options are open and they probably won't make a final decision until the end of the summer.

Michael and Stephen expect they will be scouted to see how they develop playing for the Canadian juniors. If they play well, they may receive firm offers by mid or late summer. But, says Michael, "It would have to take a substantial offer to change our minds" from going to college next year. After three years in the NCAA both would be eligible to re-enter the draft.

Besides the advantage of staying together for a further three years, playing for the Houston Cougars would expose them to quality coaching, assist their development and provide them with a good education.

The alternative is to sign with Milwaukee and Minnesota, attend instructional camps and play in the rookie league, hoping to move up through A, AA and AAA leagues to the Majors.

Whether it's at college or the pros, it's clear there's going to be plenty of baseball in their lives – just the way they like it.

Remarkably, up until Grade 9 both boys played only softball. They switched to hardball in 1996 when they were recruited to play for Toronto's JCC/Maccabi baseball team.

They had no difficulty making the transition to hardball and they helped lead Toronto to a gold medal at the youth Maccabi Games in Hartford. A year later they won silver in Detroit against much tougher American opposition.

What's more, they enjoyed hardball a lot more than softball. "There's so much more to the game," Stephen said. "There's more setting up of hitters. It's a complex game. It's a lot more fun and a lot more challenging."

As youngsters, they read Nolan Ryan's book on pitching, which helped them develop from throwers into pitchers. And they worked at it relentlessly.

"Everything we do is for baseball. We run, throw, watch games, read books," Stephen said.

"A lot of our success is because we're pretty much on each other's backs 24/7," Michael said. "We keep working and we push each other."

Part of their practices includes "long-tossing," throwing the ball at each other as hard as they can from 120 to 140 feet. "It's pretty much war," Michael said.

Michael was the first to throw a 93 m.p.h. fastball but over last winter, Stephen worked hard on his technique to catch up. "Before that, my mechanics weren't as good," he acknowledged. "This spring, I felt a lot looser and I threw a lot harder."

Stephen believes there's even more room for improvement. A baseball rule of thumb is that you can add 1 m.p.h. for every 10 pounds of weight that is gained. Currently 175 lbs., his goal is to hit 200 and boost his fastball into the 95 or 96 m.p.h. range.

No doubt, Michael feels the same way – or he will once his brother hits the magic number. In the meantime, they're working hard to expand their pitching repertoire. Stephen is working on his changeup while Michael is hoping to improve his curve ball.

Who knows, one day it could be Reiss vs. Reiss in a pitcher's duel when Minnesota and Milwaukee hook up.

SCHOOL'S OUT – CAMP'S IN: Israeli youngster at a water slide in Or Yehuda, near Ramat Gan, during camp outing. [Isranet photo]

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Recommended Reading

Non-Fiction

• **The Jewish State: The Struggle for Israel's Soul** *by Yoram Hazony*, $42.50, HC, Basic Books, N.Y.

A must-read for anyone disturbed by the "post-Zionism" phenomenon in Israel and concerned about the country's future.

• **The Book of Jewish Values** *by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin*, $44.95, HC, Bell Tower, N.Y.

A day-by-day guide to ethical Jewish living by the author of *Jewish Literacy*, the most widely read book on Judaism in the past two decades.

• **The Genesis of Justice** *by Alan M. Dershowitz*, $36.95, HC, Warner Books, Inc., N.Y.

Ten stories of biblical injustices that led to the Ten Commandments and modern law.

• **That's What I Am**, *By Al Waxman* $32.95, HC, Malcolm Lester Books, Toronto.

"A remarkably honest, revealing portrait of a true Canadian star triumphing over his sensitivities and uncertainties. A fascinating read." (Knowlton Nash)

Fiction

• **Sulha** *by Malka Marom*, $27.95 soft cover (SC), Key Porter Books Limited, Toronto.

"*Sulha* attempts to reconcile ancient conflicts, the living and the dead, forgetting and forgiving, within the compassion and frailties of its characters. It is a large-hearted book, full of questions." (Anne Michaels)

• **Ravelstein** *by Saul Bellow*, $34.99, HC, The Penguin Group, N.Y.

"He lived by his ideas... There was nothing of the average in Ravelstein's life. He did not accept dullness and boredom." (From the book)

• **Bociany and Of Lodz and Love** *by Chava Rosenfarb*, $46.50 each, Yiddish or English, HC, Syracuse University Press.

Winner of the Annual Jewish Book Award. Translated from the Yiddish by the author.

• **The Mark of the Angel**, *by Nancy Huston* $24.95, HC, McArthur & Co.

Winner of the Annual Jewish Book Award, as well as literary awards in both France and Quebec. Beautiful love story set in Paris during the Algerian war of independence. Translated from French.

Children's Books

• **Perfect Porridge** *by Rochel Sandman*, $15.95, HC, Hachai Publishing, N.Y.

A lovely story about kindness during difficult times.

• **The Secret of Gabi's Dresser** *by Kathy Kacer*, $6.95, SC, Second Story Press.

Winner of this year's Book Awards Committee Prize for Young Adult Fiction, as well as a Canadian Children's Book Centre choice. (Holocaust literature)

• **Shayna's Shadows** *by Philip Brown*, $14.95, SC, Educan Publishing

A book of fiction for young adults about bigotry.

• **What If – Sara** *by Rhea Tregebov*, $5.95, SC, Second Story Press.

A wonderful immigrant story for young children. One of the *Globe and Mail's* picks of the year.

• **The Dangerous Journey** *by Moshe Weinberg*, $19.50, HC, Targum/Feldheim.

A boy's adventure in czarist Russia. An exciting read.

Recommended Reading will appear monthly. The list is prepared by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

This summer, most of my friends are going to sleepover camp. But I don't want to go to camp because I am afraid that I'll be too homesick and lonely without my parents. At school some people told me that I was a baby and that camp is really fun, but I am happy with just hanging out at my cottage during the summer instead of going to camp. The problem is that this summer, my parents really want me to try out sleepover camp for at least a week. They say that I will love it and have a great time, but I am still not sure. How do I get over my fear of sleepover camp?

Nervous for Camp

Dear Nervous,

It is true that sleepover camp can be a really fun experience for kids; however, camp is not for everyone. Camp can be a really great experience for kids, but only if they are willing to go and have fun. If you feel that you are being forced to go to camp then do not go, because you should not feel pressured to do things.

But, if there is a part of you that wants to go away to camp, but also a part of you that wants to stay at home, then you should at least try camp and see how you like it. You don't even need to go to overnight camp to get a great summer camping experience.

There are lots of day camps in Canadian cities, where kids can indulge in all of the activities of sleepover camp while still being able to go home at night. Perhaps you want to try out a day camp, and see how you feel about being with friends and away from your parents all day. If you enjoy day camp, then perhaps try spending a week at an overnight camp.

Camp can be a very rewarding and fun experience if you wish to be there, but again do not allow yourself to be pressured into making decisions. You are not a baby for not wanting to go to camp, and you have to remember that all kids (and even their counsellors!) are nervous before the summer. No one knows exactly what to expect, but that is part of the excitement of camp.

Even if there is a little bit of nervous excitement in you, don't hold yourself back from trying new things and seeing if the camp experience is right for you. No matter what you do, I'm sure that you'll have a great summer!

Karilani is a composite name for three girls, who are close friends and in Grade 12 in Toronto

The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

"Kid Stuff"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

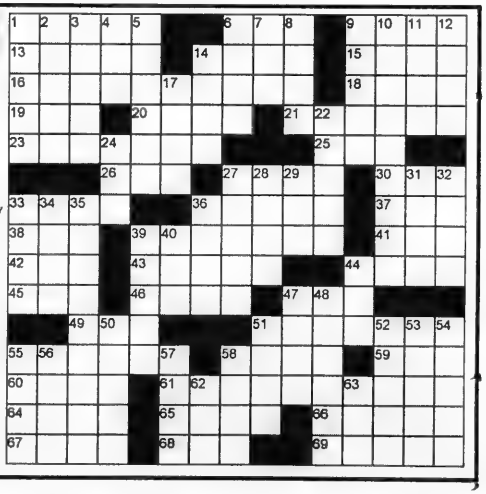
Across

1 ___ *of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (book by this puzzle's star)
6 This puzzle's star, for one
9 Pack (away)
13 Arab League member
14 Mystical poem
15 Newsweek rival
16 Book by this puzzle's star
18 Like fine wine
19 Terre Haute sch.
20 A snap
21 Puts off
23 Performs Yom Kippur rites
25 Sea, in Savoy
26 Dunderhead
27 Zodiac animal
30 One tide
33 Actor Damon
36 *Freckle* ___ (book by this puzzle's star)
37 *Are* ___ *There, God? It's Me, Margaret* (book by this puzzle's star)
38 Fool's ending?
39 Book by this puzzle's star
41 Home to the anvil and stirrup
42 Propagandist's tool
43 Big mineral deposits
44 Yakov Smirnoff's home, once
45 Roseanne's hubby
46 Puts into practice
47 Part of Iowa's capital
49 Where you need your PIN
51 Guide for Jews who are code dependent
55 ___ *House* (book by this puzzle's star)
58 Hava Nagila dance
59 Egg machine
60 Warty fellow, supposedly
61 See 35-down
64 Pennsylvania city
65 Reverse the effects of
66 John ___ Garner (one of FDR's vice presidents)
67 Department store section
68 2-2, maybe
69 Barely beats

Down

1 "___ With Love" (1967 Sidney Poitier movie)
2 Keep entertained
3 Drink milk, as a cat
4 Opposite of WSW
5 Police car noises
6 With 39-down, this puzzle's star
7 Linguistic cousin of Yid.
8 Garden worry
9 New York or Israel
10 Book by this puzzle's star
11 It ends the day before Shauvot
12 Uses a *chupah*
14 Ukr. neighbor
17 Pool legend Minnesota
22 Campfire remnant
24 Nosh
27 Rubik's prides
28 Barbecue choice
29 Smashing serve
31 Constricting creatures
32 Third US vice president
33 Like some cheese
34 Turkey's place
35 With 61-across, book by this puzzle's star
36 "Hey ___"
39 See 6-down
40 ___ Alamos, NM
44 Yakov Smirnoff's home, now
47 Have the chutzpah
48 Comic Boosler
50 Streisand's "The Prince of ___"
51 Bum
52 Cheech's buddy
53 Therefore
54 New deal money?
55 Gossiped-about couple
56 D.C. Tipper
57 Blue material
58 London's ___ Park
62 ___ *Ma'amin*
63 Roll of cash

(Answers are on page 32.)



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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

"No reason" for community to fear Stockwell Day. *Page 3*

Former Israeli consul will miss Toronto. *Page 5*

Mulroney to speak at CJC Quebec region plenary. *Page 26*

On Campus

Jewish fraternity hires two consultants. *Page 27*

Health & Lifestyles

Baycrest's phone "angels" reach out to seniors. *Page 28*

Arts & Travel

Fringe performer deserves spotlight in the mainstream. *Page 40*

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Unity govt. possible

If talks fail

By YOSSI VERTER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — If the Camp David talks collapse, "a national emergency government is an option to be taken into account," Prime Minister Ehud Barak told Yisrael b'Aliyah leader MK Natan Sharansky in a telephone call Saturday night, Sharansky said recently.

Sharansky claims that all that is needed to form such a government is for Barak to telephone Likud leader MK Ariel Sharon.

However, the Likud issued a statement, declaring that "Barak has no right to divide Jerusalem. He broke his promise to his voters and therefore the Likud will not join a government under him."

Despite this, sources in the Likud said recently that most of the party's senior figures will agree to join an "emergency government" if the summit meeting fails and violence erupts in the territories.

The view in both the Likud and One Israel is that if an agreement is reached at Camp David, but Barak is unable to obtain a parliamentary majority for it and for a referendum, elections will be held early next year.

Camp David

The CJN went to press before the anticipated resolution of the Camp David talks. Full coverage of the outcome will appear in the next issue.

A PRIVATE PRAYER AT THE WESTERN WALL: Veteran Hollywood actor Kirk Douglas, 83, last week visited Jerusalem. In a twist of irony that could have come from one of his movie scripts, Douglas' private visit to the Wall came at the very time that sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem was the main subject at the Camp David summit. Douglas, seen here placing a note between the cracks in the Wall and praying for the note's fulfillment, poignantly symbolizes the Jewish attachment to the place and to the stones of that Wall. *[Israel and RNS/Reuters photos]*

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Mattot-Masei
Candlelighting: 8:27
Havdallah: 9:32

Perspectives: Deep existential fear among the settlers – see page 9

The News in Brief

CANADA

Order of Canada

OTTAWA — Several Jewish Canadians were among the 103 new appointments to the Order of Canada announced this month by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson.

Promoted to companion, the highest rank within the Order, was Victor Goldbloom, Canada's former Commissioner of Official Languages. Named as a companion was Prof. Raymond Klibansky, professor emeritus at McGill University and an internationally recognized scholar in the history of ancient and modern philosophy.

Named as officers were philanthropist and businessman Edward Bronfman of Toronto; and Montreal's Dr. David Goltzman, chair of medicine and physician-in-chief of the McGill University Health Centre, for health care.

Named as members were longtime community activist Morley Cohen of Montreal for voluntarism; literary translator Sheila Leah Fischman of Montreal for literature; Jack Rabinovitch of Toronto in the field of business and commerce; and Jack Yazer of Sydney, N.S., for philanthropy.

Vandal Sentenced

WINNIPEG — A man who toppled more than 300 headstones at a Jewish cemetery during a drunken rampage has received a nine-month conditional sentence. Russell Frank Martens, 22, of Grunthal, Man., pleaded guilty in May to one count of mischief. Martens must also pay $17,600 in restitution – one-fifth of the nearly $88,000 damage done to the cemetery.

ISRAEL

Extradition Urged

JERUSALEM — The Israel office of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre is urging Latvia to ratify an extradition treaty with Australia and request the transfer of Nazi war criminals Konrads Kalejs and Karlis Ozols. Kalejs lived in Toronto for several years until an immigration adjudicator ruled that he took part in war crimes and did not have the right to remain here.

WORLD

Hillary Denies Slur

NEW YORK — U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton described as "an outrageous lie" a new book's claim that she called an aide to her husband a "Jew bastard" after Bill Clinton's unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1974. "I have spent a lifetime devoted to increasing tolerance. This never happened," Rodham Clinton said.

Joseph Mlotek Dies

NEW YORK — Joseph Mlotek, one of North America's best-known Yiddishists, died here this month at age 81. Mlotek was a former editor of the Yiddish *Forward*. Born in Poland, Mlotek and his family lived briefly in Calgary. Among his survivors are a sister, Sara Rosenfeld of Montreal.

Leonard Baskin Dies

BOSTON — Leonard Baskin, an award-winning sculptor, died near here recently. He was 77. The son of a rabbi, he left a rich legacy of art, including a two-metre Holocaust sculpture in Ann Arbor, Mich., and a bas relief created for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington. Among his survivors are a brother, Rabbi Bernard Baskin of Hamilton, Ont.

Shoah Witness Dies

WASHINGTON — Jan Karski, a Polish resistance hero who tried to convince skeptical Allied leaders of the early horrors of the Holocaust, died here July 13. He was 86. A courier for Poland's underground Home Army, Karski witnessed the mass murder of Jews during World War II. But when he reached the West, his stories were disbelieved. A top U.S. judge told him, "I am not saying you are lying, but I don't believe you."

Ready to Talk

LIECHTENSTEIN — This tiny country says it is ready to hold talks on paying compensation for its wartime actions. The announcement came after a Swiss newspaper charged that Liechtenstein helped Nazi officials smuggle money and artwork looted from Jews.

UN Rejects Canada's Stand on Education

GENEVA —The United Nations' human rights committee last week rejected Canada's argument that education is a provincial responsibility, said a special representative appointed to follow up on countries that have failed to implement decisions by the committee.

Christine Chanet met privately last Wednesday with two members of Canada's mission to the UN in Geneva. "We have asked them to find a way to end this discrimination," she said of Ontario's policy of publicly funding Catholic education but not other faith-based schools.

Last February, in response to a complaint from Toronto Jewish parent Arieh Waldman, the UN committee found that Ontario discriminates against non-Catholics and violates an international covenant signed by Canada.

Chanet declined to give further details of Wednesday's half-hour discussion, which she described as "an ordinary meeting."

However, she noted that the committee rejects Canada's explanation that education is a provincial matter.

"It is the state that is in charge of implementing the covenant, not the provinces," she said.

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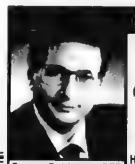
National

Greater Toronto Area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Day's ascension places him under microscope

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Not since the days of Social Credit, with its evocations of hellfire Prairie populism and unvarnished anti-Semitism, have national politics grabbed the attention of Canadian Jewry as the ascension of Stockwell Day to the leadership of the Canadian Alliance.

Persistent rumours linking Day to anti-Semitism – unsubstantiated though they have been – mean Jewish leaders and voters are paying close attention to the new leader, watching not only how he comports himself but what statements he will make to soften, at least, the strong right-wing views associated with his Christian fundamentalist past.

"There's a lot more to learn about him," commented Moshe Ronen, president of Canadian Jewish Congress. "He's still a relative unknown."

In the coming days CJC will be looking for statements from Day that will repudiate and condemn the intolerance to which the new leader has been linked.

"To say, 'I'm not an anti-Semite' is good and important, but the next step is equally important: to condemn those who espouse such views," Ronen told *The CJN*.

In the meantime, "I think we have to give him the benefit of the doubt, but it's important for him to express himself.

"There's no reason for the community to fear the election of Mr. Day." CJC, he added, "is not in fear mode."

Congress will also be meeting with Day in the coming months to air the community's priorities, which include prosecuting war crimes, establishing a Holocaust museum in Ottawa, the state of Canada-Israel relations, and the fight in Ontario over the provincial government's refusal to fund religious and independent schools.

Congress sent Day a letter congratulating him on his victory and offering best wishes. But CJC turned down a meeting with Day prior to the July 8 Canadian Alliance convention. Ronen said Congress thought it "inappropriate" to meet with a candidate prior to the leadership vote.

B'nai Brith Canada had no such qualms. Its leaders met with Day in Toronto the day before the convention.

At that meeting, Day repeated his plan to offer parents of children in faith-based schools a federal tax credit as a way to ease inequality with Ontario's publicly funded Catholic system.

At a June 1 meeting at Beth Jacob School for Girls, Day's team claimed to have signed up 400 Jewish members from the Orthodox community who were drawn to his promise on education funding.

At the meeting with B'nai Brith, Day also reportedly expressed his support for Israel.

"My policy would be one of pro-Israel – a very supportive approach," Day was quoted as saying. "It would be a supportive, friendly, pro-Israel policy I would be proposing."

Over the past few weeks, Day has found himself fending off questions about anti-Semitism.

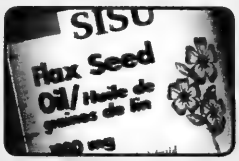
One accusation maintained that Day, when he was an administrator of a Pentecostal school in Alberta, sanctioned a curriculum with anti-Semitic undertones.

At one of the televised debates between Day and former leader Preston Manning, a 15-year-old high school student asked whether Day ever said that Jews were children of the devil, referring to a worksheet Day used in his school, asking whether it was true or false that "Jewish leaders are children of their father, the devil."

"That is absolutely, categorically, 1,000 percent false," Day replied angrily.

Day responded in a similar fashion when a reporter asked earlier this month, "Sir, do you still believe Jews are children of the devil?"

Day replied that the question was "ridiculous," noting that he had been gratified by support from the Jewish community in his campaign to lead the Alliance.



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Greater Toronto Area

Anne Frank's diary at Stratford

We knew it would happen. But even that foreknowledge provided very little shelter for our heavily stretched emotions.

It is the penultimate scene of the play. The five adults sit around the table bantering, distracted, their backs turned away from the attic door on the stage floor. The three teenagers are in Peter's "room" engaged in their own discussions, paying scant attention either to their parents or to any thing else on stage.

The door opens.

Suddenly, rising onto the stage from underneath the floor is an officer in an SS uniform. With him are the two collaborators. In the audience one can literally hear choked-back breath-catching in the throats of some trembling individuals.

There was no warning, no emotional or other preparation for us.

Like serpents coiling up through the cracks in the attic, the villains steal onto the stage unnoticed by the helpless victims and the disbelieving audience. Gruffly, brutally, with hooligan shouts and menacing threats of violence, they round up their pitiful, frightened, human prey.

In a mere instant of the pounding of one's heart, they are all gone. Taken away. Disappeared.

It happens so fast.

The audience is numb, frozen in its own silence.

During the brutal betrayal scene, as the focus of the audience is pinned on the unfolding doom of the eight hideaways, the setting imperceptibly changes.

The stage is now empty of players.

The annex has been transformed into a backdrop for the train tracks at a death camp, perhaps even Auschwitz. The imprisoning barbed wires are silhouetted against the background. Smoke and ash seem to rise from the floor.

Otto Frank, the only survivor of the eight real-life characters, returns to the stage to tell us of the final fates of the other seven, and, of course, to find his daughter, Anne's, diary.

The play ends as the stage darkens even more, except for one last feeble light that shines on the diary. The diary, we are told by the noble but grieving father, is "all that remains."

He was correct only literally.

But he was incorrect both dramatically and inspirationally. For his daughter's diary was destined to become far more than a reminder of someone who had once lived. More than a half-century after it was written, the diary remains a Rosetta stone helping to make intelligible on an individual scale the wholly unintelligible mass scale of the Shoah; it is also a magnetic needle pointing the way for our inquisitive, seeking youth, to the often obscured direction of goodness and hope.

Anne Frank

The Stratford production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* – the first ever undertaken by the company – was simply superb. Its impact on the audience was powerful and stunning.

After a few moments, once the audience had rebounded from silence at the end of the play like an athlete's slow recovery from a brief physical exhaustion, the applause in the small Avon Theatre was deafening – an emotional catharsis by an exceedingly appreciative audience.

The actors deftly conveyed the claustrophobia, fear, frustration and vulnerability of the victims' plight. Even during intermission they remained on stage, in character. The audience members left their seats, stretched their legs, sought refreshments, but the actors, true to the predicament of their roles, and to emphasize the point, were prisoners of their attic.

The entire company was excellent, but special plaudits must be directed to Maggie Blake, who played the role of Anne, and to Lally Cadeau, who played the role of Petronella van Daan.

Blake was a completely believable Anne, struggling with the tragedy of her situation and the turbulence of her teenagehood. Cadeau evoked the self-conscious strain of the role with aching empathy.

Maggie Blake

But as fulfilling as the performances were, it was Al Waxman's direction that elevated the play from genuine and authentic to insightful and poignant.

For example when Mr. Dussel was standing off to one corner praying with his prayer shawl and siddur, the prayer on his lips was "Sim shalom," namely, "bring about peace." The non-Jewish audience, while impressed with the authenticity of the action, could not have understood the deeper significance of the words of the actual prayer.

Throughout the play, Anne's father called her "Annika." No parent in the audience could be unmoved at the tenderness of the gesture or the inevitability of the fates that we knew, alas, awaited them.

The Diary of Anne Frank at Stratford is an outstanding production.

—*MBD*

SEE JN

FREE THE IRAN 10: Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Toronto recently to call for the release of 10 Iranian Jews convicted of spying for Israel (see story page 6). The rally was co-sponsored by UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto, Canadian Jewish Congress - Ontario region, B'nai Brith Canada, the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, the Jewish Civil Rights Education Foundation of Canada, the Toronto Board of Rabbis and the Va'ad Harabanim.

[Paul Lungen photos]

Greater Toronto Area

Consulate's Waidergorn returns to Israel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Although she hated the winters, Irit Waidergorn will miss Toronto after almost four years as Israel's consul to Ontario and western Canada.

As second-in-command at the Israeli Consulate (after consuls general Jehudi Kinar and more recently Meir Romem), Waidergorn had a variety of responsibilities.

"Not one day can be compared to another," the Tel Aviv native said.

In an interview at the consulate before her July 20 return to Israel, Waidergorn, 31, was hard-pressed to single out professional highlights of her Toronto stint. "There were so many," she said.

After reflecting briefly, she offered, "When you go to speak to a group, and the communication is wonderful, we both come out of this enriched.

"When you see an Israeli artist performing and you see the audience shouting 'Bravo!' – it's an honour.

"When you get thank-you letters from people you helped."

Irit Waidergorn

On a personal level, one event surpassed everything. In March 1999 Waidergorn became engaged to Guy Savion, whom she met shortly after her arrival in Toronto. They will be married in Israel in September.

Savion's name will be familiar to Torontonians who remember his father, Udi, as Toronto's aliyah shaliach from 1993 to 1996. Guy Savion studied Hospitality and Tourism Management at Ryerson Polytechnic University and is now working in the food industry in Israel.

In Israel, the couple may be known for a Toronto guidebook they co-authored, which was published through an Israeli newspaper.

But there were difficult moments for Waidergorn here too. Probably the toughest was informing an Israeli parent that his child had been killed in an accident. "I will not forget that day," she said quietly, her vivaciousness momentarily quelled.

Her office reflected a flurry of activity as she prepared for the arrival of her successor Zehavit Ben Hillel, who like Waidergorn came to her Canadian posting from South America.

Ben Hillel served most recently in Lima, Peru; Waidergorn, who has a B.A. in political science from Tel Aviv University, arrived in Toronto after postings in Brasilia and São Paolo, Brazil.

Over the course of her diplomatic career, Waidergorn feels she has developed personally and professionally. "I've learned so much."

She returned to Israel to take the position of first secretary in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, department of French-speaking countries, western Europe division.

Waidergorn believes her most important lesson as a consul was what it means to be a Jew outside of Israel. "In Israel it's not a challenge to be Jewish. Here you have to go to shul, look for a kosher supermarket, you have to tell your boss you don't want to work on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur."

She also learned about the importance of Conservative and Reform Judaism and the connection between Diaspora and Israeli Jews. "This is something I'm taking back to Israel with me... what it means to be Jewish and how I can have a better bond with Jewish communities in the world, because I think this is one of the most important things Israel has."

> *'Not one day can be compared to another'*

To Waidergorn's knowledge, no other Diaspora community celebrated Israel's 50th birthday in a way that compared to Toronto, with its Canadian National Exhibition pavilion.

She remains optimistic about Israel's political future. It will take "maybe a generation, probably two" to achieve peace, she believes. "You have to educate a whole new generation to accept its neighbour and not to hate it."

Politically, even though there were moments when the Toronto community "was mad at Israel," she recalled, the friendship was always there.

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Ideology and Family Law

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.

If you have some interest in world events, history and the language of ideas, please indulge me by allowing, for purposes of discussion, the following three assumptions:

1. Communism is bad.
2. A constitutional Democracy and free market economy coupled with the rule of law is good. This is true notwithstanding all its inconsistencies, blemishes and entrenched poverty in many of our communities.
3. Fidel Castro is a brutal dictator. He terrorizes his people like any previous Communist dictator. His conduct brought the world to the brink of nuclear destruction. He continues to arrest and imprison ordinary non-violent citizens for daring to voice democratic ideals that Canadians take for granted. He lives a good life and runs a corrupt government while his people are impoverished; many of them have even turned to prostitution just to survive. Large numbers of these innocent citizens have been driven away from Cuba directly because of him and his Communist government.
4. The "Cuban relatives" and extremist elements of the Miami Cuban community who fought the return of Elian Gonzales to his father put their hatred for Castro above the love of a father for his son. Their theatrics were absurd. Their thinking is akin to the same problems that all ideologies have, including Communism — the very system they so wholly oppose.

What is the problem of ideology when mixed with family law?

Ideology takes one assumption such as "All history is the history of class struggle" (Marxism) or that the Jews are the source of all evil (Nazism). Every statement or course of conduct then must derive from these assumptions, even if the results make no common sense. The consequences of ideological behavior by nations and entire peoples are always bad, ranging from racial prejudice to mass genocide.

Principles of conduct and morality

Then what is family law? In fact, does family law not also lay down certain guiding principles of conduct and morality? Do not ideological assumptions also influence the decisions of family law Judges?

Initially, a certain local Judge in Miami may have caved to the intense pressure of her own Cuban/American community. Virtually all of the Judges subsequently involved in this case dismissed the proceedings brought by the Cuban relatives to keep Elian away from his father. Was this an ideological position? Was it legal? What's the difference? And why should you care?

Ideology is so rigid that it disregards any facts that weaken its foundation. Indeed, it often "changes" them and essentially lies in order to make sense of the world through its rose-coloured glasses. When Elian was reunited with his father, the Cuban relatives claimed that he did not really want to be with him. So, pictures were produced showing obvious affection between father and son. These relatives then claimed that the pictures were not current because of the boy's haircut. New pictures had to be shown. Meanwhile, Castro labelled the entire Miami Cuban community — known to its peers as a group of successful and responsible Americans — "gangsters" and "criminals".

Trapped in a spiral of syllogistic "logic"

Good family law Judges and lawyers apply basic principles, such as the primary right of a father to make decisions on behalf of his young child (Elian's case). But they do so after examining the facts of each particular case. As a rule, they do not make sweeping statements about the role of men or women or parents. Good jurists say: "Okay. We have this general principle. But does it apply to these facts? Is this father capable of making such decisions, or is someone else in a better position because the father is mentally challenged or irresponsible or a substance abuser, etc.?" In short, good law applied properly allows all of us to breathe like human beings, not as robots trapped in a spiral of syllogistic "logic". And yet, at the same time, it aspires to give us all some sense of what might be expected of us.

I am always reminded of a young Vietnamese boy who, at the tender age of eight, was interviewed as one of the "boat people" who escaped from Communist Vietnam shortly after arriving in Canada. He was asked what he most appreciated about this country. We could have easily guessed that his answer would allude to the material riches that surround us: television, the abundance of food, good shelter, toys and other gifts bestowed on these refugees — especially the children. But no. His answer was quite simple: "I like Canada because here you have Laws that let us know what to expect."

Canada's competing ideologies

So why should this affect our perspective of Canadian family law? After all, what happened with Elian is unlikely to happen here. Our judiciary has greater immunity to political pressures; they are not elected, nor are they even interviewed by our politicians before being appointed.

The problem is that in Canada we also face competing ideological pressures, even though they don't usually manifest themselves in street demonstrations or riots. They do, however, affect many Judges and lawyers. Male rights groups and feminist groups have developed their own "closed systems of ideas" or ideologies that do not consider the need to assess all the facts of each case, but only do so selectively. We even see different Canadian newspapers appearing to lend support to one family law ideology over another. For example, a cursory and subjective perusal of some recent journalistic exposés of family abuse might suggest that virtually all ex-husbands are either (a) deadbeats who could pay child or spousal support under Court orders, but don't; or (b) wife batterers; or (c) both of the above. A more thorough and objective review of these articles, however, sheds light on many systemic problems that need to be addressed. Most importantly, as a direct result of this type of publicity, some men have been compelled to pay badly needed arrears of support.

On the other hand, you rarely see articles about how access parents (usually husbands) are often deprived of their rights to see their children, and how the women who deny such access often do so without penalty. The cumulative effect of this journalistic focus is to create an extremely negative image of ex-husbands as a group. It may not be intentional, but it is real.

Husbands often denied access

One exception to this trend is the recent article about a man who committed suicide after being ordered to pay monies he honestly didn't have. Generally, recent journalistic efforts to highlight the difficulty that many men have in seeing their children have been confined to publications with a "men's rights" orientation. What they reveal is that Court orders for such access are often ignored, despite the efforts of well-paid lawyers to have Judges enforce them. Many female custodial parents ignore such orders even under threat of a jail sentence. To this day, there is no effective legislation to deal with this scenario, since Judges shy away from sending such women to jail or even imposing large fines. Their concern: How will their jail time or fines serve the children's best interests? Some men complain that the support they are being ordered to pay exceeds their ability to do so and maintain a reasonable lifestyle, while women's groups complain the monies they receive are not nearly enough.

Who's right? Which sex's predicament is worse? Which ideology do we choose from?

The answer: We don't. *We must eradicate ideology in family law.* It is an evil that could destroy the common sense needed to sensitively deal with each crisis and issue on a "fact by fact" basis. We encourage dialogue and look for guiding principles of law to assist us in dealing with each case, but not dogmatically.

Otherwise, we are going to become hostages of ideology — just like Elian Gonzales.

John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of Basman Smith. Neither B'nai Brith Canada, Basman Smith or John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 860-1942.

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Greater Toronto Area

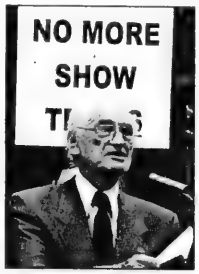
Protesters demand release of Iran 10

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In a scene reminiscent of mass rallies for Soviet Jewry 25 years ago, hundreds of protesters gathered in downtown Toronto to demand that Iran release 10 Jews imprisoned for spying for Israel.

The Toronto rally in front of the law courts at Old City Hall was part of a much larger effort by Jewish communities across Canada and around the world to protest the conviction of Iranian Jews on trumped up spying charges. Vigils were held in Ottawa, Vancouver and Halifax while an earlier gathering was held in Montreal.

In New York, a crowd estimated by police at 2,000 gathered near the United Nations to express solidarity with the "Iran 10." Speakers included Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel and Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.



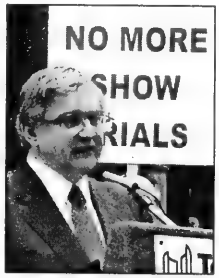
Rabbi Plaut

In Toronto Rabbi Gunther Plaut quoted the prophet Moses in calling on Iran to "let my people go."

The trial in Iran had "as much credibility as the show trials of the former Soviet Union," Rabbi Plaut said. "We call on Iran's leadership to overthrow the mockery of justice carried out by a kangaroo court."

Lawyer Eddie Greenspan spared no rhetorical punches, tearing into Iranian authorities as a "tyrannical bunch of bullies" who foisted an "absurd" and "farcical show trial."

He called on Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to recall Canada's ambassador from Teheran and to order the Iranian charge d'affaires in Ottawa to return to Iran "until the Shiraz 10 are freed."



Edward Greenspan

Greenspan called the trial, based exclusively on confession evidence, "an injustice" and "merely an expression of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism."

News reports indicated Iran has ignored the rallies and had issued an arrest warrant for Rabbi Eshaq Belanas, an Iranian who settled in New York nine years ago. Iranian authorities view Rabbi Belanas as the mastermind behind the alleged spy ring, the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* reported.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told *JTA* there is concern for Rabbi Belanas' safety in the United States.

Meanwhile, Germany, Iran's largest trading partner, welcomed visiting Iranian President Mohammad Khatami with full military honours. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder reportedly brought up the fate of the Shiraz 10 as well as the case involving a group of Iranians detained after attending a human rights seminar in Germany.

The chancellor, who had ignored calls by U.S. Jewish groups to cancel Khatami's visit, also promised to increase export guarantees and broaden cultural and scientific ties with Iran.

Iran's foreign minister said the Islamic republic would resist U.S. pressure to free the 10 Jews. Iran will not "pay any price" to normalize relations with Washington, Kamal Kharrazi told the London-based *al-Hayat* newspaper.

Greater Toronto Area

A lidele in Yiddish

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Classical Yiddish songs held sway recently when 1,500 members of the Jewish community attended a program of Yiddish music.

The 30th annual concert arranged by UJA FEDERATION's committee for Yiddish and hosted by Beth Tzedec Synagogue was a chance for the artists and the audience to enjoy the old Yiddish classics – everyone joined in to sing *Ale Brider* with Michael Mandel, Gloria Valentine, Stella Walker and the klezmer musicians.

The concert's theme was 1,000 Years of Yiddish (give or take a few years, more or less, as chair Ethel Sum Cooper put it), and featured narration by folksinger Naomi Bell, who referred to "the stunning revival of klezmer music," in her crisp history of the Jewish people.

Then, in a tribute to the millions of immigrants who came to the *goldene medina*, David Abramsky, executive director of the United Jewish Peoples Order, spoke of the "sweatshop poets" who wrote in the garment district of New York.

The concert illustrated the growing force of women in Yiddishkeit when Valentine, her arm raised in defiance, declared: "Working women unite. Let's make this a better world," before she sang the lyrics of *Arbeter froyen*.

The audience responded with warmth when Mandel sang the witty and sarcastic *Vi azoy lebt der keyser*.

The love of Yiddish classics was also evident in the audience's response to *A lidele in Yiddish, Yidl mit'n fidl, Kinder yorn, Hopkele* and *Di mezinke oysgegebn*.

"Who can forget Molly Picon dressed as a boy, going through the Polish countryside, singing *Yidl mit'n fidl*?" Valentine asked.

The professional quality was a result of the hard work of concert convener Bess Shockett and music co-ordinator Eric Stein, Cooper told *The CJN*.

The musicians, in addition to Stein, who played mandolin and cymbals, included Steve Greenman, viola; Bert Higgins, bass; Sasha Luminsky, accordian; and Martin Van der Ven, clarinet.

In 1935, of more than 16 million Jews living in the world, 10.6 million were Yiddish speakers, said Cooper, who outlined the federation's efforts to keep the language alive, including offering classes for children and adults.

"Yiddish is an important part of our culture to be given to our children and grandchildren," said Glennie Lindenberg of UJA FEDERATION. She gave part of her remarks in what she called "broken Yiddish," taught to her by her mother, Rosie Brown.

Beth Tzedec president Bob Cohen, describing himself as a great believer in carrying on Yiddish, said he always spoke to his parents in Yiddish.

In bringing greetings from the city and promising financial support for the concert in years ahead, Councillor Howard Moscoe produced a huge, beribboned derby he described as an Israelite hat. He said he would have Mayor Mel Lastman autograph the hat, which he will give to the first person who donates $100 to the committee for Yiddish.

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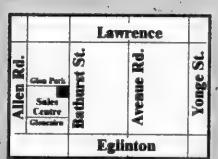

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Dry Bones
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Unsettling signs

As these words are being written, Israeli and Palestinian leaders have been in Camp David for 14 days trying to negotiate an end to the modern, century-old conflict between their two peoples. That is the declared aim of the Israeli delegation only. One cannot be as sanguine about the Palestinian intention.

Yasser Arafat refuses to give definitive proof of such an intention. He will not do so until – if at all – he is granted sovereignty over east Jerusalem, at least. But the Western Wall and the Jewish quarter of the Old City are in east Jerusalem. Whatever other agreements may have been reached between the two sides in the past two weeks, an agreement that effectively cedes the Western Wall to Palestinian control can never be. Thus there is an impasse in the negotiations.

Fresh from his meeting in Japan of the G-8 countries, U.S. President Bill Clinton, was to try to help resolve the impasse. But there were unsettling signs that the impasse would not readily be resolved, for by claiming east Jerusalem on behalf of the entire Muslim world, as he did last weekend, Arafat converted the conflict from one between contending peoples to one between contending religions. Thus, to a conflict already encrusted with violence, distrust and hatred, Arafat has ominously added the possible explosive of even more extremism and fanaticism.

Complicating the situation last weekend was the unwelcome statement by Pope John Paul II, who called for Jerusalem to fall under special international status. Only with special status for Jerusalem, the Pope said, could religious freedoms be guaranteed for all religions.

Such remarks are unhelpful in the extreme. They merely add to the considerable tension already enshrouding the negotiations. Moreover, the pontiff's declaration was, to put it charitably, disingenuous.

Religious freedoms to *all* the holy places in Jerusalem are presently guaranteed by Israel and have been since June 1967. Each denomination controls and manages its own holy sites.

The only people to have been denied access to their holy sites in recent times was the Jewish people during the period of 1948-1967, after the Jewish quarter fell into Jordanian hands in Israel's War of Independence. Synagogues, graves and other holy Jewish sites were vandalized and desecrated by the Jordanian religious establishment.

The Pope knows this. The issue for him and his Vatican advisors, therefore, is not access to holy places but ultimate control over the territory in which they reside. It bothers them still, that such control rests in Jewish hands. By declaring so openly against Israel's entitlement to Jerusalem, the Pope has virtually dissipated the goodwill he assiduously established during his visit to Israel last March.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO

On July 1, in the city of Shiraz in Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Court convicted 10 Jews on the false charge of spying for Israel. They were sentenced to between four and 13 years imprisonment. Each one must be remembered. They are: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr.

Torching of synagogue tragic

What are we to make of the torching of a Conservative synagogue in Israel? First we must use terms carefully. The reports said that the people who were seen running away appeared to be religious Jews. That cannot be true for one simple reason. Anyone who is engaged in an act as heinous as that one, by definition cannot call himself or herself religious.

Secondly, I agree with Rabbi Shlomo Riskin who recently wrote: "My synagogue was set in flames this past Saturday." Asked why he called the Yaar Ramot Synagogue his synagogue, he explains: "If my friend's synagogue is vandalized today by those who are anti-Conservative, a religious Zionist synagogue can be vandalized tomorrow by those who are anti-religious Zionism, and a Satmar synagogue can be vandalized next week by those who are anti-Satmar."

Third, it seems to me that there is a fundamental misunderstanding as to what is the real religious problem in Israel. I would ask the arsonist this: "Where would you rather Jews be on Shabbat? In a synagogue, whatever synagogue it is, or on the beach in Tel Aviv?"

There is such a rift between the religious and secular in Israel that it seems anyone attempting to make Judaism more accessible should be welcomed.

Finally, the great teacher of Ahavat Yisrael, Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Kook taught that there is a prohibition against speaking lashon hara about those who act with the intention of helping to strengthen the Jewish people. Even if you disagree with a specific individual or movement's methods, a commitment to support and serve the Jewish people creates a virtual immunity against slander. If this prohibition extends to mere words, how much more so should it extend to physical harassment.

Rabbi Barry Gelman
Montreal

* * *

Peace Now supports Barak

As Peace Now in Israel has long called upon Israel to be ready – under the appropriate conditions – to make major territorial compromises, it supports the government of Prime Minister Ehud Barak in its efforts, and hopes that Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority – their hardline statements and rock-throwing notwithstanding – will prove to be equally flexible and realistic. Nothing short of an enduring peace agreement between Israeli and Palestinians is at stake.

Erez Anzel
Frank Guttman
National Co-Presidents
Canadian Friends of Peace Now

Laments vigil turnout

I applaud the organizations involved in co-ordinating the recent solidarity vigil for the Shiraz 10 – the Jews sentenced in Iran for spying. The speakers delivered eloquent messages about the need for Jews and others to speak out against the "anti-Semitism" and "clown-like environment" at the trial in Iran.

It was very disappointing, however, that the Jewish community composed of 185,000 members was able to muster only a few hundred individuals to attend the vigil. I therefore challenge all of Toronto's Jewish community to cut out the names of the Shiraz 10, post them in a conspicuous place, and make an effort to pray, lobby and battle on behalf of those Jews suffering the cowardice of hatred and anti-Semitism we swore we would fight against.

Avrum Rosensweig
Executive Vice-President
Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee

* * *

Parents need not have been 'ambushed'

Re: "CHAT expands northward for Grade 9 students" (*CJN*, July 6). Let me say at the outset that I care a great deal about CHAT, both personally and in terms of the very significant and larger role it serves in educating the youth of our community.

However, I feel particularly offended by CHAT's assertion that it only "became aware of the empty high school on Wednesday, June 14." The fact of matter is that I brought this to the board's attention at its January 1999 regular board meeting 17 months ago. At the time, I was a member of the CHAT board and had just been elected as vice-chair of the York Region District School Board.

During the course of that meeting I informed the CHAT board of the existence and availability of the RHHS site. The response was that "it was off the beaten path," that "no one will travel there," etc. Frankly, until reading of the CHAT board's decision in *The CJN*, I had presumed that it was a dead idea.

I do not mean this as either support for or criticism of the RHHS site as a second campus for CHAT. However, there was no need for parents to be ambushed with this decision.

Howard I. Shore
Thornhill Trustee
York Region District School Board

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'Deep existential fear among the settlers'

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

"In all my years in the territories, I cannot remember a period of such uncertainty," a senior IDF officer said this week.

"None of the parties involved – the army, the Palestinians, the settlers – really know what is going on. What does or does not happen at Camp David will affect them all, at the most personal level: where they will live, where they will be able to work. The result is an enormous pressure cooker that can easily explode."

Very few IDF officers knew in real time what was happening at the summit. The IDF's representative at the talks, head of the planning branch Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, was up on the details, as was the chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz.

A few other senior officers present at the summit, but not in the inner forum, knew even less. All the rest, including those division and brigade commanders who will have to cope with the results of the summit on the ground, were completely in the dark.

A senior general staff officer, one of the few who was periodically updated, strove to remain optimistic.

"One must not forget that the Palestinians attach great importance to international recognition of their declaration of independence. They understand that there are steps from which there would be no return. I am not at all sure that they are eager to sacrifice people for independence, even though this is the standard assessment in Israel.

"Declaration of a state that is not accompanied by changes on the ground won't be a cause for rejoicing from their point of view. They also know that Israel has a lot of leverage. We haven't yet used even one percent of our force."

If no agreement is reached at the summit, this officer predicts worsening conflict – but not necessarily an immediate deterioration into a large-scale violent confrontation.

"This isn't an existential security danger," he said. "But one must understand that a long conflict will not remain in the territories – it is likely to spill over the Green Line and the Lebanese border. It will also re-ignite political and social conflicts within Israel in full force."

Israeli soldiers deploy armored vehicles last week in Kfar Darom. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Two incidents in the territories at the beginning of the week, which did not attract much media attention, lit a warning light for the defence establishment – the torching of three Israeli buses in the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem and a fight between Jewish and Arab residents of Hebron. Both indicate that the tension in the territories is growing and little is needed to set them alight.

The incident in Qalandiyah was reminiscent of the days of the intifadah: Four Israeli buses, en route to pick up settlers to take them to a demonstration in Tel Aviv, took a wrong turn and entered the refugee camp. The buses were met with a hail of rocks.

The four drivers, who were lightly injured, ran away, leaving three of the buses behind. The buses were then set on fire by youths from the camp.

The security forces see the incident as evidence of the tension in the street – Israeli buses usually drive past Qalandiyah daily without trouble. "This shows to what degree the street is tensing up," said one defence source.

In Hebron, it was the settlers who initiated the incident. A Jewish girl complained that an Arab youth had tried to hug and kiss her. In response, dozens of settlers rioted, beating Palestinians and damaging property.

The situation might have been inflamed by the local elections in Kiryat Arba, just outside Hebron, which were scheduled to take place later that week. But it also reflected the settlers' fears that the agreement being negotiated at Camp David could result in their being forced out of their homes.

Security sources say they sense "deep existential fear" among the settlers, and in Hebron, there have been increasingly extreme statements to the effect that no matter what majority decides it, evacuating settlements is illegitimate.

Against this background, the IDF is completing its preparations for possible conflict. Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh has called several meetings to co-ordinate the preparations. The planning branch has drafted an order describing various possible situations and issuing instructions for how the army should behave in these scenarios.

The army will soon decide whether to bring troops from the Lebanese border into the territories before September, when the Palestinians are planning to declare statehood.

It is possible that the Palestinians will try to maintain relative quiet in the territories until mid-September, a senior defence official told *Ha'aretz*.

That official noted that the two violent clashes between the IDF and the Palestinians which occurred in May 1998 and this past May, ended with a large number of Palestinian casualties. In both cases, the Palestinian Authority could not show that anything had been gained from the conflict.

"I hope the...clashes have shown them that violence doesn't pay," he added.

The official denied an accusation by Abd al-Razeq al-Majaideh, the head of the Palestinian security forces in Gaza, that Israel was beefing up its forces in Gaza in preparation for an assault.

The IDF has deliberately refrained from taking such a step, the official said, out of fear that the Palestinians would misinterpret it.

"The preparatory measures we have taken have been primarily defensive and have been low-profile," he continued. "The Palestinians claim we have brought 50 new tanks into [the settlement of] Netzarim [in Gaza]. In reality, we have not brought in a single tank, because we understand that such a move would create the mistaken impression that we are planning to attack them.

"We are not planning any attack. We will consider switching to offensive measures only if things deteriorate into a violent conflict accompanied by shooting."

However, the official added, the IDF cannot let the Palestinians take actions such as blocking the road to Netzarim for a day or two.

"There is also no situation in which we would let a Palestinian march enter an Israeli settlement," he said. "The Netzarim Junction or Moshave Netzer-Hazani are not the Taibeh outpost in Lebanon. If necessary, we will make them understand that it is not worth their while to approach the settlement borders."

The official said the PA had made a serious mistake when it decided to arm activists in Tanzim, which is a Fatah-affiliated organization.

"This was not only a violation of the Oslo agreement, [but] the Tanzim's weapons are also liable to be turned against them," he said.

"If weapons are fired at Netzarim Junction, I don't care whether the person who fires is a member of the Tanzim, Hamas or a Palestinian policeman," he continued. "We will return fire with intent to injure. As was the case this May, precise, effective and fatal shooting will be directed against anyone who raises a weapon against us."

If the summit ends in complete failure, without a new round of talks scheduled, this move to bring troops from the Lebanese border into the territories will be advanced. In the event of severe escalation, some of the reserves could be called up, mostly in support roles, such as communications, intelligence and technology.

The IDF is essentially preparing for war. This is how an army thinks, even if in the end, the conflict turns out to be on a smaller scale. And the IDF is more focused on the territories now that Lebanon, the problem that occupied most of its time and resources over the last decade, is on the back burner.

Israelis shout slogans and hold up signs in support of Prime Minister Ehud Barak's participation in the Camp David Summit. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Tens of thousands of Israelis protest against Prime Minister Barak's participation at Camp David. [Israel photo]

Sleeping in public

A headline such as the one above quite naturally attracted my interest. Having for many years preached from the pulpit and for more than two decades having sat in the congregation, I am not unfamiliar with the phenomenon of public sleeping, induced by fatigue on the part of the listener, or boredom, or whatever.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

I have also observed it in movie theatres from time to time, though in a darkened room sleeping in public is detected only when it is accompanied by snoring.

But this rumination aside, the article turned out to be more serious. It described how in a California city, citizens were up in arms because there were too many homeless people around, who, having to sleep somewhere, chose what appeared to be the only alternative: sleeping in public.

Now the guardians of communal well-being have decided to clamp down on these offenders, called "bums" or worse by many of the worthy citizens of the community. Which reminds me of the time when Holy Blossom Temple first proposed to begin its Out of the Cold program, designed to ease the burdens of a lot of those who were hungry and homeless, by providing food and indoor sleeping quarters at least once a week.

This program, which has since proven itself to be a wonderfully well-received effort to ease the fate of homeless people, was first met with the kind of reaction now found in California. The complainants did not indicate where these people ought to go, and their emphasis was clearly on their own comfort – or rather discomfort.

I read the description of this moral disaster with increasing disbelief. There was very little indication in the article that citizens had banded together to attack the root problem, which is poverty in the midst of affluence.

It led me to think of the expression "the good old days," which referred to the 1890s. But as I learned long ago, that time was good for only five percent of North Americans. The rest either lived in very modest circumstances, or worked in sweatshops and lived in run-down tenement housing. It was the "good old days" for the few well-to-do who controlled the media.

We have been told repeatedly that we live in splendid days, and for many people that is the case. But this splendour does not extend to a growing minority about whom we hear little and whom we see occasionally in unexpected places.

The problem we face is not just economics. It also has to do with morality, sensitivity and an awareness that we can never be quite at ease when others suffer.

Israel plays the host

Officials at Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv can be forgiven if they're becoming blasé at the sight of foreign dignitaries landing in Israel. For a tiny country, especially one once scorned for so long by much of the world, Israel now receives a remarkably high number of top-level diplomatic visitors from abroad.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Rare is the week that some president, prime minister or foreign minister does not come to Jerusalem to meet with Israeli leaders.

Residents of the capital know that the sudden appearance of foreign flags fluttering from lamp poles on the city's main arteries signals the arrival of yet another VIP from distant lands. Local inhabitants also know that the more prominent the visitor, the more disruptive the visit.

Such events may augur well for Israel's international standing but they complicate life for many Jerusalemites.

In an all too familiar scenario, residents are subjected to beefed-up security measures that bedevil the city's already snarled traffic situation.

Police impose special parking restrictions and block off streets before, during and after a dignitary's motorcade passes by, leaving motorists fuming in its wake.

Last spring, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien made huge headlines back home during his visit to Israel. In contrast, his stay was a minor story in the Israeli press.

Chrétien had the misfortune of arriving in Israel shortly after Pope John Paul II's historic pilgrimage and just ahead of the much-anticipated visit of Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

In the span of a few weeks, once unthinkable scenes played out for Israeli and international media: First, the leader of the world's one billion Roman Catholics spent several days in Jerusalem, paying his respects at the Western Wall and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Less than a month later, the leader of more than one billion communist Chinese followed a similar route.

It wasn't, of course, always this way. Back in the not-so-distant days when Israel was a pariah state shunned by much of the international community, visits by world heavyweights were much less common.

Whereas 15 years ago an official visit by the leader of a mid-level power like Canada would have commanded serious attention in Israel, today it is so commonplace as to elicit more indifference than curiosity.

The Foreign Ministry, responsible not only for ties with countries abroad but also for hosting their leaders in Israel, is most attuned to the sea change in Israel's stature. Its protocol department is now overworked, arranging the countless details (including putting up the right flags) for the growing number of official visits by foreign diplomats.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and its communist bloc, the launching of the Middle East peace process and Israel's increasingly exalted and sought-after high-tech and military prowess have left the Jewish state far less isolated than in the past.

Jerusalem now has diplomatic relations with more than 160 countries, up more than a quarter since 1990 and today is a serious player on the world stage, one with whom more and more countries want official ties and economic dealings.

These days, it's hard to keep up with the incessant flow of foreign leaders coming to Israel. Since last fall, the presidents, prime ministers, or foreign ministers from the United States, Canada, Japan, India, China, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Finland, Romania, Cyprus, Greece, Georgia, Moldavia, Ukraine, Armenia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Australia, Mexico and Jordan have paid official visits to Israel, and that's only a partial list.

In addition, during the same period, the former presidents of Russia and South Africa, Boris Yeltsin, Mikhail Gorbachev and Nelson Mandela made high-profiled stops in Israel.

Some make the journey due to a long-standing friendship; some due to recent bilateral ties; some feel a visit to Israel will help them improve their image in Washington, convinced that American Jews wield near-magical power over the U.S. government.

Whatever the reason, all this diplomatic activity is a boon for Israel even if it means more headaches for those of us living in Jerusalem.

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Trail of broken promises

Don't worry … we share your concern and we will prevent the proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

This is the message that Israel has heard from the international community for over a decade, first regarding Saddam Hussein, and then with respect to the radical Islamic regime in Iran. These promises turned out to be empty – cheques written without any backing.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

For almost ten years, the liberal democracies of the world, including the United States and Canada, have been unwilling or incapable of enforcing UN resolutions on Iraq.

When the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) began to find Saddam Hussein's hidden biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons' materials and facilities, it was disbanded. Last year, a far weaker organization was created, ostensibly to continue to search for these weapons, but it will probably never begin its work.

Meanwhile, the sanctions designed to limit the resources available to Iraq for developing weapons of mass destruction are crumbling. In short, Saddam is back in business, and the "international community" has failed, again.

Similarly, Iran's successful test of a long-range missile also shows the dangers of relying on global arms-control treaties and international agreements to protect vital national interests.

In the 1980s, the United States led a number of other countries in creating the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), designed to prevent the spread of long-range ballistic missiles around the world. The participants in the MTCR were supposed to work together to prevent this proliferation, and key suppliers, such as Russia and, to a limited degree, also China, were brought into the inner circle, but all the activity was on paper and in press conferences.

In the Middle East, the MTCR has been a major failure. Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and now Iran have all succeeded in developing advanced missiles based on imported technology and expertise. Russia, which receives billions of dollars annually in assistance from the West, and still pretends to play the role of a major power, has acted with a total lack of responsibility, providing missile technology and thousands of experts to Iran.

The highly publicized commissions headed by U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore and the long string of Russian prime ministers made numerous proclamations on ending this flow of dangerous exports, but nothing changed.

Meanwhile, Washington has given up the pretence of sanctions. Russia continues to participate in the international space station, and limits placed on Russian commercial space launches are being lifted. In addition, the United States and other countries continue "dialogues" with North Korea, while missiles and components are sent to Iran, Syria, and Egypt.

For its part, Europe has followed a strategy they call "constructive dialogue" (originally a "critical dialogue," but any hint of criticism was soon dropped).

In practice, this means that France, Germany, Italy and Britain continue to do business and make money in Iran, while paying lip service to the goals of non-proliferation. Even though parts of Europe are now within the range of Iranian missiles, the threat that these weapons pose is studiously ignored. The Europeans are banking on the hope that the "reformist" groups in Iran will eventually triumph, even though at this stage, this is little more than wishful thinking.

In the meantime, President Khatami and his supporters have had no impact on the Iranian military program. The next stop on the Iranian track is the development of nuclear weapons, and billions of dollars are being poured into this project, based primarily on Russian assistance.

As in the case of missiles, the global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has not blocked Iranian access to this technology, and may, as in the case of Iraq, have provided the cover of legitimacy for acquiring nuclear know-how.

This trail of broken promises should give Israel pause when considering the role of the United States and the international community as "guarantors" of Israeli security in any agreement reached with the Palestinians.

Allies are all well and good, but the key lesson from 3,000 years of Jewish history is the importance of self-reliance.

The Kirshner File

Sharansky's career in Israeli politics

Before he threw his hat into the ring to contest the 1996 election as leader of the Israel B'Aliyah party, friends warned Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident, that politics in Israel could be a dirty, demeaning business that might tarnish his lustre as a moral force.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

When he arrived in Israel in the winter of 1986, after having literally walked to freedom across the Glienicke Bridge in Potsdam, Sharansky was regarded as a Jewish hero. And because he probably realized that politics in Israel can be brutal and diminishing, he resisted entreaties from the two major political blocs, Labour and Likud, to join them and run for a seat in the Knesset.

For close to 10 years, Sharansky concentrated his attention on improving the lot of his fellow Soviet immigrants, one million of whom have arrived in Israel in the past three decades. But when he realized that their absorption problems were not being attended to properly, he took the plunge and became a politician himself.

A kingmaker after his party won seven parliamentary seats (which has since been reduced to four), Sharansky joined Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government as minister of industry and trade. It was a sobering experience. Disillusioned by Netanyahu's broken promises concerning Soviet immigrants and disgusted by his arrogant, condescending style, he considered resigning. Indeed, at one juncture, he declared, "We already have one leg out of the coalition."

Prior to his convincing victory in the 1999 election, Ehud Barak courted Sharansky, knowing full well that he commanded the allegiance of a constituency which played a pivotal role in the 1992 and 1996 elections. A conservative, he entered Barak's centrist government last July after refusing to publicly endorse Netanyahu for prime minister.

Earlier this month, a year and two days after taking his place in Barak's cabinet, Sharansky resigned, his relatively brief career in Israeli politics coming to an inglorious close, at least for the moment. His resignation, which had been widely expected, triggered the subsequent defections of two other unreliable right-wing coalition partners opposed to massive territorial compromise, Shas and the National Religious Party. At the end of a tumultuous day, Barak's shaky regime had imploded, and he was left with a minority government whose longevity is very much open to question.

Sharansky bolted because he was no longer in tune with Barak. He disagreed with his willingness to make sweeping concessions to the Palestinians on the road toward a permanent status agreement, the deadline of which is Sept. 13. In a leak to the media in May, Sharansky claimed that Barak would cede as much as 95 percent of the West Bank and relinquish Arab neighbourhoods in eastern Jerusalem as well. Sharansky reportedly believes that Israel should reach an agreement with the Palestinians on the basis of the Allon plan, giving up, at a maximum, three-quarters of the West Bank, but only on condition that they uphold their end of the bargain and declare a formal end to their conflict with Israel.

Barak's secretive management style was also a factor in Sharansky's decision to leave. In common with other ministers, he often complained that Barak left him in the dark about his tactics and strategy. "I wasn't trained to be a spy in Russia, but here I've had to put together an international intelligence network to find out what my prime minister is doing," he told an interviewer recently.

For Sharansky, the last straw was Barak's refusal to tell him in advance what his "red lines" would be at the Camp David summit with Bill Clinton and Yasser Arafat. Besides, Sharansky was skeptical about the idea of a summit now. The Palestinians were inflexible on key issues ranging from final borders to the status of Jerusalem, and they had not fully complied with the terms of the Oslo accords, Sharansky argued. Of course, Sharansky blithely ignored the fact that Israel was not in full compliance with Oslo either.

Sharansky, too, was upset by Barak's disregard of his oft-repeated suggestion for a national unity government, which, in his opinion, could "uphold the principles that are crucial to us at this historic time."

The truth of the matter is that Sharansky and Barak were on a collision course almost from the beginning of their association. Deeply concerned about his intentions toward the Palestinians, he defied Barak twice in recent weeks. In June, he supported a preliminary bill for early elections, and in July, he backed a motion of non-confidence in his government. By doing so, Sharansky squarely aligned himself with the nationalist-religious camp.

Sharansky adopted a particularly hard line on Jerusalem. He annoyed Barak by resisting a cabinet decision to transfer three Arab villages on the outskirts of Jerusalem to full Palestinian control. Sharansky claimed that such a redeployment would jeopardize Israel's grip on Jerusalem. Sharansky's views on Jerusalem have been consistent. When he served under Netanyahu, he urged him to press ahead with the Har Choma residential neighbourhood in eastern Jerusalem, the construction of which galvanized the Palestinians to pull out of the peace process for about nine months.

Natan Sharansky

Sharansky was similarly hawkish on Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank. In league with Shas and the National Religious Party, he voted against a cabinet decision in March to relinquish a further 6.1 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority (which is currently in partial or total control of approximately 40 percent of the West Bank).

In September 1999, following the signing of the Sharm al Sheikh pact, he abstained when Israel decided on a seven percent withdrawal. As a member of Netanyahu's inner "kitchen cabinet," he voted for the 1997 Hebron accord, but abstained on the 1998 Wye agreement.

Sharansky, generally, has been cool to turning over territory to the Palestinians. He believes that the Oslo process is "fundamentally flawed" and will not "yield the historic reconciliation for which its proponents hoped."

A keen exponent of Netanyahu's "reciprocity" principle, he thinks that the Oslo accords lack a direct mechanism for holding the Palestinians accountable to their obligations under its provisions.

And he is of the opinion that territorial concessions should be linked to the full democratization of the Palestinian Authority. Sharansky applied this principle to Israel's recent negotiations with Syria over the Golan Heights. Last December, he threatened to pull his party out of Barak's government if he consented to return the Golan to Syria. Several months later, he backed a Knesset bill that would have made it harder for Barak to win a referendum on a Golan withdrawal.

Like most immigrants from the former Soviet Union, he is suspicious of totalitarian regimes and doubts whether they are capable of honouring written agreements. As he has said, the depth of an Israeli pullout from the West Bank and the Golan should equal the depth of democratization in the Palestine Authority and Syria. It is a nice but impractical thesis. Taken to its logical conclusion, Sharansky's theory would perpetuate Israel's occupation and thus make peace unattainable. And it's worth remembering that if Sharansky's criteria had been applied to previous diplomatic initiatives, Israel could not have possibly signed peace treaties with either Egypt in 1979 or with Jordan in 1995.

In domestic affairs, Sharansky has compiled a decidedly mixed record. Under Netanyahu, he did not oppose a conversion bill which effectively delegitimized Reform and Conservative Jews in the Diaspora. During the Bar-On scandal, he promised to step down if "only 10 percent" of the charges against Netanyahu were proven to be true. The attorney general ruled that the bulk of the accusations were indeed correct, yet Sharansky stayed on.

As interior minister, he re-recognized consular marriages and thus made it possible for some mixed race couples, the majority Russian, to marry without going abroad. And he banned DNA tests designed to prove the Jewish kinship of new immigrants.

Critics have charged that Sharansky, a tireless human rights campaigner in the Soviet Union, has not spoken out in cases of alleged torture and abuse of Palestinian prisoners. But in an unmistakable gesture to the Palestinian community, he reversed a policy that had stripped Palestinians of their residency rights in Jerusalem after they had not lived in the city for more than seven years.

His ministry, however, declined to reinstate the Israeli citizenship of about 1,000 Muslim women who had married Palestinians and moved to the territories. Last year, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak speculated whether the ministry would have issued similar guidelines had the case involved Jewish women who had settled in California with their husbands.

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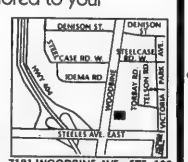

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Jewish Life

Music plays to audience of one

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

Lorenzo's pointed remark in *The Merchant of Venice*, "Mark the music," would receive submissive assent from almost every child I teach.

Plugged in to a multi-billion-dollar machine of constant tapes, videos, CDs and Internet pirated music, our children read to music, run to it, study to it, play computer games with it and understand life through it.

Judaism is intricately concerned with definition, and thus the word "music" requires close scrutiny. Those who advocate for Gershwin or Brahms will find that their passion gains little sympathy from those between the ages of 10 and 20. Classical music, as Allan Bloom once wrote, "is dead among the young. It is a special taste, like Greek language or pre-Columbian archeology, not a common culture of reciprocal communication and psychological shorthand."

Hip hop, rap, prepubescent fantasy music (Britney Spears, 'N Sync), and rock and roll are some of the most powerful cultural influences a child of this generation will know for many years.

What are the consequences of the current phase of that which Shakespeare once called a "concord of sweet sounds"? The answers to this tend to be polarized and depend on whether one is alarmist or prone to passing it off as another transitory pursuit.

Those concerned about the inundation of lyrics that invoke premature sexuality and celebrate drug use raise the spectacle of the decline of civilization with the advent of every mindless Top Forty hit. Those who would like to believe that everything in culture is harmless outside of serial killers and high taxes will once again dismiss all critiques of music's influence on the young as the grouchy residue of aging.

The truth, as always, is more subtle. Whether it's Johnny Rotten (Sex Pistols) screaming, "We don't care," more than 20 years ago, or Billy Corgan (Smashing Pumpkins) sardonically scowling, "God is empty, just like me," rock music has always provided a shallow yet convenient outlet for teen frustration. And frankly that may not be a bad thing after all; the passion that can be found in certain rock anthems could be translated into education.

Eventually even Johnny Rotten grew up (and made a lot of money, but that's another story). Our children will grow up too, and our faith in their better selves and our memories of our own rebellions will serve us in good stead.

The deeper issue is not what's in the words but the words that are no longer spoken. Everywhere one travels, the loss of a personal immediacy between human beings is omnipresent: subways filled with human beings disguised as walkmans; neigbourhoods where children a block apart chat on the computer rather than meet face to face.

Technology cannot replace the difficult and demanding task of learning to build a spiritual self. Music was once a means of directing the deepest passions of the soul. Now it has become a way of cutting the cords to the outside world, a tune that increasingly plays to an audience of one.

Impressive, moving chronicle

***The Human Stain*, by Philip Roth, (Houghton Mifflin Company).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

In the portentous summer of 1998, while the United States is reacting with prurient fascination to the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky soap opera, another drama is unfolding on the discreet campus of New England's Athena College.

One day, Coleman Silk, a respected Jewish professor of classics and dean of the faculty, casually asks about two absent students: "Does anyone know these people? Do they exist or are they spooks?"

The word "spooks" proves to be his undoing. The students turn out to be black and the bewildered Silk is accused of racism and misogyny. In a time of fear and political correctness his career and reputation are soon shattered.

Silk's misery is compounded when his wife dies of the resulting emotional trauma and he becomes estranged from his children. Seeking comfort and solace, the 71-year-old professor flees to the arms of 34-year-old Faunia Farley. She seems an unlikely partner for the genteel and intellectual academic.

A victim many times over, she had been molested in childhood by her stepfather and abused in adulthood by her crazed Vietnam veteran ex-husband. Her two children have died in a tragic apartment fire. Unschooled, semiliterate – but strong willed, resilient and realistic – she works as a part-time janitor at the college.

Avenging professors – especially a vindictive feminist colleague – and disturbed townspeople make him the butt of ridicule and opprobrium.

But Silk has an even more serious problem. He was born and reared as a light-skinned son of an African-American family. At 27 he was able to cut himself loose from family ties and pass as a white, olive-complexioned Jew. This secret has been kept for 50 years from his wife, four children – and everyone.

The irony, of course, is that he is unable to defend himself against the accusation of racism. The long section that deals with his youth and upbringing is a convincing introduction to his character and motivations.

The entire moving chronicle is told with impressive detail and slowly unravelled by Nathan Zuckerman, the author's alter ego who figures prominently in many of his novels. The plot seems overly contrived, but the reader who is willing to suspend disbelief will be moved by a powerful and disturbing series of events.

Silk's pseudo Jewish identity is an important element in the story, but Roth insisted in a recent interview that Silk's choice "has nothing to do with the ethical, spiritual, theological or historical aspects of Judaism." At his father's funeral, Mark recites the Kaddish. When he finished he was overcome by hysteria. His "wild sound of lamentation, older even than the prayer he'd uttered, rose in intensity until, when he saw his sister rushing toward him with arms outstretched, he turned to her his contorted Silk face, and in sheer childlike astonishment cried, 'We're never going to see him again!'"

The Human Stain, is the third in a trilogy of novels that explore the post-war American scene; the acclaimed, *American Pastoral* and the earlier depiction of the McCarthy era, *I Married a Communist*. Roth, at the height of his powers, has been rightly described as a "master chronicler of the American twentieth century."

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Jewish Life

Enjoy ketubot on the Net

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

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And even if you're *not* getting married, you still can enjoy one of Judaism's most interesting and beautiful legal documents. Today, an online guided tour.

According to the Ohr Somayach site, this contract is ordained by mishnaic law (circa 170 CE) and according to some authorities dates back to biblical times. The ketubah, written in Aramaic, details the husband's obligations to his wife: food, clothing, dwelling and pleasure. It also creates a lien on all his property to pay her a sum of money and support should he divorce her or predecease her **[http://www.ohr.org.il/judaism/articles/wedding. htm]**.

The traditional ketubah is written in Aramaic, the language of the Babylonian Jews. You can find an English translation at the Information Page on Jewish Family Law **[http://users.aol.com/agunah/family.htm]**. At the e-judaica Web site, you'll find an explanation of the ketubah variations available **[http://store.yahoo.com/ejudaica/huppaketubah.html]**. For example, the Conservative ketubah includes the Lieberman Clause, which was added to allow either the man or the woman to initiate a divorce. The Web site points out that Orthodox rabbis do not recognize the Lieberman Clause and that you should check with your rabbi before selecting your text.

Although this is essentially a document, the adornment of Ketubot is a cherished tradition. As Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library eloquently puts it: "These decorations transform the ketubah from a dry legal document into a work of art and a window into the world and culture of the Jewish communities that produced them." **[http:// www.library.yale.edu/exhibition/judaica/brbml.html]**.

There are many Internet sites where you can browse (and even order) contemporary ketubot, such as The Complete Jewish Wedding **[http://www.ketubahs.com]**, The Ketubah Collection **[http://www.judaiconnection.com/]** and Ketubah Ketubah **[http://www.ketubah.com/]**. You'll find a huge selection of ketubot with names like Arch of Yemen, Flowers of Paradise, Shalom Bayit and even the Eco Ketubah. And if you prefer something a bit more ancient, you can take a look at some of the treasures held by the Library of Congress **[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/loc/Ketuboth1.html]**.

No matter how beautiful your ketubah is – or how long you have been married – Anita Diamant says don't just admire your ketubah, read it regularly **[http://www.jewishfamily.com/families/former_columnists/displayfamily.php?text=anita_diamant/my_ketubah.txt]**. Diamant quotes the Baal Shem Tov, the 18th-century founder of Chassidism who "advised couples to re-read their ketubah whenever they were fighting. It would remind them, he said, of how they felt as brides and grooms, hopeful, smitten, surrounded by good wishes."

But Diamant says it shouldn't take a fight to get couples to re-read their ketubah. "It ought to be one of those health and safety habits, like checking your smoke detector when you change the clocks for daylight savings. Likewise, on every wedding anniversary, Jewish couples should sit down and read the contract they signed with stars in their eyes… Even the most exquisite ketubah is never simply a work of art. A ketubah always signifies the Jewishness of a love story, a marriage, a home, a family, a past and a future."

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@home.com].

A Zayde's Poem For His Granddaughter

Guest Voice

I held you closely in my arms,
And gazed upon your tiny form,
All swathed in delicate cloth,
I kissed you softly and lost my heart,
so sweet, so precious,
My Lior, my light.

A week has gone and here you are,
More beautiful with each passing day,
You are God's miracle for all to love,
And you are mine for my length of days,
My Lior, my light.

What will be five years from now,
When you take my hand in yours,
Oh Zayde, Zayde, buy me this,
What greater treasure can there be
than my child like you,
My Lior, my light.

In God's good graces should I be,
To witness your day on the Bimah and pray,
The joyous tears of your bat mitzvah day,
What greater treasure can there be,
My Lior, my light.

Your sweet sixteen, should I stay,
I want to cherish your youth each day,
And see the boys who will vie for your heart,
Your teasing ways, so sweet and fun,
My Lior, my light.

And when you mature into womanhood,
And are about to wed on that magical day,
My eyes may not witness what I wish to see,
Fret not my darling for I will be in your heart,
My Lior, my light.

But I'm here still now my einicle zeese,
To ponder all about your life to be,
So take my hand your Zayde's love,
And may all your life be filled with naches
and delight,
My precious, my heart, my Lior, my light.

by Marvin Litvack

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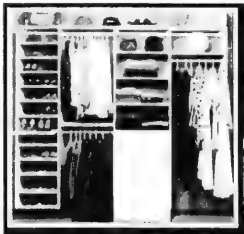

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Rebuilding a shtetl: Yaffa Eliach's grandiose plan

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Prof. Yaffa Eliach's latest project is more ambitious than anything she's done before, but underlying it is a simple approach to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust.

"I can't understand," says one of the world's foremost Holocaust scholars, "why our focus has been on death and destruction, and not life."

Eliach, creator of the Tower of Life, a mesmerizing photo exhibit in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, believes that to defeat Hitler, it's as important to teach about Jewish living as it is to teach about Jews who have died – to show the world the vitality, the throb, the beauty of prewar Jewish life in Europe. Acting on that obligation, she has undertaken to rebuild a vanished past – literally.

Working with the municipality of Rishon LeZion in Israel and an array of engineers, architects and historians, Eliach is spearheading her dream of building a scale replica of Eishyshok, the 900-year-old Lithuanian shtetl where she was born and raised, and most of whose Jewish residents were slaughtered by Nazi troops in 1941.

Prof. Yaffa Eliach

To be located on 121 acres in southwest Rishon LeZion, Israel's fourth largest city, the full-size restoration will include synagogues, yeshivot, stables, homes, cobblestone streets, restaurants, even a castle – all a permanent physical recreation of a lost world. As Eliach notes, this won't be for those who want to forget, but for those who want to remember.

"Every place has restored its past. The Jewish people haven't," said Eliach, who was in town recently to deliver the Ruth Kelman Memorial Lecture at Beth Jacob Synagogue and to drum up support for her Shtetl Foundation, which aims to raise $50 million worldwide for the project (the Israeli government has promised to match all funds raised, meaning the entire restoration will cost around $100 million.)

"Restoring life is the most important element in documenting history. When this is complete, I will be able to tell my children and 13 grandchildren that Hitler lost, and we won," she said.

Groundbreaking is slated for next spring; completion in five or six years.

Eliach envisions a full, interactive shtetl experience, a yiddishe version of Black Creek Pioneer Village, the Toronto colonial attraction where employees dress in period costumes and go about chores of yore.

In the "new" Eishyshok, once home to 3,500 Jews and 500 non-Jews, visitors, who will pay an entrance fee, will be able to study at the yeshiva; partake in hearty fare at the local eatery (complete with authentic menus); shop in the central marketplace; see Yiddish theatre; visit the cemetery; stay in a hotel; even get married in the style of the time in a torch-lit procession on Friday afternoon, accompanied by klezmer music.

Children will even be able to take classes at the local cheder.

"It will bring back wonderful memories," says Eliach; evocations, she says, not of victims or quaint characters from *Fiddler on the Roof*, but of real people; real sights, sounds and smells of how we once lived, played and worked.

She's hoping that thousands of people will come, including youths who routinely visit the sites of European death camps.

Eliach says the project is generating huge interest in Israel. Already, local artists and actors have expressed interest in working in the shtetl. Rabbis want to be a part of it too.

Even the woods that surrounded Eishyshok will be recreated, as will a river that flowed through the town. A small bridge over the river is where the rabbi blessed people who were departing for Palestine, Eliach remembers.

"I'm the only person in the world who has plans to build wooden synagogues," laughs Eliach about her blueprints of the shtetl's two main shuls. On a more sombre note, she plans to recreate every last tombstone that was in the Jewish cemetery.

Eliach, who has taught at Brooklyn College for over 20 years and assembled *Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust*, got the idea for her monumental project following completion of her latest book, *There Once Was a World: A 900-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok*, an 800-page tribute detailing every aspect of life, Jewish holidays, people and places.

Her connection with Eishyshok is deep: her family, the Sonensohns, were among the first to settle the town in 1065.

It all ended in the autumn of 1941, when, in the course of two days, the town's Jews were rounded up and machine-gunned into mass graves. Eliach's father was able to get the family into hiding.

In 1944, following the area's liberation by Soviet troops, Eliach, then just six years old, witnessed her mother and baby brother being shot to death by members of the Polish Home Army.

In all, just 29 Jews from Eishyshok survived the war.

Eliach spent two decades tracking down thousands of photographs of the town for the Tower of Life. Now, she's scouring municipal records for plans, blueprints and pictures of buildings, and she's talking to fellow survivors – anything that will bring more authenticity to the replica.

Today, Eishyshok, near the border with Belarus, is a hard-scrabble place of 3,000 souls, many of them Gypsies. One synagogue was turned into a sports complex and is now abandoned. Another was simply levelled. The beit midrash is now a cinema. A school stands on the site of the old cemetery. There are no Jews left, and every effort has been made to expunge from memories that Jews ever lived there.

"The locals say the buildings never belonged to Jews," says Eliach. "There is no mention of Jews anywhere."

Thus all the more reason to recreate it. "In a sense," she explains, "we are closing the door to a vanished past so that we can have a living, breathing town."

The Shtetl Foundation of Canada may be reached at 905-731-8117.

German slave deal to benefit many Canadians

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — "My payment," recalls Michael Rosenberg of his hellish years as a slave labourer for the Nazis, "was that I got to survive until the next day."

Rosenberg, now 74, spent three years as a slave in four different concentration camps in Nazi-occupied Poland, beginning in 1940. From sunup to sunset, with no rest, he helped build barracks, then smashed rocks in a stone quarry, and toiled at two different munitions factories. Rations consisted of ersatz coffee and a piece of bread for breakfast, and watery turnip soup for lunch and supper.

Sometimes, Rosenberg, like the other slaves, would stash some of the bread from breakfast to eat later.

For his troubles, the teenaged Rosenberg had most of his teeth knocked out by an SS guard.

"The days were endless," he remembers.

In 1943, he escaped a transport to Auschwitz and spent the rest of the war using false papers to live as a Catholic.

Now, like an estimated 170,000 Jewish former slave labourers around the world, Rosenberg, the Toronto-based president of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada, is eligible to apply for compensation from the $7.1 billion (Cdn.) deal signed this month by Germany and German industries.

The deal "closes one of the last open chapters of the Nazi past," German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said. "We are setting down a durable marker of historic and moral responsibility."

The historic agreement came at the end of two years of wrenching negotiations between German government officials, representatives of seven nations, including Israel, and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The money will compensate an estimated one million former forced and slave labourers around the world – most of them non-Jews – including some 30,000 in Canada.

Most forced labourers were non-Jews – local civilians, mostly in eastern Europe, who were rounded up to work on farms and infrastructure. The majority of slaves were Jews sent to work and often to death, in the more extreme conditions of concentration camps or comparable places.

It's estimated that 15,000 Jews in Canada are eligible for compensation. Rosenberg and other Jewish former slaves will be entitled to about $10,600 each.

The pay-out "is way too late," Rosenberg says. "And there's no way to compensate us for our losses anyway." On the other hand, "it will help a lot of needy survivors in Canada."

While some survivors have greeted the announcement of the deal as more important symbolically than financially, Rosenberg feels otherwise: "No matter what the Germans do, they cannot cleanse themselves of what they did."

Canadian Jewish Congress president Moshe Ronen agreed that it is "impossible to quantify the suffering of [former] labourers," but called the deal "a measure of justice."

Ronen told *The CJN* from New York, where he was attending the annual meeting of the Jewish Claim Conference's board, that he would have liked to see more money available.

The final amount – $5 billion (US) – is more than the $3.3 billion the German government and industries offered last year, but far below the $10 billion some lawyers representing former labourers were demanding.

But, "this isn't about money," Ronen said. "It's about the acceptance of moral responsibility."

As for the distribution of the money, he said ads will appear in Jewish and general media in the next 60 days advising survivors on how to apply. All claims will be processed by the Claims Conference, a task that will be made easier given that most applicants will already be in computer databases because of past compensation and restitution payments, Ronen added.

He said it is hoped that all funds will be distributed within two years, starting later this year.

However, the final settlement has been delayed by a few weeks because as part of the deal, German industries are seeking the dismissal of 55 class action lawsuits brought by former labourers in the United States.

More than 3,000 German companies have pledged to raise half of the $7.1 billion, with the other half to come from the German government.

Krupp, IG-Farben, Siemens, Bayer and Volkswagen are among dozens of German firms known to have used forced labour during World War II, but Ronen said a list of companies that will contribute to the deal has not been made public yet.

The deal will also set aside $35 million for "other wrongs," including compensating victims of medical experiments; $245 million for insurance claims that cannot be processed under separate negotiations for war-era claims; and $70 million to supplement payouts under the Swiss humanitarian fund, which allocated $170 million – $2.5 million to Canada – specifically for needy survivors. Even though that fund has been distributed, many late claims were received.

Ronen said claimants must have been alive as of Feb. 16, 1999, the day the framework for negotiations was established, in order to qualify. Heirs of survivors will also be eligible to file claims.

Ronen said the Claims Conference will next focus on Austria, which has been very slow in talks to compensate former slaves. "Basically, they have lied to us for the past six months," Ronen said of the Austrians. "They have given us an empty bag and ignored their moral responsibility."

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New Era For Jewish Women

Dodi Weill is the new Chair of a UJA FEDERATION division representing Toronto's 100,000 Jewish women.

Weill was recently installed as the first Chair of Women's Campaign & Advocacy, an entity resulting from the merger of the UJA FEDERATION Women's Campaign and Jewish Women's Federation (JWF). She took over from predecessors Carole Sterling, who headed the Women's Campaign last year, and Janice Langer, past president, JWF.

"I feel truly honoured to stand here before you as the first Chair of the combined Women's Campaign & Advocacy," said Weill. "I'm extremely excited about the prospects that lie ahead. It will be a new chapter in the long, proud tradition of communal involvement by Jewish women."

Weill, who was raised in a small Jewish community outside of Manchester, England, appreciates Toronto's sizable and growing Jewish population – with the infrastructure to support it. "Where I grew up, there was only one synagogue, one kosher butcher and one kosher baker. We knew who we were because of the closeness of our community, and because the non-Jews wouldn't let us forget."

Now, Weill, along with Vice-Chair Lesley Binstock Offman and the rest of the Women's Campaign & Advocacy executive, hope to answer the needs resulting from our community's rapid growth as they gear up for Campaign 2001 – The Campaign For Our Children.

"We would like to support, for example, projects to aid immigrant youth in Toronto," said Weill. "Why shouldn't all children have the opportunity to feel connected?"

Dodi Weill (r), Chair, Women's Campaign & Advocacy with Vice-Chair Lesley Binstock Offman. *Photo: Randy Zelcer*

Women's Campaign & Advocacy, which raises more than $4 million yearly for the UJA FEDERATION Annual Campaign, also operates many educational, outreach and advocacy programs, including:

- Timeless Treasures, a learning program that deals with spiritual issues; and inspiring workshops on a range of topics from financial empowerment to Jewish identity;
- Bus missions to various UJA FEDERATION funded agencies to see how donor gifts change lives;
- Partnerships with diverse organizations such as The Downtown Women's Network, The Young Mother's Network, local neighbourhood groups and a network for women from the former Soviet Union;
- Women's Abuse programs that raise awareness about the plight of abused women and children exposed to violence;
- A Presidents Council representing over 50 Jewish women's organizations in Toronto.

Joining Weill and Binstock Offman on the executive are: Tammy Anklewicz, Honey Carr, Lynn Catzman, Clara Cooper, Ruth Ekstein, Helen Finder-Guttman, Judith Finer-Freedman, Frances Goldstein, Susan Gudofsky, Alison Himel, Sarena Koschitzky, Miri Schneiderman, Joan Shapero, Helen Silverstein and Fran Sonshine.

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Helping Young Immigrants

Toronto's young Jewish newcomers are benefiting from new community programs designed specifically to meet their needs, thanks to a partnership between UJA FEDERATION and a group of Russian Jewish women.

The Russian Jewish Initiative, a community group formed out of concern for Toronto's Russian Jewish youth after the tragic death of Matti Baranovski, recently held an art auction and concert, in co-operation with UJA FEDERATION, which raised $10,000 for immigrant youth programs.

"We need more programs for newcomers to the community," said Elena Aleinikov, co-chair of the Russian Jewish Initiative with Vicki Frenkel. "The youth are the future generation – we want to reach out to them and make them feel welcome."

Proceeds from the event – which featured works by local Russian artists, musicians, singers and dancers – will help create, among other projects, after-school programs for young immigrants.

Two young performers won the hearts of audience members at the event, which raised $10,000 for immigrant youth programs.

"The upcoming annual UJA FEDERATION campaign – The Campaign For Our Children – centres on young people, and immigrant youth is one of the groups we want to help," says organization president Alan Sandler.

New summer programs for Russian youth in the Bathurst-Finch neighbourhood are already in place, based on the recommendations of a UJA FEDERATION task force report.

The initiatives, which include leadership development wilderness programs for 12- to 16-year-olds at Albion Park and a sports camp for children at Fisherville Junior High, are being co-ordinated by Jewish Immigrant Aid Service (JIAS). A youth worker who was hired to address specific needs of young people in the Russian Jewish community recently held a lunch program with children at the Fisherville camp.

"The kids talked about feeling lonely and isolated – and how it made them feel good that someone thought they were special enough to do something for them," says Mila Voihanski, director of immigrant services for JIAS. "Parents in the area are very happy that the Jewish community hasn't forgotten about them."

Other projects in the works will be located at a drop-in centre and an employment centre.

(l-r) Sophie Miller, Vicki Frenkel, Ida Tillis, Mila Voihanski and Elena Aleinikov were instrumental in putting together the Jewish Russian Initiative art auction and concert.

Photos: Bev Abramson

The Campaign For Our Children

jewish Toronto

Ron Frisch and Ed Sonshine are heading up UJA FEDERATION's Campaign 2001, a dramatic initiative to meet the urgent needs of young people in our rapidly growing community.

The Campaign For Our Children, which will officially launch on August 30, 2000, hopes to raise $45 million – $4 million more than last year.

"The needs of our community continue to grow," says Sonshine. "It is our responsibility to care about and help every Jewish child in Toronto – or anywhere else in the world. All our children deserve to live free from poverty, domestic violence and anti-Semitism."

(L-r) Ed Sonshine and Ron Frisch, Co-Chairs of The Campaign For Our Children.

Sonshine, president and CEO of RioCan Real Estate, took on the responsibility of the campaign to set an example for his children. "I always believed that you should show kids, rather than tell them, how to be charitable and give back to the community."

Frisch, CEO of pharmaceutical distributor Kohl & Frisch Ltd., is also motivated by his children. "I want them to know there is a bigger world out there and that we have a responsibility to each other."

Campaign Vice-Chairs Judy Engel and Harry Krakowsy will join forces with Frisch and Sonshine, who co-chaired UJA FEDERATION'S major gifts campaign last year.

Increased contributions from The Campaign For Our Children will be designated for three key funding initiatives:

- $1.4 million to help lift children from poverty, domestic violence and the isolation of being newcomers to Toronto.
- $2.1 million to help bring our kids closer to Judaism, through formal Jewish education and powerful, informal Jewish experiences such as Birthright Israel.
- $500,000 to rescue young people from hopelessness and anti-Semitism in the former Soviet Union.

"We need to provide additional financial assistance to thousands of Jewish families living below the poverty line," says Gordon Wolfe, executive director of Jewish Family & Child Service, a UJA FEDERATION beneficiary agency. "There are parents struggling to pay rent and feed their kids, with very little – if anything – left over for the necessities of life."

"I want my children to know there is a bigger world out there and that we have a responsibility to each other." - Ron Frisch

Research shows that children whose families live in poverty suffer greater abuse, more health problems, drop out of school earlier and have more of a chance of drug and alcohol use.

"By providing additional dollars, UJA FEDERATION enables JF&CS to keep families together, and maintain children in their own homes while we counsel and support them," says Wolfe.

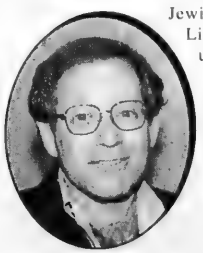
Gift increases will also allow UJA FEDERATION's Board of Jewish Education (BJE) to increase the amount of money available for tuition subsidies to parents of day school students who can't afford full fees, in addition to expanding Jewish family education programs.

"Jewish education ensures the continuation of Jewish values and a Jewish community," says Dr. Seymour Epstein, executive director of BJE. "We should be able to give all parents the opportunity to consider Jewish education for their children."

Judy Engel

Similarly, The Campaign For Our Children will make more funds available to continue vital Israel experience programs for young people, such as March of the Living and Birthright Israel. "Israel experiences are an essential component of building Jewish identity," says Glennie Lindenberg, Chair of Continuity for UJA FEDERATION.

Last year, UJA FEDERATION'S Campaign 2000 raised more than $ 41 million – a new record.



Harry Krakowsky

VIP Visit for March Participants

For the first time ever, seven Toronto teenagers met with the Prime Minister of Poland during the recent March of the Living. The teens, who walked an hour on Shabbat to get to the official residence of Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek, spoke to him for a half hour about their thoughts of the mission and Poland in general.

"We've come a long way to have the Polish prime minister meet with a group of Jewish children," says Anita Ekstein, a chaperone on the trip who was hidden and saved by a Polish family during the Holocaust.

A record 400 Canadians, including more than 100 Torontonians, participated in this year's March. The emotional pilgrimage to Polish concentration camps included a 3 km march from Auschwitz to Birkenau (left).

Photo: Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications

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JRCC holds an historic evening

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Seen from left are Fred Sorkin, Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, Larry Tanenbaum, Herb Green and Howard Tanenbaum. [Photo courtesy Vladimir Bekker]

TORONTO — An evening of appreciation for executive donors at the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC) last month was notable for more than the recognition of generous supporters.

It was, according to Igor Korenzvit, chair of the JRCC board of governors, "the first time that Russian [immigrant] and Canadian Jews got together as equals and partners."

Until now, he said, the relationship was one-sided. "It was always the Canadian Jewish community helping to serve the needs of the Russians, like finding them jobs and apartments, or making Chanukah parties."

Rabbi Yosef Zaltzman, executive director of the JRCC, called it a "sign of growth and maturity" that immigrants from the former Soviet Union can now participate in philanthropic activities with their Canadian counterparts.

The event was held at the JRCC on Rockford Road. Greetings were brought by Moshe Ronen, national president of Canadian Jewish Congress; Alan Sandler, president of UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto; and Councillor Mike Feldman, on behalf of Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman.

Rabbi Zaltzman and Korenzvit told *The CJN* that the executive donors group, chaired by Alex Shnaider, was established in September 1999 to provide financial support for JRCC projects, including The Toronto Jewish Academy Ohr Menachem, which is moving in September to new quarters on Bathurst Street in York Region.

There are now nearly 50 people in the group – about 15 people from the larger community and about 35 from the Russian community. It is hoped that they "will be the best ambassadors" in bringing in new people at this level of giving," Korenzvit said. Many others donate to the organization on a smaller basis, depending on their financial situation, he added.

It is important to get the Russians involved, Korenzvit said, because they "make up the largest single group of Jews in Ontario, 15 to 20 percent, "more than South Africans, Israelis, Sephardim."

Members of the executive donors group include Mikhail Kharlip, Mikhail Reznikov, Fred Sorkin, Korenzvit, Boris Khakhan, Gideon Orzakovski, Leonid Saltsov, Yoseph Levitan, Leonid Pekker, Val Levitan, Leonid Bravinsky, Boris Serebryany, Michael Serebrennikov, Izrail Vainberg, Michael Shats, Lew Pliamm, Maya Grad, Isaac Kanter, Boris Karlin, Marsha Karlin, Vladimir Karlin, Fred and Anya Sorkin, Michael Lublin, Moshe Lipszyc, Isaac Benitah, David Bronfman, Howard Tanenbaum, Larry Tanenbaum, Herman Grad, Herb Green, George Berger, Marty Rochwerg, Marty Goldberg and Saul Feldberg.

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Secretary is school's 'ambassador'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

If you ask Debbie Edberg what she does at Leo Baeck Day School, make sure you have a few minutes.

Spotlight

Officially, she is the receptionist/secretary, but that is only a fraction of her duties.

Debbie Edberg

Edberg, 48, started working at the school 14 years ago when it was still on Kenton Avenue. If she were to write a job description, she says, it would have to be a jack of all trades.

"I wear many hats. As the modern day school nurse, I've taken the St. John's Ambulance course, and I take care of kids when they don't feel well. I may give them their puffers, their medication, or maybe just a hug. The kids call me the Band-Aid lady; they know I'll give them one even if they don't need it.

"I get to know them, and I realize that sometimes they come to the office just because they feel like chatting; they may need a short break. When their tooth falls out, I make a fuss over them and give them an envelope with a penny inside."

She is also the sounding board for kids and parents. "I'm there for people if they need to discuss something. I know the families, I know their situation, and I never discuss anything with anyone else. I'm the first person people talk to when they call the school; I calm them down, direct them – whatever they need.

"Leo Baeck is a unique school. It is very family oriented. Parents know that when they phone the school, it is like calling a friend. They can depend on me to get a message to their children."

Edberg is the public relations ambassador, says Zita Gardner, director of Leo Baeck. "She is the person who gives out the first message… She is the first voice of the school."

Her administrative duties include typing schedules, booking school trips, helping substitute teachers orient themselves, and making sure all the classes are covered.

"The school has grown 100 percent in the last eight years, and my job has grown with it.

"It is like a second home. I find the last day very difficult, especially saying good-bye to the graduates. I've really bonded with some of them. There are always a lot of hugs and kisses."

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Journalist brings Jews to *Haven*

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — When Ruth Gruber's parents and top American army brass tried to dissuade her from secretly escorting a ship full of refugees fleeing Nazi persecution, she ignored their pleas.

At that time, Gruber was the 33-year-old assistant to the former U.S. secretary of the interior, Harold Ickes. She decided the opportunity to rescue people from death was important enough to put her own life in danger.

Ruth Gruber

"They did everything to try to prevent me," recalls the sprightly 88-year-old journalist and author of 15 books, "but I just knew I had to do it."

Gruber wrote a book on her experiences called *Haven*, which is now being turned into the CBS mini-series *Safe Haven*, starring Natasha Richardson and academy-award winners Anne Bancroft and Martin Landau, currently being shot in Toronto.

The decision to ship and temporarily house 982 mostly Jewish refugees from 18 countries, to a former army base in Oswego, N.Y., came in 1944.

Until then, no major rescue operation had been carried out by the American government, even though officials in the State Department were aware Jews were being systematically murdered.

Gruber, who speaks Yiddish and German, had travelled extensively while documenting the treatment of women in communist and fascist countries and was highly respected by Ickes. She was an obvious choice to guide the group across U-boat infested waters.

On the ship, Gruber taught English to many of the refugees and gradually befriended them. They affectionately called her "Mother Ruth."

"I told them that they had to tell me what they had gone through," Gruber recalls, adding that there was a great deal of reluctance.

"Some of the men would say, 'You're a woman, what they did was so obscene [that] we can't tell you.'"

But Gruber was adamant and countered, "Forget that I'm a woman. You are the first witnesses coming to America. It is through you that America will learn the truth about these crimes."

As the survivors graphically recounted their horrific experiences, Gruber found herself weeping profusely, nearly washing out the ink on her paper with tears.

It was then, Gruber asserts, that she became a Jew.

"I really think that even though we are born Jews, there is a moment in our lives that we *become* Jews."

The ship arrived at Oswego's Fort Ontario on August 5, 1944. But the refugees were not free. They were not allowed to leave the camp, which in some ways resembled an internment camp with a barbed-wired topped fence outlining the facility.

Gruber lobbied the government on several occasions to improve the conditions in the camp and to let the refugees remain there for the duration of the war. She eventually helped convince the government to allow the refugees to apply for permanent resident visas.

Many of the refugees went on to professional success in the United States. Alex Marguiles, a teenager in the camp from Yugoslavia, eventually helped develop the CAT scan and the MRI. While these successes are gratifying for Gruber, at the same time she says that "it haunts me how many more we could have saved."

The 18-month drama is described by Gruber as "the defining moment of my life."

Safe Haven will feature scenes of Gruber's work as a correspondent before and after the war. The film is expected to air in February in conjunction with the release of Gruber's newly revised autobiography, *Ahead of Time*.

"We are all Jewish:" Ashkenazi rabbi

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In his 40 years in Morocco, Rabbi Yehuda Leib Raskin has never been referred to as Ashkenazi.

"We are all Jewish," the Casablanca-based Chabad Lubavitch rabbi said in a recent interview.

Rabbi Raskin was in Toronto earlier this month for hiloula (yahrzeit) ceremonies in memory of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. He spoke on July 3 in French at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre and the following night in Hebrew at Chabad Lubavitch Centre in Thornhill.

His message was the importance of Jewish unity, he told *The CJN* during a French-language interview at the centre.

The Moroccan Jewish community is comfortable within the greater Moroccan community, he said, noting that Morocco has a Jewish senator and three or four years ago had a Jewish tourism minister.

On a recent trip to Washington, Rabbi Raskin was presented to Morocco's King Mohammed VI, who succeeded his father Hassan II after the latter's death last summer. The king requested a benediction, which, the rabbi said, he provided.

Rabbi Raskin was born in Leningrad in 1933 to a Lubavitch family who studied Torah clandestinely in communist Russia. They left in 1946 for Germany, with Polish Jews who had taken refuge in Russia during the war.

In 1953, Rabbi Raskin headed to the United States, where he studied with Rabbi Schneerson.

His emissary work for the Rebbe took him to France, where he met his wife Raizel, also a Russian-born descendant of an early Lubavitch family. They married in Paris in 1959 and were sent to Morocco the following year.

Rabbi Yehuda Leib Raskin

Although Lubavitch had had a presence in Morocco for a decade (it was in fact the destination for the Rebbe's first shlichim), there was much to do, and widespread poverty and illness, Rabbi Raskin said.

Habad Lubavitch, as it's known in Morocco, offers synagogue, school and mikvah services to the entire country, under the direction of Rabbi Raskin. His wife runs one of the schools.

With 70 Lubavitch institutions, they even serve small villages not accessible by car, he noted. For nearly two decades, the organization has run a seaside overnight camp for children.

Since 1984, when the Rebbe issued a directive to study Rambam (Maimonides), Rabbi Raskin has led an annual delegation to the 12th-century scholar's former home in the Arab quarter of Fez for a siyyum (culmination of the studies). Access to the private home was arranged through the Moroccan government.

At the recent Toronto event, there were a number of the rabbi's former students.

"You should have seen how emotional it was. Every move reminded them of something from their childhood," said Rabbi Israel Landa, Chabad's rabbi for Toronto's Hebrew-speaking community, and Rabbi Raskin's host.

One former student even recalled the brand of cigarette Rabbi Raskin (now an ex-smoker) used to smoke.

Rabbi Raskin's son, Rabbi Mendel Raskin (director of Beth Chabad in Montreal) spoke here last year about his life growing up in Morocco. That talk inspired Rabbi Landa to invite the senior Rabbi Raskin, he recalled.

In 1950, Morocco was home to 350,000 Jews, Rabbi Raskin said. Today, he estimates, there are only 4,000 or 5,000. The Ashkenazi families who fled Nazi Europe for Morocco have also left, he added.

Rabbi Raskin's six children have left Morocco, but he has no intention of following them. "As long as there are Jews there," he said, "I have a mission."

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER
What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, July 31, for Aug. 10 issue and Tuesday, Aug. 8, for Aug. 17. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Sunday, July 30

SIMCHAH DAY!
Explore the significance of Jewish weddings and holiday traditions through songs, dances, drama and crafts, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Jewish Discovery Place in the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. 636-1880, ext. 456.

SUNDAY BRUNCH
Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel and the Intersynagogue Singles present Romancing the New Moon with **Remy Landau** at brunch (for singles 35 or better) 11:30 a.m. $10 if prepaid by Thursday, July 27, $15 at door. 635-5340.

JEWISH STORYTELLING
Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer**. All welcome to listen or tell. 7:30 p.m., Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave. $4. 699-8914.

CPR COURSE
Infant/Child CPR Course, 0-7 years, at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Ideal for new parents, grandparents and caregivers. Receive certification. In conjunction with Heart and Stroke Foundation. Reserve. 905-731-9441.

Monday, July 31

HERUT LIKUD
Herut Likud-Betar Tagar invites the public to a special evening to mark the 60th yahrzeit and the 120th anniversary of the birth of **Zev Jabotinsky,** 8 p.m., Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

WASHINGTON TRIP
Adath Israel Sisterhood information and sign-up meeting for the trip to Washington, Oct. 29-Nov. 2. Meeting at 7:30 p.m., 864 Sheppard Ave. **Bunnie Gross** 633-9691.

And What Else Is New

YARCHEI KALLAH
Three days of Torah study for women of all backgrounds Aug. 1-3 sponsored by Canadian Friends of Nishmat, Mekorot and Emunah Women. Topic is Eichah (Lamentations): A Drama in Five Chapters. Texts available in Hebrew and English. Five stand alone half-day sessions, 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 and 1-3:30 p.m., at Or Chaim Yeshiva, 159 Almore Ave. **Esther** 789-4883.

INSTITUTE OF JUDAISM
The 44th annual B'nai Brith Institute of Judaism, Celebrating 1,000 Years of Yiddish, From Jargon to the Language of the Classics, Sept. 1-3 at Camp George, Parry Sound. **Prof. Adam Fuerstenberg**, scholar-in-residence. Saturday night entertainment by **Lenka Lichtenberg**. **Brucha Kazman**, chair. 633-6224, ext. 106.

CITY-WIDE SHABBATON
Project Tikun, a Jewish outreach program that organizes Jewish programs for young adults, is sponsoring Introducing Shabbat Throughout the City. Information/reservations 784-3515.

Aug. 11 and 12, The Soul of Shabbat Exposed, at the Anshei Minsk Shul (Kensington Market): Aug. 18-19, Ally McBeal(owitz): She's Not the Only One Looking For Love, at Chabad of Markham (singles ages 23-40); Aug. 25-26, Cutting the Puppet Strings: Where Do We Go From Here, at Mizrachi Byat.

THEATRE WORKSHOPS
Jewish Theatre Projects is looking for 7 people, men and women, ages 20-40, to workshop and perform a new theatre play. *Mark Down* is a comedy about a family-run business in a small Canadian town. Workshops July 30-Sept. 14. Performances Sept. 15-17 at the Leah Posluns Theatre workshop space. **Cindy** 483-9829.

Continued on page 21

the diary of anne frank
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MAGGIE BLAKE AS 'ANNE FRANK'

Photo by Gina Rae Horvath
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What's New

Continued from page 20

JIS PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Jewish Information Service (JIS), a service of UJA FEDERATION, has more than 5,000 pieces of current information about the Jewish community. 635-5600.

Shalom Toronto (newcomer program); Welcome to Our World baby acknowledgment program; accommodation registry; directory of Toronto synagogues, singles programs, community organizations, daycare/nurseries, tourist information, scholarship opportunities; up to date listing of synagogue High Holy Day ticket availability.

PLAY FOR A CURE

On Aug. 10, the Gerry and Nancy Pencer Brain Trust hosts its first annual fund-raiser, Play for a Cure at Playdium Entertainment Centre in Mississauga. All proceeds will go to brain tumour research and patient care at the Gerry and Nancy Pencer Brain Tumor Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital. Includes outdoor activities, barbecue, well-known sports celebrities, live entertainment, silent auction, contests with prizes. Tickets are $125. 946-2230.

KOFFLER GALLERY

The Koffler Gallery presents the Bathurst Street Student Project. Students' works from Temple Sinai Religious School and Sir Sandford Fleming Academy on view in The Atrium and the Loggia July 13-Oct. 31. BJCC Centre Camp Project on view through August. 636-1880, ext. 268 or 269.

Exhibit, Bathurst Street, by **Vid Ingelevics** runs to Sept. 3. Curator **Carolyn Bell Farrell.**

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., fall courses for adults, teenagers and preteens in conversational Hebrew for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Tuesday mornings Sept. 12-Dec. 12; Wednesday mornings Sept. 13-Dec. 13; Thursday mornings and evenings Sept. 14-Dec. 14; Friday mornings Sept. 15-Dec. 15. Register now. **Joseph Klinger**. 787-0197.

SINGERS WANTED

Shalom Singers have carved a name for themselves in the Toronto musical community for the past 20 years with their impressive and extensive repertoire of folk and traditional music. All voices are welcome. To read music is not necessary. Just enjoy learning and singing and performing with musical director **Esther Ghan Firestone**. Rehearsals are Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. **Dolly Brown** 636-9468.

YIDDISH FOR CHILDREN

Free Yiddish classes for children, Sundays 9:30 a.m. to noon, starting Sept. 17. **Naomi** 635-2883, ext. 150.

DINING COUPONS

To raise funds for the neonatal units at Sunnybrook, Women's and Mount Sinai Hospital, Parkers Custom Clothing Care is selling discount dining coupon sheets at all Parkers Custom Clothing Care stores; $30 will purchase a discount dining coupon sheet good until Dec. 31, 2001.

FOR SENIORS

If you're a senior living with osteoporosis, register for the fall session of POWER, a 7-week wellness program that covers exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes start in September at Baycrest Centre (785-2500, ext. 2395), North York General Hospital Seniors' Health Centre (756-6050) and Yee Hong Centre (321-6679). Registration fee is $30. Class size limited.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. July 27, Israeli comedy movie. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Association of Jewish Seniors seminar To Our Good Health, Thursday, July 27, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre. Various speakers, Yiddish/English entertainment by **Nathan Garnick** 1-2 p.m. in a musical program called Amerika Gonef. Bring brown bag lunch. Guests $3. Reserve. **Goldie** 635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club Casino Rama Aug. 2, 16, 30; Aug. 13, barbecue party and entertainment 1-3 p.m., members $5, non-members $6; Aug. 20-23 Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino. Line dancing every Tuesday morning through August. 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: *Damn Yankees*, Drayton Festival Theatre Aug. 22; Painting classes every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. **Lena** 785-5773.

LZA Seniors: Dance classes every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Cultural Club weekly meetings continue every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom. **Libby** 782-2059 or the office 630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Low Vision Support Group monthly meeting features the romantic drama *At First Sight* with **Val Kilmer** and **Mira Sorvino** Tuesday, Aug. 1, 1-3 p.m.

Reiki treatments Wednesdays Aug. 2-Sept. 13, 1-3 p.m. $35 (7 sessions). Register at Ticket Sales Desk. **Ruth** ext. 105.

The Awareness Project Players six vignettes on elder abuse – The Stepfather; Our Pride & Joy; Caught in the Middle; Jack in the Box; The Wild Card; Jake's Lost – are suitable for community groups, clubs, conferences, schools. For information and bookings **Sheila Zale** ext. 133.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Aug. 1, movie; Aug. 8, lecture; Aug. 15, picnic in the park; Aug. 22, sing-along; Aug. 29, summer party. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie Sunday July 30, 8 p.m., *My Giant.*

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

The Explorations Group is accepting new members for 2000-2001. Once a month, group members go to a special place of interest and on out-of-town trips (during the summer). **Georgine Nash** 229-6416 or leave a message at ext. 455.

The Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum has 10 interactive exhibits for parents and children to enjoy together and something special each day, ext. 456.

Centre Camp has some spots still available for August, ext. 378.

Limited spaces for Tuesday-Thursday Tic Tac Two. This 9:15-11:15 a.m. for pre-nursery children. Judaic programming, music, snack, circles, free play. Parents can exercise while children play. Babysitting available for those with infants; ext. 248.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: The Association of Jewish Day School Administrators for the 2000-2002 term are, from left, Arthur Tannenbaum, past president; Bernard Shoub, Board of Jewish Education director of School Finances-secretary treasurer; Rhona Birenbaum, Leo Baeck Day School, newly installed president; Arthur Landa, Associated Hebrew Day School, immediate past president; Jerry Solomon, Bnei Akiva Schools, newly installed vice-chair; Ira Berman (foreground) Eitz Chaim Day School executive director, past president; Sonia Shron, Bialik Hebrew Day School, past president; Alan Steinfeld, Netivot HaTorah Day School, past president.

SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISER: At the fourth annual Zareinu Golf Tournament, $100,000 was raised. The event took place recently at Cherry Downs Golf & Country Club in Pickering. Pictured above, three chairs (from left) Jeff Lanys, Evan Sone and Brian Liss present the cheque to Danny Gordon, chairman of the board of Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto. [Howard Levitt photo]

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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Greater Toronto Area

Prof. lives in the reel world

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Amnon Buchbinder's reel world revolves around movies.

Apart from being a professor of film and video at York University, he is a screenwriter, a script doctor, a story analyst and a former film festival programmer.

Buchbinder, whose father Howard is a retired professor of social science at York University and whose mother Judith Weisman is a psychotherapist in private practice, developed an interest in film at a very early age.

"I made a Super 8 film in a Grade 6 class at Bialik, and it was pure bliss. I asked my parents for a camera for my birthday, and never stopped. Why? Who knows? The process of concretizing the imagination fascinates me, I guess."

Buchbinder – whose Genie award-winning 1998 film, *The Fishing Trip*, was acclaimed by critics – teaches screenwriting and directing to around 250 undergraduates and 40 graduates.

"In a way, teaching has been an aspect of what I've done almost since I started making movies at the age of 12," he explained. "I taught a screen education class when I was in high school. I got a job teaching filmmaking to celebrities' kids at a private high school in Los Angeles."

After studying at the California Institute of the Arts, Buchbinder, now 41, taught film production at Simon Fraser University for three years. In 1995, after a film project fell apart, he joined York University.

It's clear that, for Buchbinder, teaching is a labour of love.

"It enables me to think deeply about my own craft and technique and finding experimental ways of communicating these insights to students. I enjoy being in an environment where thought and reflection is encouraged and demanded. I love both working one-on-one with students, particularly grad students, and with groups."

Asked about his teaching style, he described it is a blend of reverence for the creative process, a broad understanding of cinema, a devotion to stories, a thorough knowledge of filmmaking, and an appreciation of the realities of the film industry.

"I work hard to synthesize these sometimes contradictory facets," said Buchbinder, the father of two children whose wife, Elyse Pomeranz, teaches at a Waldorf school.

One of his greatest joys is watching students fulfilling their dreams. "Every year, a few of my students mole their way into the industry. My biggest 'success' so far has been Michelle Lovretta, who wrote *The Fishing Trip*, which deals with the harrowing road trip of three young women confronting their past."

Amazingly enough, *The Fishing Trip* began as a 30-minute screenplay in one of his courses. "Michelle and I worked together to develop it into a feature," said Buchbinder, whose previous films, all of which were documentaries, have been screened at film festivals from Cannes to Toronto. (One of them, *We're All Related*, is described by Buchbinder as "the world's first Yiddish music video.")

From the first draft of the script to the completion of filming, a little more than two years elapsed before *The Fishing Trip* was finished. "It's pretty fast when you consider I was teaching full time throughout."

Buchbinder set out to make *The Fishing Trip*, which the *Toronto Star* hailed as "a minor marvel of dramatic economy," with merely $65,000 in hand. "Simply finishing it felt like a triumph. The fact that it got national theatrical release with very strong reviews was a bonus."

Since then his star pupil has moved on. "Michelle is busy with a bunch of TV projects and is getting offers from television shows in Los Angeles. Michelle is pretty unique. She basically came out of the womb writing poems, and she has had amazing luck. It takes most people a few years after graduating to begin finding their feet. It's an industry where dues must be paid.

"I have a handful of screenwriters out there who, I know, are going to break through soon. I spend a lot of my time writing reference letters, making introductions, but mostly they just have to keep at it."

Buchbinder, who is currently developing a film titled *A Travelling Medicine Show*, a fantasy that he regards as a 180 degree turn from *The Fishing Trip*, is nothing if not versatile.

Amnon Buchbinder

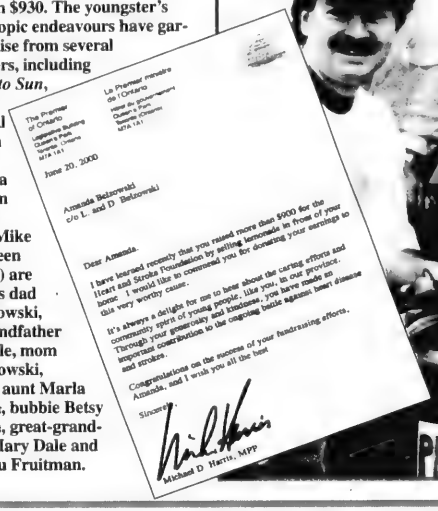
As a programmer, he has worked for the Pacific Cinematheque, the Vancouver International Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival. And as a script doctor and story analyst, he has dissected films such as *Dog Park* and *Superstar*.

"I work only on films I am personally excited by. It's very hard to develop a good screenplay. First-rate screenplays are rare. It's a very difficult form of storytelling to master. The film industry is driven by money, not art, and therefore, there are many things in the development process which work against creativity."

Buchbinder, whose favourite films include *The Crying Game*, *The Piano* and *Gods and Monsters*, is content to remain in Canada. "Hollywood has enough people banging on its doors. I did have discussions with some agents in L.A. after *The Fishing Trip* came out, but they won't take on someone who is teaching full time.

"Sure, it would be nice to get paid 10 times as much. But as long as I can feed my kids, it's not as important to me as the opportunity to do the work I find creatively exciting. And, of course, I love the positive feedback between my work and my teaching. I'm not ready to give that up."

CHARITY AS A FAMILY AFFAIR: Raising money for charity is a mitzvah Amanda Belzowski's family has valued for generations. Over the past nine years the family has raised $10,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. This year's efforts were highlighted by 2½-year-old Amanda's lemonade stand on Briancliff Drive in North York, which brought in $930. The youngster's philanthropic endeavours have garnered praise from several newspapers, including the *Toronto Sun*, a spot on the Global Television Network and even a letter from Ontario Premier Mike Harris. Seen (from left) are Amanda's dad Dan Belzowski, great-grandfather David Dale, mom Lisa Belzowski, Amanda, aunt Marla Fruitman, bubbie Betsy Fruitman, great-grandmother Mary Dale and zayde Lou Fruitman.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June 20, 2000

Amanda Belzowski
c/o L. and D. Belzowski

Dear Amanda,

I have learned recently that you raised more than $900 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation by selling lemonade in front of your home. I would like to commend you for donating your earnings to this very worthy cause.

It's always a delight for me to hear about the caring efforts and community spirit of young people. Like you, in our province. Through your generosity and kindness, you have made an important contribution to the ongoing battle against heart disease and stroke.

Congratulations on the success of your fundraising efforts, Amanda, and I wish you all the best.

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Michael D. Harris, MPP

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Coast to Coast

Changing of the guard at Sha'arei Beth-El

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

OAKVILLE — There has been a changing of the guard at Sha'arei Beth-El Congregation of Halton.

Rabbi Edward Goldfarb, first full-time rabbi of the congregation, has retired after 18 years; taking his place is Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky, who for the past four years has been vice-principal at Leo Baeck Hebrew Day School.

Rabbi Goldfarb, 62, a Toronto native, was ordained at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in 1982. He was put in touch with the "fledgling" Oakville congregation by the Canadian Council of Reform Judaism in 1981 when the synagogue, then called Beth El Congregation, had 35 member families. After merging with the Burlington Jewish Community, it took on its present name.

Rabbi Edward Goldfarb

"It quickly became a full-service synagogue with a Hebrew school and a bar/bat mitzvah program, and in a very gutsy move it hired a full-time rabbi," said Rabbi Goldfarb.

In another gutsy move, he said "the synagogue took on a huge mortgage in order to expand its building.

"The members had a lot of foresight; they were looking ahead to when they would make bar mitzvahs, and they realized they needed space at the synagogue, otherwise they would have to go elsewhere. I embraced the idea [of expansion] wholeheartedly, and helped do a lot of fund-raising."

Eventually, the congregation – which now has 140 member families – hired an educational director and a part-time cantorial soloist.

"The message was, that by insisting the synagogue have a larger building and additional staff, the congregation would grow to the point of financial and psychological viability."

In his honour, he said, one of the members paid off the mortgage, so the synagogue is now debt-free. "It is a real success story. I had a vision [when I joined the congregation], and the members embraced that vision. We knew it could be a viable synagogue, and we set about making it happen."

Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky

Rabbi Goldfarb is now working part time at Holy Blossom Temple doing overflow pastoral work and some teaching. "Having a retired rabbi come in and help out is a great thing for a synagogue to do. I get to do all the stuff I'm good at, without worrying about the executive and board meetings which are inevitably part of a full-time rabbi's life. It is an exciting situation for me."

Rabbi Sidlofsky, 39, who took over as spiritual leader of the synagogue in early July, grew up in Toronto, was ordained from Leo Baeck College in London in 1988, and received a master's degree in Jewish education from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. He received the title of Reform Jewish educator from the National Association of Temple Educators for having a combination of academic qualifications and experience in the field.

"I wanted to return to congregational life, and I was looking for a small community where I could work closely with the congregants. Oakville is a comfortable place to live and raise a family," said Rabbi Sidlofsky, whose wife is expecting the couples first child in the fall.

He plans on increasing family programming at the synagogue, and would like to see the congregation become more visible in the community. "We now have weekly Shabbat services and I would like to see shorter, more informal, monthly services on Friday evenings. I would also like to increase adult education programming and offer an adult bnei mitzvah class.

"It is a small congregation, so it is feasible for me to be involved in all aspects of the synagogue. I plan on teaching in the religious school, and being a resource for the other teachers," he says.

Meanwhile, he says, his first goal is to get to know the congregants and listen to their needs and expectations. "It has the potential of being a very busy job, and I am very much looking forward to it. Its an exciting time for me and for the congregation."

Bidding adieu to a capital few

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

Summer in Ottawa typically heralds the departures of erstwhile political fixtures, as the various teams prepare their line-ups for the upcoming new fall season.

So, while the prime minister jets off to Japan for another round of G-8 (a favourite democratic parlor game that we'll look at next week), let's bid adieu to a few who made the nation's capital the special place it is.

Farewell Preston Manning! To some you will always be reviled as the outsider who destroyed the proud Progressive Conservative party. For others, you will forever be revered as the bold and courageous people's champion who dared to do politics differently. Either way, Ottawa will never be the same.

The sun sets in the west and so will British Columbia Alliance MP, Jim Hart, who is vacating his seat to allow his leader, Stockwell Day, to run in a byelection. Hart will be remembered as the (first) Reformer who had the temerity to question Manning's capacity as leader. Brutally humiliated by the caucus, Hart finally made it back into the fold after having done penance. It would be too bad if that episode overshadowed his relentless and brilliant work in opposition regarding the DND and APEC scandals. He defined the role of an opposition critic.

After 21 years in the House of Commons, it appears that Lloyd Axworthy is heading west too. Never able to advance his ambition to lead the Liberal party, Axworthy sought to leave his mark by redefining Canadian foreign policy. Canada is no longer a "middle" power; it is a "soft" power. Human security was the theme of his watch – and resulted in a couple of coups like the land mines treaty and the Rome treaty (International Criminal Court).

At the end of the day, though, Axworthy's contribution has always been hampered by his hostility to the United States, and his colleagues were frustrated by his inability to shake his left-leaning tendencies.

Finally, July marks the end of David Sultan's tenure as Israeli ambassador to Canada. As one political insider put it: "This guy saw more ministers, senior mandarins, leading journalists and other opinion shapers in his first four months than most ambassadors see over their four-year posting."

Sultan revolutionized the Israeli presence in Ottawa – mostly through his skills as a gourmet chef (you haven't lived unless you have tasted his smoked fishes), his warmth and humility. He is an outstanding individual and will be missed in Ottawa. We wish him well.

Professor to head new English translation of Midrash Raba

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — For the first time in 70 years, scholars will put together a major English translation of the Midrash Raba – the agaddic commentary on the Bible.

Dennis Stoutenberg, a professor of Judaic Studies at Providence College, a Christian school in southern Manitoba, will be editor-in-chief.

"There are some very good Hebrew and Spanish editions of the Midrash Raba," Stoutenberg says, "but very little available in English."

The last major English translation, he says, was the Soncino version in the 1930s. "Since then," he points out, "we have had new materials become available from the Vatican archives, the Qumran caves (Dead Sea Scrolls) and the Cairo Genizah."

The genizah is the place in a synagogue where old books and other religious items are stored. In the early years of the 20th century, a synagogue in Cairo was found to have 1,000 years worth of books and manuscripts stored in its genizah.

At a Society for Biblical Literature conference last year, Stoutenberg approached the Catholic Liturgical Press and the Jewish Publication Society and they agreed to co-publish the 22-25 volume work.

Dennis Stoutenberg

"This will be the first time that Catholic and Jewish academic publishers have come together to publish a major liturgical series," he points out.

Stoutenberg has been given a $2.5 million budget to produce the series. As well, 50 scholars from leading universities in Israel, England and North America have been recruited to work on the translations.

"This is the greatest team of midrash scholars that can be put together at this time in history," Stoutenberg says. "My role is not to play an instrument, but to conduct the orchestra allowing each member of the team to contribute to the overall sound which I am charged with fitting together."

The project is budgeted to last 15-20 years, but Stoutenberg expects that it will be completed within 10 years,

Although raised as a Christian, when Stoutenberg came to Winnipeg 10 years ago to teach New Testament and Biblical studies at Providence College, he and and his wife continued to pursue their already keen interest in Judaism.

"We were already keeping kosher before we came here," Stoutenberg says. "Before I accepted the job at Providence, I set out three conditions. I wanted to be able to create a Judaic Studies Department, which I was allowed to do. I wanted to integrate the department with tours to Israel. I also insisted on being allowed to participate in Winnipeg's Jewish community without repercussions and continue to practise Judaism."

Stoutenberg reckons that because Christianity is descended from Judaism, it is important for Christians to know about the parent religion and how it has evolved in modern times.

"Christian leaders have attempted to divorce Christianity from its Jewish roots," he says. "It is akin to the child kicking the parents out of the house."

Seven years ago, Stoutenberg began studying Torah with Winnipeg Rabbi Zushya Halparin.

Suspecting that Stoutenberg might have some Jewish ancestry, Rabbi Halparin encouraged him to research his genealogy, an opportunity that came up in 1996 while Stoutenberg was leading a group of students on a summer visit to Israel. He discovered that his mother is Jewish. In 1998, he had a bar mitzvah at the Kotel as a statement of his commitment to Judaism.

Stoutenberg says he has left Providence College partly due to the school's desire to close the Judaic Studies Department and also because of the new project.

He and his wife have relocated to Kitchener. He expects to be teaching at a university in southern Ontario next fall.

KKK member sentenced in Dartmouth

TORONTO — A Toronto white supremacist has been sentenced to two years in jail for uttering threats against a Black minister in Dartmouth, N.S., as well as threatening to destroy a predominately Black Baptist church and kill Black people.

The incidents occurred in April when Donna Marie Upson, 22, came to Nova Scotia on a mission to rid churches of Blacks and to recruit other racists.

Upson is a member of the Ku Klux Klan, the Nationalist party and the Aryan Nations.

"Unless her beliefs are renounced, I believe there is no hope for rehabilitation," said Provincial Court Judge Flora Buchan.

According to a report in the *Halifax Herald*, Buchan rejected a plea from Upson to reduce her sentence. "To lock me up would just irritate me more and not help me," Upson told the court.

Upson had several previous convictions for hate-related offences in Ontario, including punching a Black woman and trying to stab a Black youth.

After entering the predominately Black congregation of Victoria Road United Baptist Church, Upson was greeted by the pastor, Rev. Elias Mutale, who tried to talk to her about her views, but she would not listen, calling him names and using racial slurs. A similar incident occurred the next day when she returned to the church.

Karen Mock, national director of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights, testified prior to Upson's sentencing about hate crimes and racist organizations. She testified that Upson is a typical example of a racist recruit, who are often young, uneducated, alienated and have low self-esteem.

Court was told that Upson was a social outcast who blamed others for her problems and fell in with racist skinheads. Upson's racist views are now so ingrained and she is so outspoken about them that she is segregated from other female prisoners at the Halifax Correctional Centre, the *Herald* reported.

Prior to her arrest in April, Upson had been living in parking garages. No local shelters would accommodate her because of her views.

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Coast to Coast

Teens from small towns venture to Israel

Tova Arbis can't wait to set foot in Israel. "I'm so excited," the Sault Ste. Marie native says, that "I've been marking off my calendar for the past 275 days."

Arbis' excitement is echoed by 20 teenagers from small Ontario communities who will spend a month in Israel as part of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region's high school outreach project.

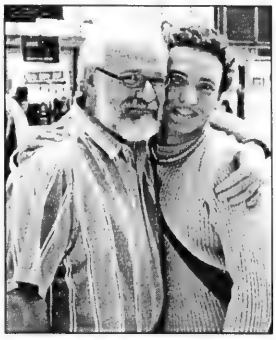
The project, says Michael Sobol, chair of Ontario region's small communities committee, provides the teens with a "connection to Jews and Judaism that these kids could never [have] made without this program."

Because many of the teens hail from towns with tiny Jewish populations, contact with a sizeable Jewish community is rare. The project, says CJC Ontario region executive director Bernie Farber, has helped the teens build a sense of Jewish community.

The tour of Israel is the culmination of three years of activities that have brought the group to Shabbatons, kallahs and a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Adam Levine, a participant from Barrie, expects the trip to be unique. "Seeing history, where civilization began, that's an experience no other place can offer."

This is the fifth time CJC has sent a group of young people from small towns to Israel. Participants will cover several areas of the country, including Jerusalem, the Red Sea and the Golan Heights.



EXCITED FAREWELLS: Michael Sobol (left) hugs his son Jacob Gross-Sobol before sending him off to Israel for a month. Jacob is one of 20 Jewish teens from small Ontario towns travelling on the trip organized by CJC, Ontario region.

Mulroney headlines CJC confab

MONTREAL — Former prime minister Brian Mulroney will be the keynote speaker at the Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec Region (CJC-Q) Plenary, Sept. 9 to 10.

Mulroney, who left office in 1993, will address the Sept. 10 luncheon session when the theme will be human rights.

CJC-Q chair Dorothy Zalcman Howard said, "throughout his tenure, Brian Mulroney showed considerable sensitivity to the concerns of the Jewish community and the State of Israel. Considerable progress was made on a number of these issues, including Nazi war criminals, with the appointment of the Deschênes commission, as well as multiculturalism. He was an ardent supporter of cultural diversity and many projects were funded."

At that luncheon, the first Alan Rose Human Rights Award will be presented to Rabbi Martin Penn, who was an activist in the campaign for Soviet Jewish emigration, and to Quebec Superior Court justice Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré, the first Black woman judge appointed in the province and a defender of minority rights.

The plenary, whose overall theme is Many Faces, One Community...New Directions in Advocacy, will be held all day Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Gelber Conference Centre of the Jewish Community Campus.

It will officially be kicked off the evening before at Karina's, a club on downtown Crescent Street, with a comedy revue called Politically Incorrect, Jewish Style. On stage will be radio host Tommy Schnurmacher; comedian Joey Elias; Université du Québec à Montréal history professor Yolande Cohen; political columnist Josée Legault; entertainment critic Jon Moore; and Bowser & Blue.

The next day, the morning session will feature a panel discussion of Covering or Creating the News: How do the media define the line? with *Gazette* publisher Michael Goldbloom, Michel C. Auger of the *Journal de Montréal*, Anthony Wilson-Smith of *Maclean's* magazine, former *Gazette* editorial page editor Jennifer Robinson, and John Parisella, former chief-of-staff to Premier Robert Bourassa.

Scheduled for the afternoon are four concurrent workshops on the Quebec and Canadian human rights charters with MP Irwin Cotler, Quebec Human Rights Commission president Claude Filion, and Canadian Human Rights Commission secretary-general John Hucker. There will also be workshops on health care, outreach and diversity within the Jewish community, and advocacy.

A town hall meeting will look at the Jewish community of Quebec circa 2025.

Popular talk show host Gerry Cammy of CFRA radio in Ottawa will lead a panel including McGill University principal Bernard Shapiro, McGill history department chair Gil Troy, FEDERATION CJA executive vice-president Danyael Cantor, and Avi Hyman of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

The closing session of the day will look at the Middle East peace process.

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

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מידי יום ששי מרכה לי פאקס של פרשת השבוע ששולח לי הרב לנדא, וכך אני מתחיל לקבל את השבת בהרגשה חגיגית, וגם בתחושה שלמישהו אכפת ממני. זה אולי נשמע לכם קצת אידיוטי, אז למה שלא תנסח מס. הטלפון של הרב הוא 7000 731 905, ומספר הפאקס 7005 731 905. הוא ישמח לצרף אתכם לרשימה.

לפני שבועיים עסקה הפרשה בשנות המדבר, ובצורך של משה להוליך את הישראלים ארבעים שנה כדי שלארץ ישראל ייכנס דור חדש. הגידרה העממית קצת שונה: מדוע הלכו בני ישראל ארבעים שנה במדבר? כי משה תעה בדרך, וכמו כל גבר, מה פתאום שהוא יעצור וישאל הוראות כוון אבל שישאר בינינו.

ליגת איכות החיים

כמידי שנה מדרג האו"ם את מדינות העולם על פי איכות החיים שלהן, ומידי שנה מדורגת קנדה בראש הרשימה. ישראל נמצאת במקום ה 23 ומכובד, אבל צריך לזכור שלפני מספר שנים היתה ישראל במקום גבוה יותר(17). מסבירים לי שפער ההכנסה בין עשירים לעניים בישראל הולך וגדל, ושיש גידול משמעותי בממדי העוני בקרב יהודים חרדיים.

ואיך שמתפרסמת הסטטיסטיקה הזו, מתקיימת בישראל שביתה של שלושה חודשים במערכת הבריאות. אז איך זה מסתדר עם מקום כה גבוה באיכות החיים? אין לי מושג.

החברים של יאנה

לפני כשנתיים ייצג את אוסטרליה סרט נפלא על מהגרים סינים וקשיי הקליטה שלהם. הסרט דיבר סינית, והקסים אותי הרעיון שאוסטרליה הגאה מוכנה שסרט סיני ייצג אותה. השנה זכה ב"אוסקר" הבריטי סרט על מהגר פאקיסטני ומשפחתו. סך הכל מאד טבעי שסרט שעוסק במהגרים ידבר בשפתם ולא בשפת הארץ אליה הם הגיעו.

"החברים של יאנה" הוא סרט דובר רוסית ועברית, שעוסק בקליטתה של עולה צעירה מרוסיה, שנעזבת על ידי בעלה בחודש השלישי להריונה. נשמע כבד, אבל זהו סרט מדליק, מלא הומור ואסטונקה. "יאנה" הוא סירטו של רמי קפלן, ואשתו, אולין קפלן מגלמת את גיבורת הסרט. הסרט זכה ברוב פרסי האקדמיה הישראלית לסרטים, והוא ממש ממש הפתעה נעימה. תשע בסולם קורן. רוצו.

SHMOOZIN

"Watching Aunt Gertrude cool off in the ocean makes me think of Passover – because on all other beach days Aunt Gertrude doesn't dip even once, but today she has dipped twice."

From *The CJN* files

On Campus

Jewish fraternity hires two Canadian chapter consultants

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It's a "very unique" situation, says Andy Borans of Alpha Epsilon Pi's international office, referring to the fact that two of the 87-year-old Jewish fraternity's three chapter consultants for the coming academic year are Canadian.

Neil Grunberg

AEPi, North America's largest Jewish fraternity, boasts 105 chapters, of which only six are based at Canadian campuses (York University, the University of Toronto, the University of Western Ontario, McMaster University, McGill University and the University of British Columbia).

Among its 70,000 alumni, according to its Web site, are National Hockey League commissioner Gary Bettman, journalist Wolf Blitzer, and musicians Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel.

The Canadian chapter consultants – recent graduates Harley Gold, 21, of the University of Toronto, and Neil Grunberg, 23, of McGill University – are technically based at AEPi headquarters in Indianapolis, but, as Grunberg put it during a recent interview, he'll be living out of a suitcase and a car for the next year.

"A lot of people think I'm crazy because of that," said Grunberg, a Toronto native. "I look at it as an adventure."

The consultants were chosen from among 18 applicants, said Borans, the director of chapter services in Indianapolis.

Gold, also from Toronto, is responsible for chapters in the midwestern United States (extending as far south as Texas, and north into British Columbia); Grunberg for the Southeast and mid-Atlantic. Ironically, their American colleague, Michael Wellen (northeast region), covers five of the six Canadian chapters.

"AEPi has done tremendous things for me. I've learned so much from it," said Gold, a geography and religion major who plans to go back to school for an MBA.

He is looking forward to seeing much of the United States, as well as the challenge of helping existing chapters and setting up new ones.

He has first-hand experience in the latter, as a founding father of Tau Omega at U of T four years ago. As a consultant, his role in setting up new chapters, in part, will be to identify the "one or two right people" on site who can get the ball rolling.

Learning how to work with others is the "best skill" Gold has gained through Tau Omega, which he and some friends set up as a Jewish vehicle for sports, philanthropy, parties and just hanging out.

Running a meeting, planning a budget and recruiting new members were among the useful skills he learned, he said. Most challenging was making a go of the chapter at the end of the first year, when membership had dwindled to 7 people.

"We worked really hard," said Gold, who was AEPi's 1999 international fraternity president of the year. In the first month of his second year at U of T, 22 new recruits joined the chapter. There are about 50 members now, he said.

"We had help from the international fraternity. That's one of the reasons I wanted to [become a chapter consultant]."

Likewise, Grunberg wants to give back to the organization, which he credits for giving him the opportunity to develop leadership skills and learn to manage his time.

Harley Gold

Initially he didn't think AEPi was for him, but changed his mind after attending a Yom Kippur fast-breaking. "It was a really nice gesture and I realized these were the kind of people I'd want to associate with for my university years."

The fraternity did a lot of work with Hillel (like its counterparts in other cities), he noted. From his point of view, the biggest difference between Hillel and AEPi is the opportunity for students at the fraternity to self-govern to a greater extent.

Grunberg, who completed a Bachelor of Commerce, worked his way up from scribe (secretary) to master (president) in his final year.

In his final year he lived in AEPi's frat house at McGill. AEPi's other Canadian fraternity house is at Western. In the United States, living in frat houses is more common.

"It's fun," Grunberg said. "The downside is, there's 50 guys coming to your house all the time [for meetings, parties and Shabbat dinners]." But, he added, that's also the upside.

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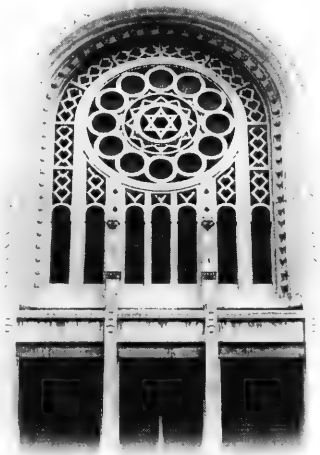

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Baycrest's phone 'angels' reach out to seniors

TORONTO — Leon Kuperberg, Al Pottens and Dorothy Buckhalter all believe in the "invisible angels."

The three seniors live in their own homes and receive phone calls from their angels every week.

Just who are these angels? They are phone volunteers with the Seniors Support Program at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

The three-year-old program helps more than 250 seniors, many of whom are frail and living alone, in the Toronto area. Some are on the waiting list for long-term care, others may be recently widowed or struggling to look after a sick spouse.

Calling up a senior to say, "Hello, how are you today?" is a simple gesture that makes them feel valued and cared about, said social worker Lesley Patterson, who co-ordinates the program. In some cases, it can be a lifeline for a senior who is unable to get out much and feels isolated. The phone volunteer is backed up professionally by an in-house social worker and registered nurse.

Kuperberg is 89 years old and looks after his wife of 62 years, Rachel, who has suffered a series of strokes. Every Tuesday morning, he looks forward to a call from his phone angel, Freda Slotnick.

"It's a full-time job caring for my wife," Kuperberg said. "I'm very thankful when people call to ask how I am doing. It's just a simple phone call, but it means so much to me."

At a recent social tea at Baycrest, Kuperberg and other seniors from the community had a chance to meet their phone volunteers in person. It was an emotional moment with lots of hugs and tears all around.

Baycrest phone "angel" Freda Slotnick (centre) calls Leon Kuperberg every week. They are seen here with Leon's wife Rachel.

Kuperberg was moved to give a speech. He said Slotnick is his "invisible angel."

"When a strange person you've never met calls you, you ask, 'Why are you calling me?'" he told the audience. "The caller says, 'To make you feel better,' and I say, 'Boy have you got the right number.'"

Buckhalter is a widow and former caregiver to her husband. "This is my angel on a Thursday morning," she said, holding the hand of her phone volunteer, Rose Besser.

Elvereene Kling, also a client of Besser's, piped in: "Rose is a wonderful person who brings a lot of sunshine for my husband and me."

A former Meals on Wheels volunteer, Besser was visibly moved by the kind words.

Pottens recently lost his wife to cancer. When she was ill, he was receiving calls from his phone angel Fred Gold on a weekly basis, to see how he was managing. Now widowed, he says the regular Wednesday phone chat with Gold really helps to pick up his spirits. They talk about Pottens' favourite sport, golf, and reminisce about Toronto in the good old days.

Being a phone volunteer isn't just about helping the person on the other end, said Gold, who is a retired school teacher. What he gets in return is a sense of satisfaction that he is reaching out to another life and making a difference.

"I didn't think I could do it," Gold said. "I'm not a doctor or a psychiatrist, but I learned that I have really good intuition about people. I can sense if they're feeling well or not well."

In her speech at the tea, phone volunteer Shirly Brazier captured the feelings of other volunteers when she said that helping others makes her feel good. "It's not a one-way street – us doing for them. We're helping each other."

Baycrest's Seniors Support Program is looking for more special people to be phone "angels" a few hours a week, either in the morning or in the afternoon.

"Ideally, we're looking for retired people because they often have similar life experiences to those of their senior clients and can relate and empathize with them," Patterson said.

For more information, contact the Seniors Support Program at Baycrest Centre, 416-785-2500, ext. 2250.

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See Page 43

Barak tests Jerusalem compromise

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — As negotiators at Camp David were trying to find a formula for a lasting Middle East peace, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak was said to be sounding out public reaction to a possible compromise on Jerusalem.

The Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported Sunday that private surveys conducted for Barak indicated that a large majority of the Israeli public favours an agreement that would end the conflict with the Palestinians, even if it included granting them some sovereignty in eastern Jerusalem.

An opinion survey published in the daily *Yediot Achronot* over the weekend showed the opposite result.

Jerusalem has emerged as the main sticking point in the Camp David talks – and, given such conflicting results, it is apparently just as difficult an issue for the polls to come to grips with.

While a U.S.-imposed news blackout on the substance of the talks continued, Barak briefed Israeli political figures on the status of the summit.

The two latest figures to hear from him were former members of his governing coalition, Yitzhak Levy of the National Religious Party and Natan Sharansky of the Yisrael Ba'Aliyah Party.

Both recently withdrew from the government to protest the Camp David summit, and both said it is unlikely an agreement will emerge from the talks.

Levy said it appeared Barak was preparing the ground to return to Israel without an agreement. Sharansky said Barak indicated he was open to a government with the opposition Likud Party if the summit fails. Sharansky, who supports such a government, said he would do what he could to help.

Clinton confers with Arafat and Barak and their respective advisors. [RNS photo]

An aide to Barak told Israel Radio on Sunday that Clinton's return to the Camp David discussions was critical to their outcome.

Barak's spokesperson, Gadi Baltiansky, said the fate of the summit would be clear within 24 hours of Clinton's return.

"It won't be a whole lot of time," he told Israel Army Radio. When Clinton returns to Camp David, "We will see if there's any point in staying here and going on with the talks or to pack the luggage and return home."

Since first gathering in Camp David on July 11, Israel and the Palestinians have been holding intense negotiations in a bid to come up with a final peace agreement.

Before going to the summit, Barak repeatedly stated that he would not budge from his stance that Jerusalem remain Israel's united, sovereign capital.

For his part, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat said he would not abandon his demand that the eastern half of the city be the capital of a future Palestinian state.

In recent days, there were reports indicating that Barak is willing to consider an American bridging proposal that would grant Israel and the Palestinians some sort of shared sovereignty over Arab neighbourhoods in the capital, granting the Palestinians a form of administrative rule in the city.

Arafat was expected to respond to the proposal last Sunday. Meanwhile, Barak denied that he is being pressed by senior ministers on his negotiating team to make compromises on Jerusalem.

Barak issued the statement Sunday after unnamed aides claimed that ministers Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and Shlomo Ben-Ami are pushing Barak to soften his stance on Jerusalem, which has emerged as the main sticking point in the Camp David talks.

Convicted Iranian Jews appeal verdict

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Seven of the 10 Iranian Jews convicted of engaging in hostile activity on Israel's behalf filed appeals last week, according to the spokesperson of the defence team in the trial, attorney Ismail Nasri. He said the remaining three appeals will be filed soon.

Thirteen Jews were tried and ten sentenced to prison terms ranging from four to 13 years. Three of the original defendants were acquitted.

Nasri said the Jews were not convicted of espionage but of establishing "illegal groups" and "collaborating with an enemy state."

Israel condemned the convictions and denied that the Iranian Jews operated on Israel's behalf.

The Canadian Jewish News
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Carolyn Blackman Libman
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Opinion *No leader will offer a better deal*

By DAN MARGALIT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The Camp David summit entered its final stage this week. The moment of truth is now, and that fact is producing tension and turbulent emotions among the summit's participants.

The toughest fight of Barak's life is about to draw to a close and then an even tougher one will immediately commence.

If he returns to Israel without a signed peace treaty, he will come under fire from the ardent supporters of peace with the Palestinians. They will not forgive him for the way he has treated them, despite the fact that, more than any of his predecessors, Barak has put his political career on the line in order to achieve a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Barak can fend off their criticism because he can always say to them that he accepted the American compromise that was rejected by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. The prime minister might even be able to establish an alternative coalition, because the failure of the negotiations could start a Palestinian conflagration in the wake of a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood in September.

Hints that the Likud might join the government in a state of national emergency have already been made by Limor Livnat and Tzachi Hanegbi.

Such a national unity government would be stable because it would enjoy broad support as it deals with anticipated Palestinian violence. However, even if that government manages to survive until the end of the present Knesset, it will be, by its very nature, a sort of interim coalition.

If, however, Barak returns to Israel with the draft of a peace agreement, he can expect a struggle without precedent in the history of peace accords. He will be accused of having adopted the principles of the Beilin-Abu Mazen document out of pure selfishness, namely, his desire to hold on to his prime ministership.

His chief difficulty will be to persuade the majority of Israelis to go beyond where they have traditionally drawn the line and to give him their support.

If a peace agreement is signed with the Palestinians, Barak can credit himself with several important achievements. Most of the settlements will remain where they are, under Israeli jurisdiction, while most of the settlers will remain where they are, as Israeli citizens; Israeli sovereignty over the Western Wall will be officially recognized as will be Israel's sovereignty over two of the four quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem, which will be expanded to the north and south; the Palestinian state will be permitted to hold only light arms; the Jordan River will effectively be our security border; and the end of the Palestinian-Israeli dispute will be declared.

Nonetheless, despite these achievements, Barak has given his consent at Camp David to far-reaching concessions.

The best course of action for Arafat is to study these concessions and, especially, to weigh the alternative. Barak has already announced that his flexibility will disappear if he is not given an affirmative reply and that his flexibility will not serve as the basis for discussions in the next round of talks. And what is most important, he has declared that, in the foreseeable future, no one will offer the Palestinians what he has agreed to propose to them.

The only alternative to a peace agreement will be another round of bloody violence and Arafat should understand the following point.

If he rejects such a generous parcel of proposals (both Arafat and his commentators are never satisfied) and if a violent confrontation takes place, Israel will have no reason to limit the firepower of the Israel Defence Forces when it responds to the violence.

Too many Israelis, who have felt themselves personally insulted at the sight of their prime minister eating humble pie while softening his positions, will give him total support to use whatever firepower is needed to combat a wave of Palestinian rioting.

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Right wing extremists worry Shin Bet

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The growing tension over the outcome of the Camp David summit has brought a significant escalation in rhetoric by members of the extreme right about a possible assassination attempt on Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Shin Bet security service head Avi Dichter told the cabinet at its weekly meeting on Sunday.

Dichter added that there was also talk of killing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat or blowing up the mosques on the Temple Mount – an act that would unleash havoc in the region – in an attempt to prevent implementation of a possible peace treaty.

Dichter said "fringe elements" on the far right have been discussing these possibilities for some time, but added that talk has intensified as progress is reported in the negotiations. However, he said, as far as the Shin Bet knows, no practical planning or initiatives have been undertaken, and the organization is continuing to monitor the extreme right.

A senior source in the Shin Bet told *Ha'aretz* that the secret service has not made any substantial changes in the procedures for protection of cabinet ministers, which is beefed up or reduced in line with ongoing situation appraisals.

The Shin Bet has recently summoned several activists on the extreme right for talks or warnings after they expressed themselves strongly in favour of assassinating the prime minister.

These scenarios, Dichter told the cabinet, could become operative if Barak returns from Camp David with an agreement not to the liking of the far right, or if he returns without a settlement but with the option for further talks with the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister and acting Prime Minister David Levy asked whether the scenarios were based on hard facts. "We cannot accept something like this without knowing what information it is based on," he said.

Dichter replied that the Shin Bet did not have information about any specific attempts to organize.

Minister Haim Ramon, who is responsible for Jerusalem affairs in the cabinet, noted that the Temple Mount is today less well protected than the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron and that decisions to increase the security there have not yet been implemented.

According to Communications Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, it is always difficult to protect the Temple Mount "hermetically," as some "lunatic" can always find a way to enter the site. At this period especially, he said, it is therefore important for the security forces in charge to act "ruthlessly."

Minister for Diaspora Affairs Michael Melchior observed that the Temple Mount would be the easiest place at which to carry out attacks.

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The Week in Israel

July 17

• U.S. President Bill Clinton called the Camp David negotiations the "hardest thing I've ever seen."

• Officials voiced concern after Iran successfully fired a medium range missile. IDF chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, told Israel Radio that the Shihab 3 Missile poses a threat not only to Israel, but to any other country within its 800-mile range.

July 18

• The High Court of Justice agreed to reconsider its recent decision allowing the Women of the Wall group to hold services at the Western Wall.

July 19

• The former head of the UN body that inspected Iraqi weapons capabilities said Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had told him Baghdad developed biological weapons to deal with the "Zionist entity." Richard Butler was speaking in Jerusalem at a lecture sponsored by the Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs.

July 20

• Judges will be able to forbid publication of any matter that comes before the courts if they believe it would severely violate the privacy of a party or a witness, according to a bill that Justice Minister Yossi Beilin said he will present to the Knesset in two weeks.

July 21

• According to The Dahaf Institute, 70 percent of Israelis do not support handing over any part of east Jerusalem to the Palestinians; 27 percent are in favour. The poll also found that 61 percent of Israelis believe a true agreement with the Palestinians is impossible; 38 percent believe it is possible.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

The lessons I learned at Camp David

By ADAM SHARON
Special to The CJN

Driving from Washington to Camp David on a muggy Thursday, July 13, morning, I was genuinely excited. Within a month of graduating from McGill University and beginning my employment as the White House correspondent for the Talk Radio News Service, I was approaching Camp David, site of tense Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

Realizing the significance of the moment, I promised myself not to squander this precious day at Camp David.

Commentary

At press briefings, I would ask probing questions of press secretary Joe Lockhart. Should any Israeli or Palestinian delegation member walk in my direction, I would confront the individual, demanding an update on the status of negotiations. I was about to become an eyewitness to history, and nothing would spoil that opportunity.

Arriving in Thurmont, Md., I was instructed to proceed, not to Camp David, but to the local elementary school. This seemed odd, but I gathered that press corps members, upon passing a security inspection, would eventually be shuttled to Camp David. I was, however, mistaken.

Camp David was sealed to reporters, and an impregnable news blackout had been imposed by the American, Israeli and Palestinian delegations. The Thurmont Elementary School would be my base throughout this one-day "Camp David" experience. Disappointed, I shuffled toward my office space, expecting to see buzzing reporters chatting on cellular phones, researching news stories and interviewing important political figures.

Again, my expectation did not match the reality. Most correspondents seemed tired and irritable. Few were dressed in business attire, and all looked forward to the Friday afternoon summit recess in respect of the Jewish Sabbath.

Within five minutes, my dreams had been shattered. Covering Camp David would not be a glamorous experience, but instead, tedious work. Officials from the White House, the State Department, and the Israeli and Palestinian delegations rarely visited the press centre at the Thurmont school. Their occasional appearances, while causing a stir among the press, were purposeless.

These officials respected the blackout and would provide reporters with minimal information. Dejected, I stayed at my work area, staring at a blackboard decorated with the 26 letters of the alphabet. This I had already done at the Associated Hebrew Day Schools of Toronto – I did not need to relive that experience at Thurmont Elementary School.

My highlight that day was lending my umbrella to the Israeli Channel 2 news team, who were preparing to broadcast a live report to viewers at home. While pleased to assist my colleagues, I became increasingly frustrated. My umbrella was more involved than I was in the Camp David experience! Wanting to avoid traffic, I left the elementary school and returned to Washington, having failed to fulfil my goals.

On the drive home, I began to reconsider my day. What seemed so ordinary at Thurmont Elementary School suddenly seemed momentous. I recalled observing Israeli reporters, approximately 25 in total, in a large classroom. To their left, in a separate room, some 15 individuals from Arab press agencies gathered, performing tasks exactly like those of their Jewish counterparts. Both groups had non-existent stories to cover and stringent deadlines to meet. Members of the two delegations seemed bored, hoping for a breaking announcement to perk up their spirits. Their mutual wish was, unfortunately or fortunately, not granted.

Then it struck me. I had witnessed the model for coexistence that Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Chairman Yasser Arafat were seeking. A solid, yet semi-porous divide separated the two media delegations. Each party interacted with its own people, but could, as they often did, intermingle. In this case, all correspondents pursued one goal, namely, ascertaining newsworthy information that they could transmit to their readers, viewers and listeners. Was this not the fruit of Middle East peace already coming to fruition?

As the scene of this discussion shows, the tension in the air at Camp David last week was quite evident. [RNS photo]

This parallel is not intended to belittle the difficult matters that faced the Israeli and Palestinian delegations at the real Camp David. But the image I viewed at the Thurmont Elementary School was nonetheless powerful.

Two disparate yet similar groups, divided by religion, language and mentality, could coalesce. This principle speaks to the nub of the Arab-Israeli schism. Coexistence is workable only when both parties, as illustrated by these correspondents, work together to achieve a common goal. If Israelis and Palestinians can mirror their respective journalists' ways, peace in the Middle East can one day flourish.

If anyone needs it, I can supply the umbrella.

Adam Sharon is White House correspondent for the Talk Radio News Service.

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'We need a paradigm shift in relations'

By RABBI MICHAEL MELCHIOR

The Jewish people is potentially ready to enter a new era, one of great strength and creativity.

But we're not there yet.

The obstacles we have to overcome – assimilation, internal rifts – are formidable. To achieve the potential of this moment in Jewish history, there are some key processes – the peace process with our neighbours, for example – that we must nurture.

Redefining the relationship between Israel and world Jewry is one of these processes. We need a paradigm shift in the way we see Israel's relationship with Jewish communities abroad. As Israel's minister of world Jewry, I will do all I can to help transform our relationship to Jews abroad – for the good of us all.

First, we have to understand the problematic nature, until recently, of our connection. The return of the Jewish people to our homeland, was a miraculous event – especially coming as it did right after our darkest moment. Israel's founding and achievements gave strength to Jews everywhere.

Unfortunately, Israel's representatives often took a patronizing attitude towards Jews abroad. We Israelis were the stars of the drama; you, in the Diaspora, had the supporting role. We were the end; you could help provide the means. We were the future; you were the remnant of the past. And it was a past we sometimes preferred to repress. For many Zionists, "the negation of the exile" was a cherished value. As the vanguard of history, Israelis determined how history was to be interpreted – and even how Jewish identity should be defined.

The problem was more than our attitude. Sometimes what was best for the Jewish people was pushed aside out of political necessity. Such was the case when Israel's founding prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, made a deal with Israel's religious parties on religious issues. In retrospect, I believe that the status quo this deal froze in place was bad for Judaism in the broad sense, because it handed the religious establishment a monopoly on religion, alienating many Jews, especially abroad.

Ben-Gurion himself first sparked my awareness that official Israel was not always in tune with other Jewish communities. On a 1962 visit to Denmark, where I grew up, he essentially called for the liquidation of the Danish Jewish community. Danish Jews should move to Israel, Ben-Gurion said. Jewishness could not be maintained elsewhere; Jews could never trust the intentions of their gentile neighbours.

Ben-Gurion's speech was "jarring" to my grandfather, Rabbi Marcus Melchior, then chief rabbi. Though he admired Ben-Gurion as a leader, he expressed his disagreement on this issue publicly. Having played a significant role in the rescue of Danish Jewry during the Nazi occupation, my grandfather knew that the Danes had proven themselves friends at the moment of greatest danger. As the scion of a family that had served Danish Jewry as rabbis for six generations, he felt that Danish Jews had a right to believe in the future of their community in Denmark.

Today, Israel is unquestionably the centre of the Jewish world. More Jewish children are born in Israel than in all other countries together. Israel has become Jewry's spiritual, intellectual and cultural capital. Exactly because of Israel's phenomenal success, we may now have the strength to admit that we need strong Jewish communities abroad, perhaps as much as they need us. By realizing that the future of the Jewish people is a responsibility we share, we may be able to turn back the tide of assimilation and find the spiritual power to transmit our tradition and values to generations to come.

Some changes can already be seen in Israel. Ten years ago, when Meimad first began to oppose religious legislation, our position was considered heretical. Now, this position is considered legitimate even among the haredim. In exile, it was clear that no Jewish group could force its view of Judaism on others. In Israel, we forgot this lesson. As an Orthodox rabbi, I have strong beliefs about Judaism. But I don't have the right to enforce a standard for others who want a relationship with Judaism. This message is beginning to be heard.

Israelis are also starting to realize that contact with the world's Jewish communities strengthens Jewish identity here. We need strengthening. There are schools in Israel where not one student attends Yom Kippur services.

Israel often has a catalytic effect on the Jewish identity of young people, and the Birthright program, which will bring tens of thousands a year to Israel is an important step in utilizing this effect.

But the influence is mutual. Israelis travelling abroad often experience a strengthening of their Jewish identity. Aliyah itself is dependent on the strength of Jewish communities abroad. Israel and world Jewry make up a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Together, we can spark a renaissance whose dimensions will include the entire Jewish people.

Rabbi Melchior, minister for Diaspora Affairs in the government of Israel, invites you to respond at Melchior@pmo.gov.il

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* * *

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Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

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* Some conditions apply
www.TasteoftheDanforth.com

Taste the world at the 7th annual Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth Friday Aug. 11 — Sunday Aug. 13

In 1999, over 800,000 people came to the Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth, making GreekTown home to the largest food festival in Canada. The event has grown tremendously in the six short years since its inception, from a first-year total attendance of 5,000.

A large part of this growth can be traced to the growing interest in ethnic foods. As noted by Eric Moscahlaidis, President of the founding sponsor Krinos Foods, "Over the years, Toronto has become famous for its lively, multicultural image. And where better to experience authentic, ethnic foods than in the heart of the largest GreekTown in North America?"

The restaurants participating in the Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth pride themselves on offering high quality, authentic foods. For many Canadians the Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth is the first chance to try a different type of cuisine, at a very moderate price (the "tastes" are only $1 – $3).

But the Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth is not only about food; it is also about sharing culture. The BBI Bell Mobility Main Stage will showcase Canadian groups and, for the first time, Greek bands. Last year, many Canadians of non-Greek background asked for Greek music on the main stage as well as the special Greek Stage. This year, Ivana Santilli will be the headliner on Friday night, Cowboy Junkies on Saturday night, and The Jim Cuddy Band on Sunday night.

According to Sue Zindros, Chair of GreekTown on the Danforth BIA, owner of Mezes Restaurant and a founder of the Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth, "People come to GreekTown and to the Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth to sample our cuisine, listen to the Greek music and learn the Greek dances. I personally am very proud of our community."

The "Taste" has raised significant monies for charity since its inception in 1994. To date, almost $200,000 has been raised for the Toronto East General Hospital. A number of other charities have also benefitted.

There are many activities for the entire family. Amusement rides for the children, inflatables in front of Shoppers Drug Mart as well as a Changing Area and Nursing Station, the Express Souvlaki Greek Stage, the VISA Fashion and International Stage, the BBI Telecommunications/Bell Mobility Waiter Race.

And for the first time, visit the Dominion Store Recipe Stage presented on the Budweiser Big Rig. Learn how to make an authentic Greek Salad, Spanakopita, or cook Souvlaki. The Dominion Store Recipe Stage will be located at Jackman and Danforth.

Purchase a lottery ticket for $2 from the Royal Bank branches in the GreekTown area or the Toronto East General Hospital volunteers at the "Taste" and you could win a Ford Focus compliments of Rowland on Eglinton Ford Lincoln or a Trip for Two to Greece compliments of Regent Holidays and Air Transat. Proceeds go to the Toronto East General Hospital.

Visit the 7th Annual Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth August 11-13, 2000 Opa! www.TasteoftheDanforth.com

Health and taste reign at Mezes

One trend that has gained momentum in recent years is the emphasis on healthy eating, both inside the home and out. No longer is it sufficient for restaurants to please your palate; they must now also nurture your well-being.

Front and centre in this movement is **Mezes**, where Sue Zindros and her sister Christine, the head chef, have staked their reputation on innovative cuisine that combines freshness and quality in equal measure. Nightly lineups attest to the success of this formula, to which the sisters unwaveringly adhere.

"Healthy eating is not a bonus, it's a given," says Sue. "The question isn't *if* your ingredients are pure and fresh, but *how* pure and fresh they are. We don't serve anything here that we wouldn't serve in our own home, because, when our customers come here, this *is* their home."

Furthermore, says Sue, customers *do* compare the dishes they eat in restaurants with those they prepare in their own kitchen, and are entitled to expect the same high standards and superb taste. Consistency is critical, she notes; the same quality must be maintained day after day, week after week. Despite widespread public acclaim, "we never act like we've "made it." We feel that we have to prove ourselves daily, both in the way we feed people and in the way we treat them."

Can you taste the difference that purity makes? To the unrefined palate, olive oil is olive oil; to the afficionado, however, the first-cold-pressed, extra-virgin variety used at Mezes is magical, as are the fresh herbs that flavour and garnish almost every dish.

Vegetarian dishes, often a bland letdown elsewhere, are terrifically zesty; the entire menu, in fact, will redefine your notions of Greek cuisine and raise the bar on your expectations. The fresh fish is heavenly, the selection marvellous. Try the lamb chops — the ultimate test — and you'll understand why Mezes has gone to the head of the class.

Dishes are prepared slowly, lovingly, one by one, and they keep customers coming back in droves. Always active but never too busy to welcome you warmly, Mezes is the quintessential Greek restaurant.

Mezes
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Avec Plaisir fits intimate apparel

If you've ever known the frustration of buying a bra that's a quarter size off, you'll be relieved to know there's a shop that not only shares your obsession with finding the perfect fit, but will go you one better.

"There's no reason to be apologetic about it," says Vasilia, who owns the shop with Peter, her husband and partner. "Fit is vitally important with any item of clothing, but with intimate apparel, it's **critical**. If your bra or panties don't fit perfectly, you'll be reminded of it every time you put them on."

Accordingly, Vasilia, Peter and staff spend as much time as necessary to ensure that the sometimes elusive goal is always achieved. "We are not in the volume business," notes Peter. "We're in the service business."

With an 18-year track record, Avec Plaisir is sought out by women citywide who want to get it right the first time. Quality and selection don't hurt either; to that end, Avec Plaisir carries the crème de la crème of lingerie, swimwear and hosiery lines. The combination of high-quality merchandise, expertise and personal service has resulted in an ever-growing clientele, who take the utmost "plaisir" in shopping at Avec Plaisir.

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Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Korry's and Greektown joined at the hip

Q. What's been around longer — the Danforth or Korry's?

Q: Who is this man who keeps reminding us about both?

The Jewish prerogative of answering a question with another question fits any conversation with Saul Korman, who's never shy about providing *answers* — especially about the Danforth and **Korry's**, the menswear store he founded 48 years ago. Korman's unbridled enthusiasm about both has fostered a symbiotic relationship between man and street: the two have come to be synonymous.

If you didn't already know that the Danforth was the centre of the universe, Korman will make sure you do. "Looking for an area with a few nice restaurants? We've got 50 *great ones* for starters." Need a sunny patio to show off your newly-acquired Canali suit? Korman won't just direct you, he'll *take you there* — and put in a good word to ensure you get the usual royal treatment ++.

Eurostreet uniqueness vs. mall monotony

The Danforth experience is one Korman recommends to anyone who dreads a typically monotonous afternoon at the local shopping mall. "Where would you rather be on a sunny day like today?" he queries. "In a cloned mall with a hundred cloned stores, or on a European boulevard with 300 high-quality shops, restaurants and cafés?" Most Danforth establishments, Korman continues, are one-of-a-kind and owner-operated, meaning you'll get *real* personal service, not just the advertising-slogan variety. "Most of us grew up in neighbourhoods just like the Danforth," he notes. "We didn't grow up in malls." He also scoffs at the so-called "convenience" of plazas and the mythology of 'one-stop shopping'. "For your free parking you get to spend three hours wandering around indoors, eating chain-store fast food and buying chain-store merchandise. On the Danforth, for five dollars [the cost of all-day parking] you'll get one-of-a-kind quality and uniqueness, in the open air, maybe for less than you paid at the mall."

Always good for a one-on-one broadcast, Korman is well-known for his ad-libbed radio spots, delivered live from wherever he happens to be at air time — a Danforth café, Israel, Milan, the West Indies, or other locales. From an advertising standpoint, these takes are a refreshing departure from the endless sameness of mainstream radio commercials. Love him or hate him, you're sure to raise your antennae whenever he airs. He waxes poetic not only about the great values at Korry's, but also about his latest business and personal experiences. He brags about his successes, but also acknowledges his mistakes and shortcomings on air.

But Korry's lines of communication are not limited to broadcast and print. You can now visit Korry's anytime at **www.korrys.com** and get the latest scoop on his in-store collections, advice on what to buy and how to coordinate it. The site also offers valuable tips on wardrobe maintenance, and even recommends which dry cleaners will give you best results. If it relates to looking your best, you'll find it on Korry's website.

Casual attire in the workplace has gained acceptance in recent years, but the pendulum has begun to swing back towards tailored clothing, particularly in corporate circles. Hence the term "Dress-Up Thursdays": if you're out to do business, you should look the part. Korman and his staff will ensure that you do, right down to the colour of your socks. As evidence of their success, the business continues to expand; a recent major renovation was spectacularly successful, and the shop now employs six full-time tailors.

"My dream is to have every man in the world shop at Korry's," he says — "not for the money, but for the ego boost I get every time a customer walks in the door."

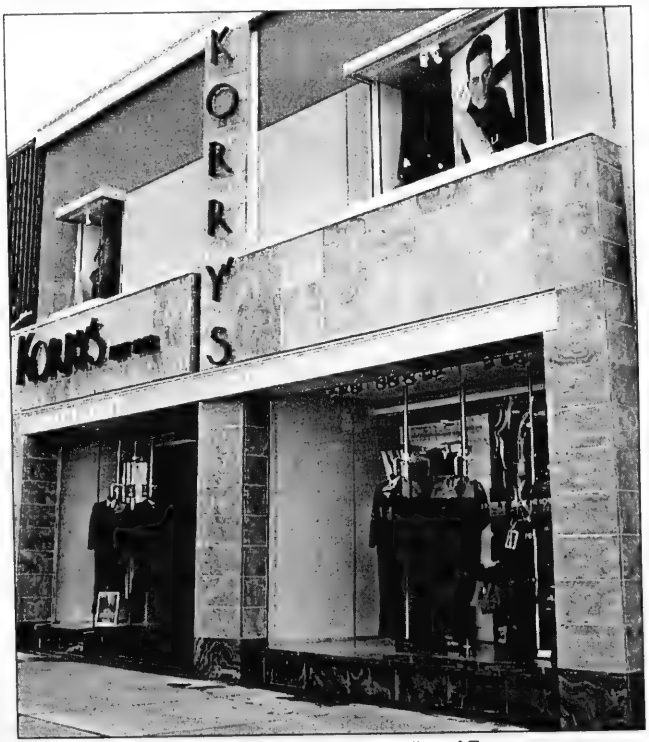
Korry's second-floor designer collections — Hugo Boss, Canali, Strellson and Arnold Brant — keep Korry's on the cutting edge of fashion,

Two-for-one takes on new meaning

while his main-floor two-for-one suits underscore his reputation for value. The beehive of activity on both floors keeps Korman hopping, even on his recently replaced knees. In that regard, Korman is effusive about the encouragement and support he received from customers, friends, family, and the staff at Mt. Sinai and St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. Of course, no sooner did he emerge from surgery than he began extolling the virtues of "two-for-one knees."

The same qualities that make the Danforth attractive to the tourists who flock there should make it attractive to us, suggests Korman. "Too busy to travel? Take a four-hour holiday in your own city. The Danforth is the best place I know to stop and smell the roses."

With well over a million people expected to attend this year's Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth (August 11 to 13), there's all the more reason to visit Korry's and enjoy the manifold offerings of this vibrant street.



Korry's on the Danforth: a little slice of Europe

Saul Korman, Danforth icon and spokesman

The following is an excerpt from Korry's website, which contains many interesting vignettes.

The Business of Dressing Well

Business dress is still very much a part of office life .... The suit is a type of uniform and as such, it appeals greatly to men who would rather concentrate on other things than what outfit to wear each day. In addition, the suit stands apart from other clothing by virtue of its crisper silhouette, cleaner detailing and use of fine fabrics .... It is important to realize that, unlike women's clothing, virtually all men's wear is based on certain dress codes that have been handed down to us throughout history. Most of us recognize these codes without really understanding them. For instance, a suit appears to us very like a uniform because long ago, it actually was a uniform...

KORRY'S
569 Danforth Avenue
(416) 463-1115
www.korrys.com

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Let Pan on the Danforth entice you

The "Pan" in "Pan on the Danforth" has a twofold meaning: the cooking vessel, and the Greek nature spirit, known for the sweet, enticing sound of his pipes. Let both entice you!

Like all artists, proprietor Peter Kyriacou and chefs Ginos Frankoudis and Cathy Bolton are obsessed with excellence. Their unique interpretation of Greek cuisine combines fresh ingredients and attention to every exquisitely textured detail, to the delight of your palate.

PAN ON THE DANFORTH
516 Danforth Avenue 466-8158

Their diligence has made Pan Toronto's only three-star Greek restaurant, famous among celebrities across North America. When you need a departure from the culinary beaten path, this is the place for you too.

In 23 years' experience, Peter Kyriacou has learned that success depends not on a huge menu, but a limited number of superbly prepared dishes.

For a light appetizer, try a pita dip. The tzatziki, made from cucumbers and pure fresh-pressed yogurt, is heavenly. The taramosalata, a traditional Greek cod roe dip, is also delicious. There are light, summery salads as well.

The appetizers are equally enticing. For example, there's warm artichoke and new potato salad with sweet peppers, lemon, dill and cream; pan-seared chicken livers with white wine, herbs and lemon; or mussels steamed in wine, garlic, spinach, fresh herbs and cream.

The entrées will present you with equally tantalizing choices. There's hearty, traditional moussaka (a chopped beef, potato and eggplant casserole), served with green salad. Also for robust appetites, there's a half rack of lamb with roasted baby beets, walnut oil and feta scalloped potatoes.

Fancy lighter fare? Try santorini chicken stuffed with spinach and feta, served with lemon roast potatoes and seared rapini; or lemon roasted chicken breast, with fried onions and feta scalloped potatoes.

Finally, no Mediterranean menu is complete without seafood. Two selections of note: seared Atlantic salmon with feta pine nut pesto, lemon roast potatoes and seared rapini; and grilled sea bass with tomato, onion, capers and roasted garlic salsa, with lemon roast potatoes and seasoned spinach.

You'll enjoy these delectations amid gentle candlelight, with soft music providing a background for intimate, relaxed conversation. The ambience is casual, cozy and come-as-you-are, with a light touch of elegance. Reservations are recommended on weekends.

It's a wonderful place to dine and enjoy the company of family, friends, and the ever-present Greek muse.

CIBC makes difference in community

As Community Manager for East Toronto, Dave D'Amico has a twofold responsibility: one, to ensure a high quality of service within his member branches; and two, to promote goodwill and improve the quality of life in the surrounding community.

Dave D'Amico
CIBC Danforth Community Manager
421-0051

Not unique to East Toronto, this approach is part of a company-wide commitment to providing help where help is needed. Underscoring this fact, in 1999 the CIBC donated some $26 million to a wide variety of charities and causes, including the Baycrest Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, Riverdale Hospital, Toronto East General Hospital, several schools, and countless community projects.

D'Amico favours a hands-on approach that sees him personally participating in fund-raising and other charitable events. He also takes pleasure in encouraging employees, associates and friends to do likewise.

D'Amico brings to the table an extensive background in both banking and volunteer work. And as someone who has lived and worked in the East Toronto area for a number of years, he is well-positioned to turn CIBC's strong presence in the area (14 branches) to good account.

Building goodwill starts within each branch, he says. "We want every single visit to be a happy one for our customers. This is a standard we strive to uphold each and every day." Good works outside the branch are a natural extension of this philosophy, he says. "We want people to think of the CIBC not only as a great place to bank, but as a good neighbour."

D'Amico's approachability, easygoing manner and work ethic have endeared him to East Toronto business people and members of the general community, and he relishes the opportunity to serve. The sense that he is helping to make a difference gives him "all the gratification I need. Giving back to the community isn't something that's nice to do, it's something we *have* to do."

D'Amico can be reached directly at (416) 421-0051.

CIBC

Ouzeri thrives on fresh approach

Marrying European fine dining with Greek cuisine, the new Ouzeri has much to offer Danforth-goers.

After purchasing the popular eatery in November '97, brothers Chris and Alex Trahiotis (whose father Jim was executive chef and partner at Burlington's famed Lord Nelson Restaurant) revamped the menu with a view to offering fewer dishes but making every dish count. "We prefer to offer fifty superb selections than a hundred good ones," says Alex. "And freshness is paramount; from field to table is our modus operandi."

A cheery, festive place with much to offer

In addition to a wide variety of Greek appetizers, you'll find a few intriguing entrées available nowhere else on the Danforth. Signature dishes include the wonderfully garnished and baked Oysters Ouzeri; Chicken Parmesan; and Breaded Chicken with Wine Mushroom or Lemon Butter Sauce.

Fresh fish is available daily, and may feature Salmon, Pickerel, Rainbow Trout, or whatever catch happens to be freshest on the day you visit.

Accompany these delectables with a fine wine from Ouzeri's extensive international list and you have all the ingredients of a culinary bonanza.

Ouzeri is a cheery, festive place, especially on Tuesday nights when live Greek music plays to the wee hours. Its patio ranks among the Danforth's largest and liveliest, and the sightlines both within and without are clean. If you're a people watcher, Ouzeri is unparalleled — not only on the Danforth, but city-wide.

The service is friendly and extremely thorough, with ample wait staff to keep pace with your needs. The dining environment is immaculate, the cuisine impeccable. If you haven't visited Ouzeri recently, perhaps now is the time.

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Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Fresh ideas, Mussels and much more

Amid the wave of new restaurant openings, periodically a gem emerges: a small, unassuming place with big ideas and the moxy to carry them off without fanfare.

Mussels Grill on Danforth will intrigue and gratify the most demanding mussel afficionado, but those who look beyond the name will find a rare variety of other inspired preparations.

Proprietors John and Tabitha Jackson haven't reinvented the wheel, but they've certainly added a spoke or two. Operating from the premise that quality ingredients, careful preparation and friendly service are not an end but a beginning, head chef Darl McCallum notes that "fresh ideas matter as much as fresh ingredients". Breaking shopworn rules with festivity and flair, he draws the very best out of fresh vegetables and herbs, seafood, and organic, grain-fed meat. If environmental concerns rank ex aequo with your palate, Mussels will confirm what you already know: fresh — and organic — tastes better.

Starting suggestions include the peppered rocket sandwich, a symphony of flavors with arugula lettuce, smoked salmon, horseradish cultured cream, potato crisps and fresh herbs on a potato pancake base. The appetizer platter, for two guests or more, offers assorted tastings which change daily.

Mussels' carnivore, vegetarian and seafood platters, created to encourage sharing among guests, have played to rave reviews since opening night; they're accompanied by fanciful dipping sauces, starches and greenery.

This menu does more than merely *aspire* to innovate. Witness its new, must-try take on lamb — eureka! — organic Ontario lamb chops grilled with drunken gooseberry-lavender jelly, served with chef's choice of starch and vegetables. Other good news: crisp supreme breast of free range Canadian chicken "qued", over Freelton baby reds and charred harvest veggie salad; skin-seared Bay of Fundy salmon over greens, with grilled rice cake, chervil, yellow tomato and cracked pepper vinaigrette.

mussels
grill on danforth
weekend brunch
daily dinner
— casual fine dining —
507 danforth 463-4166

If red meat is your preference, try the certified Canadian Black Angus striploin with seasonal vegetable medley, whipped Yukon golds, rosemary scented ring and hot house fungus. The wine list is well-priced, and offers many local and imported vintages.

Among the seven varieties of mussels on the menu, the "flash 'n' pan" — with saffron, five cut vegetables, and cream — remain etched in memory, as do the French (vermouth, tarragon, spinach and white wine).

Mussels makes its own desserts too: fresh fruit scintillates in an ever-changing selection from chocolate to cheesecake.

The decor, with its warm, solid colors and snow-white table linen, is the essence of hospitable, refined simplicity. The patio, small and friendly, echoes the restaurant's casual yet elegant ambience.

What's in a name? In Mussels' case, much more than promised. It's a wonderful discovery.

Astoria's souvlaki judged best in major media polls

Think "Danforth", and you're liable to think "Astoria." In the 21 years since it opened, this venerable "institution of higher dining" has come to symbolize the culinary qualities the Danforth is known for: great food, great quality, and great value.

Indeed, many of Astoria's original customers are still regulars two decades later, and wouldn't dream of going anywhere else.

Astoria's now-famous "souvlaki window", always a beehive of activity, is an indelible image of Danforth life. And what souvlaki! Judged **"Best of the City"** by Toronto Life and **"Best of Toronto"** by Now Magazine, Astoria's souvlaki helped make it a multiple winner of the **Toronto Sun's Readers' Choice Award** as Toronto's favourite Greek restaurant. Other jewels on the menu include hearty moussaka, exquisite broiled sea bass and salmon steaks – and Greek appetizers like grilled kalamari and grilled octopus, if you can keep your souvlaki craving at bay long enough to sample them.

Location and atmosphere are other Astoria assets. For a big restaurant, it's remarkably cozy, due to its corner location, dual outdoor patios (the Danforth's largest), and quiet, richly appointed interior.

Heading eastbound on Bloor, you know you're on the Danforth once you hit Broadview; but you don't really *feel* it until Astoria's white facade with its pale blue trim leaps joyously into view, bidding you "Welcome to the Danforth" in words that the food lover in you understands so well.

Octavia: Greek and much more revive fond Memories

The more things change, the more they stay the same. The earth is still turning on its axis, the sun still rises in the East — and Tom Konis is still cooking up memorable dishes.

If you treasure your *Memories* of fine dining on Eglinton, the present-day **Octavia** will rekindle and redefine your appetite for innovative cuisine.

With a culinary legacy that includes tenure at Julie's Mansion, La Scala and the Hotel Plaza II — in addition to his 15 years as owner and chef of Memories — Tom Konis boasts a glittering résumé. So it's not surprising that in three short years, Octavia has become one of the Danforth's most popular restaurants. With partner Tom Athanasopoulos, son John Konis and a caring staff, Tom has made Octavia a prime dining destination. Lineups are common, especially on weekends, thanks to a city-wide reputation for superb cuisine that defies stereotyping.

While Octavia excels at traditional Greek cuisine (their roast leg of lamb is unparalleled), they also shine in other areas. For example, their U.S. choice New York steak now ranks #1 among many Toronto steak lovers and would be the envy of any steak house. Fresh sea bass and red snapper are broiled whole with impeccable timing: quickly seared to seal in the juices, then gently cooked and removed at the precise moment they reach peak flavour.

Under the watchful eye of chef and partner Tom Konis, Octavia sets a high standard for cuisine, service and comfort

Tom's Baby Back Ribs are the stuff of legend; the recipe originated some 45 years ago in the kitchen of Julie's Mansion. The crispy Roast Duck, lovingly cooked in fresh orange juice, Cointreau and Grand Marnier, is positively euphoric. Want a pasta dish unlike any you've ever tried? The papardelle — fresh flat noodles sautéed with shrimps & scallops in Pernaud — is both Italian and Chinese, yet neither; it's simply a great dish.

After dinner, Octavia puts on its lounge hat and serves up some of Toronto's finest martinis. Dessert martinis are a specialty; among others, the espresso martini will put an exclamation point on your evening. And, unlike some establishments which merely encourage you to relax after dinner, Octavia's *built* for relaxation. Its intimate, plush semicircular booths evoke a Roaring Twenties elegance, while its stylish serpentine bar reminds you that you're very much in the year 2000.

The Octavia difference, so apparent in the cuisine, is also exemplified by the warm greeting you'll receive from John Konis when you enter. This is a family business in the best sense of the term; the Konises and their staff don't merely work the business, they *live* it. The spirit of service is ever-present; the singular focus of John and other members of the Octavia team is to ensure that both your meal and your visit are memorable.

Notwithstanding Octavia's soaring popularity, Tom Konis pledges never to lose sight of his commitment to customer satisfaction. "It's not how many customers you serve, it's how well you serve the customers you have."

OCTAVIA
DINING LOUNGE & BAR
414 Danforth Avenue
(416) 461-3562

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Healthy choices at expanded Big Carrot

From humble beginnings in 1983, **The Big Carrot** has grown into metropolitan Toronto's largest health food store and wholistic dispensary. A recent major expansion means there's even more of The Big Carrot to nurture your health.

Run as a co-op since its opening, The Big Carrot caters to a loyal clientele that embraces both its ethos and its products: minimally processed, organically grown, cruelty free, environmentally safe and, increasingly, GMO-free. As it happens, many of these products are also Kosher.

Health-conscious customers seek out The Big Carrot for its extensive organic fruit and vegetable department (over 100 varieties at peak season) and its unmatched selection of organic bulk foods, dairy products, frozen foods, and packaged goods.

While most health food stores carry a few brands of a particular item, The Big Carrot often has half a dozen or more, and their well-versed staff is more than happy to help you decide which products will suit your dietary needs and your palate. If it's wheat-free — if it's dairy-free — if it's simply *good for you*, The Big Carrot undoubtedly has it.

The vast product selection includes a staggering variety of breads, buns, fresh-daily brick-oven bagels, flatbreads, and bread sticks — many of them wheat-free and dairy-free.

The Big Carrot has by far Toronto's largest selection of soy milks and other non-dairy beverages, both fresh and tetra-pac. Ditto for wholesome natural cookies, muffins, and other baked goods.

Among many others, the Kosher products include Crofters jams from Ontario; Green Chef frozen veggie dogs and burgers from kibbuts Elion in Israel; Barbet fruit syrups from Israel; tetra-pac dairy-free soups (the ultimate in convenience) from Imagine; cereals from Nature's Path; Zaidy's breads; Jersey Farm non-dairy soy yogurt; Organic Meadow yogurt and pressed cottage cheese; Barbara's fig bars; a wide selection of Eden organic pastas and tomato sauces; and Van's frozen waffles. The body care department carries Kosher essential oils from Pure-Li Natural.

Body Care, in fact, is typical of the Big Carrot difference. Large enough to constitute a store in its own right, this newly enlarged department boasts Canada's widest selection of personal care products for the entire family, including baby.

But don't let The Big Carrot's size fool you. Through its continuing expansion, it has retained the humility and friendliness of its early years. This is a store that's down to earth in every possible sense, and a real pleasure to visit.

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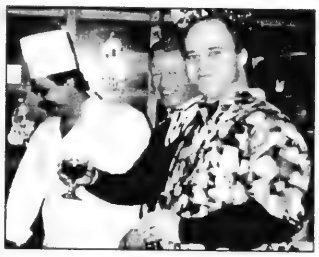
Palace "steaks" reputation on quality

At The Palace, every meal is a special occasion; owner/operator Peter Hadjis makes sure of it. From the moment you enter, you're treated like royalty — a feeling that's confirmed and enhanced with each and every bite.



A quick perusal of the Palace's menu reveals a selection of royal fare unmatched on the Danforth. The appetizers alone provide more choice than some entire menus, and they stand alone in terms of freshness, preparation and authenticity.

The Palace's culinary appeal is not limited to Greek cuisine; their steak, for example, is so popular that many of their customers specifically ask for it when making reservations. The Palace's Sterling Silver Certified Premium Beef is world-famous for consistently superior flavour, tenderness, and juiciness. Each steak, as well as prime rib, is hand-selected, aged 21 days, and comes with its own guarantee. Awarded the Gold Medal by "Chefs of North America", it is available in an assortment of cuts including Tenderloin, Rib-Eye and New York strip.

The Palace is also highly reputed for its fresh fish; try the grilled swordfish steak with garlic mashed potatoes, and ask yourself whether you've ever tasted anything better. Fresh sea bass, rainbow trout, red snapper, Atlantic salmon, filet of sole — whatever your preference, you'll find it here, prepared to the absolute maximum of its flavour. It's easy to see why the Palace is the favourite spot of discriminating fish lovers.

As befits a Palace, there's a private Party room for up to 100 people. Located on the skylit upper level, it's ideal for birthday parties, Bar/Bat Mitzvah parties, or any event requiring the kind of ambience a banquet hall simply can't provide.

Not so much a restaurant as a culinary kingdom unto itself, the Palace "steaks" its reputation on quality.

THE PALACE RESTAURANT
722 Pape Avenue at Danforth
(416) 463-3393

Sushi delight lives up to its name

If you're a Japanese food lover who also loves the Danforth, your ship has come in. **Sushi Delight** offers a wonderful taste of the rising sun in a bright, immaculate setting. The variety is spectacular, the prices extremely modest; and the namesake item (tasty morsels of uncooked fish on delicious beds of rice) will serenade your taste buds as few other delicacies can.

Complete meals, in a Bento box and served with soup, salad, rice and dessert, range from $6.95 for the Vegetarian Box, which includes tempura, to $11.95 for the Tokyo Box, which includes sushi.

Equally tasty are the large selection of *sashimi* (morsels of seafood or meat) and *makimono* (seaweed or rice rolls, with a seafood or vegetable core). The beef sashimi, lightly roasted on the outside, is rare inside, offering two flavours and textures in each bite.

Dip these tidbits in sharp, invigorating wasabi mustard and soya sauce, and you'll feel the pleasure reverberate within your very soul!

The miso soup features succulent shitake mushrooms in light broth, with a choice of udon or soba noodles. Udon, made from rice, are broad; soba, made from whole wheat. are narrow.

The tempura is another traditional Japanese offering you'll enjoy at Sushi Delight. Diverse ingredients like shrimp and broccoli are wrapped in flour, immersed in ice to chill, then deep fried. The texture is crisp, the taste mouthwatering. Or you may prefer chicken, salmon or beef *teppanyaki*, flame-cooked at your table.

The light Asahi beer is ideal with dinner at the end of a warm summer day. The smooth warmth of a more traditional Japanese beverage — heated *sake* (rice wine) — forms a pleasing counterpoint to the tangy coolness of sushi, sashimi or makimono.

Even ice cream comes under the Oriental influence here. Amazingly refreshing, the green tea variety is like mint, but more tart, while the red bean ice cream is full-flavoured and richly textured.

Sushi Delight uses only the freshest ingredients, and is 100% MSG-free. Every bite fulfills the needs of good health as well as the desire for good taste.

Proprietor Billy Li is involved, heart and soul, in every aspect of Sushi Delight. The chef, Billy's brother Chun, is likewise devoted to his craft. Service is friendly and cheerful, and children are welcome. The bright, uplifting setting maintains the aura of delicacy seemingly intrinsic to Japanese culture. The dishes, in their great variety, are as attractive to the eye as to the palate.

Sushi Delight is further evidence of the Danforth's diverse international flavour, and well worth a visit by anyone wishing to explore Japanese cuisine or further their existing love affair with it.

JAPANESE RESTAURANT
461 Danforth Avenue
(416) 406-0288
Sun. – Thurs. 11 am – 11 pm
Fri. & Sat.11 am – 12 midnight
• NO MSG •

Ampeli: vintage cuisine, exotic origins

Southern Mediterranean cuisine encompasses many geographic traditions; Ampeli, a warm, expansive addition to the Danforth, brings together Portuguese, Spanish, southern Italian and Greek influences in a medley of flavours ranging from light to hearty.

"Ampeli" is Greek for "vineyard"; accordingly, partners Tony Nina and Paul Vouzas take pains to ensure that each Mediterranean vintage on their wine list harmonizes with the menu. Even the non-European wines here are based on European grapes.

Drawing on 20 years of Danforth experience, Chef Louis Kripouris boasts a broad repertoire. In particular, he does wonders with fish, be it whiting or striped bass, porgy or snapper. It's all fresh daily, the best of the catch, complemented well by crisp Vinho Verde white wine. One of his prize creations is a healthy, melt-in-your-mouth portion of fresh char-grilled Atlantic salmon. Enjoy the contrast of its rich taste with any of several dry red wines.

Finally, a new way to enjoy chicken: *Churrasco*, or "*Butterfly Chicken*", a dish of Portuguese origin. Ironstone Obsession white wine, its ideal accompaniment, also goes wonderfully with fish, or on its own. Fresh Ontario lamb chops and weekly roast lamb specials partner with Hatzimichalis Cabernet reds, or the "La Palma", which one of Canada's foremost wine critics recently chose for his wedding.

The mixed grill platter, made to order from several different items, allows you to sample a broad spectrum of tastes — and wines to match — without limiting yourself to any one in particular. There's also a fine variety of lunch items, appetizers, salads, pastas and pizzas. For dessert, the chocolate fudge cake, cappuccino cheese cake and super caramel crunch are always crowd-pleasers; they're best enjoyed with a glass of port.

Ampeli's shady, spacious patios afford cool relief from the summer sun. Relax here with a glass or carafe of Delta Bay red or white wine. The equally spacious interior is bright but gently lit, with cool tiled floors.

Ampeli is ideally suited for couples or groups of four to six who wish to share pleasure in fine fare and vintages. Larger groups are also welcome for family and corporate events.

Located about halfway between Pape and Chester, Ampeli enjoys gustatory proximity to each of the aforementioned European countries. Accompanied by the appropriate vintage, each dish on the menu will transport you to the destination of your choice.

AMPELI
TAVERNA
526 Danforth Ave. 465-4001

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Christina's: from cravings to star gazing

Some define a restaurant merely by its ability to satisfy their food cravings. For others, ambience is paramount. Still others insist on live entertainment. A few even like to gaze at the stars (either the celebrity or the celestial variety). It's rare to find one place that combines all of these attributes; but for many Torontonians, **Christina's** is that place.

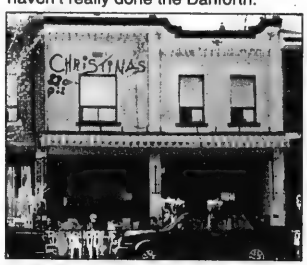
Food cravings. In addition to traditional Greek fare — including the best plate of lamb chops you'll find on the Danforth — Christina's solves your Greek/Italian culinary dichotomies by offering wonderful pasta/souvlaki combos. Their filet of sole in a killer garlic sauce is a must-try. And their treatment of salads (romaine and organic baby green lettuce are used instead of leaf and iceberg) is typical of a menu-wide provision of quality ingredients. This is not a fast-food restaurant; you may wait a little longer for your food to arrive, but the wait is well worth it.

Ambience. Christina's has Character with a capital "C". Much of that character, of course, comes from the clientele, which echoes Christina's universal appeal; on any given night, you'll find almost as many ethnicities and walks of life as there are patrons.

Live entertainment. Live music and belly dancing are offered on Friday and Saturday night, but the best show is the spontaneous conversation that seems to spread from table to table like wildfire.

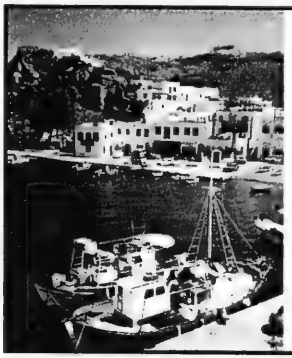
Star gazing. Toronto's original late-night spot, Christina's is still open until 4 or 5 a.m. on busy nights, and many entertainment celebrities gravitate to it. Recent sightings include Kristey Alley, Tony Danza, and Alicia Silverstone of "Batgirl" fame. Those who prefer gazing at the "Big Dipper" will find that Christina's patio, while not the largest on the Danforth, is certainly the most popular; come early if you want to grab a strategic spot.

A Danforth institution most definitely run by the inmates, Christina's is a crazy, wonderful place; until you've done it, you haven't really done the Danforth.



CHRISTINA'S

492 DANFORTH AVENUE 463-4418



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Ice cream heaven at Uncle Louie G's

Close your eyes and picture yourself as a child, ice cream cone in hand. Remember its inimitable taste, and how it thrilled you with pleasure.

Open your eyes again, and you're liable to find yourself at Uncle Louie G's, reliving that same taste sensation. This brand new Danforth parlour represents everything ice cream should be: made the old-fashioned way, without additives or preservatives, packed with pure natural flavour. Its Brooklyn, N.Y. creator, Rick Russo, also credits the generous use of key ingredients for his product's success: "We got this popular because we decided to use twice as many chips, nuts, berries, cream as anyone else, and still sell at a reasonable ... price." [New York Daily News].

UNCLE LOUIE G'S
ORIGINAL NEW YORK ICES & ICE CREAM
"The coolest lick in town!"
451 Danforth Ave.
462-9537

Catrina Gibson, Fani Constas and her husband Emmanuel, who sourced out the product, were hooked when they visited Uncle Louie G's factory in Brooklyn. "I'd always liked ice cream, but this was by far the best I'd ever tasted," says Gibson. "As I stood and watched people peeling bananas and strawberries by hand, I knew this was the kind of product I'd be proud to sell."

The partners' involvement led them to open Canada's first Uncle Louie G's, and early signs point to a duplication of the lineups experienced by the original store on Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn. While the latter now supplies over 50 retail outlets in the U.S. and has a concession at Shea Stadium, the Canadian partners have the sole distribution and franchising rights for Canada.

Uncle Louie G's natural ices and ice creams come in a cavalcade of 60 flavours — always in store — many of which seem to emanate from your own personal food fantasies. For example, there's Apple Pie and Pumpkin Pie Ice Cream, made with real chunks of fresh pie. Ditto for Strawberry Cheesecake and Pineapple Cheesecake Ice Cream. For real Italian flavour, there's *Tartoni* Ice Cream and *Dolce* Ice Cream, made with scalded milk. Ices? Try the Mango or the Honeydew Melon for a refreshing summer treat.

"Everything we sell is made from natural ingredients, the same way your mother or grandmother would make it at home," says Gibson. "We don't use shortcuts."

In addition to their current variety of ices, ice creams and milkshakes, Uncle Louie G's plans to offer ice cream cakes, hot waffles, and other gourmet items in the near future, to be enjoyed in store or out.

From floor to ceiling, the shop is gleefully awash in bright pastel colours — yellow, green, blue, and pink — and brimming with goodies. It's a great place to relive your childhood innocence with favourite old flavours and a bevy of intriguing new ones.

Functional fashion & gear at Destination *danforth*

Pick the most functional garments you've ever owned. Select the most convenient features of each. Then combine these features in a single "dream garment" that adapts, chameleon-like, to any activity, social setting or weather report.

232 Danforth Ave.
461.9128
www.toronto.com/destinationdan

Far-fetched? Maybe not. Most items at **Destination Danforth** have the intrinsic functionality of a Swiss Army knife, with fewer moving parts. Long pants that zip off to become shorts. Shorts that become long pants. Jackets that fold up to fit into a zip pocket. Quick-dry shirts. Quick-dry underwear. (Don't ask!) Pre-shrunk stuff that miraculously shrinks even further so that you can tuck it into a side pocket. Rainwear. Reflective gear. Cool mesh wear. Bug jackets and pants for summer. Polar fleece pajamas and sleeping bags for winter. Swimsuits with built-in key chains. Short of reattaching your umbilical cord, Destination Danforth has the gear and gadgets to prepare you for any and every situation.

Catering extensively to the film and travel trades, Destination Danforth is a boon to men and women on the move who need to change, Bond-like, without losing a beat and without sacrificing comfort. According to owner Sarah Fishman, many of her customers also value the health benefits which derive from natural fibres and/or space-age construction. "Many items in the store are anti-microbial and don't absorb odour," she notes. Likewise, many are designed to retain body heat in winter and wick away perspiration in summer; a terrific selection of fleece socks will allow you to enjoy the ultimate in foot comfort year-round. The shop carries a multitude of sturdy cotton garments that are extremely breathable and non-itchy.

Destination Danforth caters to all tastes and budgets with a large selection of quality lines in a wide range of colours and price points. Featuring Kaid, Columbia, Wetskins, Royal Robbins, Mac & Jac, Misty Mountain, Elita, Mod Robes, North 49, Rockwater Design, and other top brand names, they also offer the expertise and personal service you'll need to choose the right items — unless you're a functional clothing "veteran", like the film types who zip in and out faster than you can say "Cut!" and "Print!"

In addition to clothing, Destination Danforth also offers some unbelievably cool collapsible furniture. Says Fishman, "Our customer is anyone who wants to get the most out of any situation with the least fuss and the least possible baggage."

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Arts & Travel

Fringe performer deserves mainstream spotlight

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Alon Nashman is a new, relatively undiscovered, Jewish dramatic star in Toronto.

His superb performance in *Alphonse* in an outdoor venue of the Fringe Festival at the Bloor Jewish Community Centre adds lustre to an already proven career in alternative theatre.

In the Theaturtle production he directed, tailored to an audience of children and adults – with the kids up front sitting in small chairs – Nashman brilliantly executed the award-winning one-man play by Wajdi Mouawad, of Quebec, translated from the French by Shelley Tepperman.

It's a play about a boy's rich imagination and his ability to tell stories which adults, hurrying fretfully from one task to another, have lost the ability to understand.

Playing 28 different characters, Nashman improvises when the children yell out their reactions to his actions. He uses a safety rope to swing from one part of the set to another in answer to one of their challenges.

His costume changes in a giant, nylon tube have the audience in *conniptions*. His voice and mannerisms change with each character.

The blue sky above and the trees all around are used by the actor in telling his stories; nevertheless, he enhanced them by wonderful scenes from Pastryberg, the country to which Alphonse was headed to rescue the recipes for cakes stolen by a villainous duke. Imagine France without cakes for its children!

The main stage theatres are missing a bet if they don't put *Alphonse* on their list.

***

Amy Marschak, of Colorado, plays a Jewish woman, a victim of incest when she was young, in the autobiographical tale, *An Angel Cried a Tear Last Night*. It is part of the Fringe Festival at the Glen Morris Theatre.

Alon Nashman

As the writer and lone performer, she skewers several aspects of society, particularly those people who insist that the victims should not reveal their "secret" to the world.

But she saves some salvoes for rabbis who give long, sleep-inducing sermons and for her own congregation, which does not even notice that she has fallen asleep on the pulpit after reading from the Torah at her own bat mitzvah.

She wins the audience to her side – the memory of the incest is strong. Her conversations with her parents, her uncle and her cousin, reveal a society which does not, or doesn't want to, understand the torments of a sensitive soul like Marschak.

She ends with the Hebrew prayer, Shehechianu, giving thanks for her belated discovery that indeed it was her father who was the guilty one. She leaves her parents' home for the last time, feeling safe because she is with friends. The weakness in the play is that she does not explain who these friends are, leading to an overly abrupt ending.

***

The precarious role of the Jew in a society where no cultural diversity is allowed is clear in *Monolith*, a Fringe Festival play written and directed by 24-year-old Hart Massey of Toronto.

Monolith is a fictional country, home to the world's only survivors on an island after an earthquake.

Two Jewish rebels, played by Jewish actors Eli Cohen, formerly of Israel, and Rob Sternberg of Toronto, head an underground movement to bring faith back into peoples' lives. They are betrayed by a Colombian woman (Juana Awad, co-founder of the producing theatre company), a recent immigrant to Monolith.

She has been beaten by the police chief (Jeff Pestell) and his Chinese assistant (Otto Cheng) in order to force her betrayal.

Both policemen play their roles well. But, the same cannot be said for the Jewish rebels who have trouble with their entrances and exits. Sternberg's vacillation between his desire to find his roots in Judaism and his employment by the Monolith police blurs the focus of the play.

There is a passing reference to Israel by Cohen who says the Law of Return failed because the European Jews who flocked to Israel after its founding did not acknowledge their differences.

Massey told *The CJN* that he wrote the play to encourage directors to employ actors of ethnic origin.

"I have the impression that the Toronto theatre world is made up of white authors and white actors," he said.

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Actor brings 'humanity' to killer's role

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — Playing the role of a vicious killer requires the meticulous study of the criminal mind, says actor Aaron Philip Berg, who stars as Bernardo in Canadian playwright George Walker's classic *Zastrozzi the Master of Discipline*.

"I had to get to the root of what drives a serial murder to kill people in order… to bring humanity to the character," says the 27 year-old former Mr. Canada.

This tale of revenge and tragedy juxtaposes good and evil as Zastrozzi, Europe's notorious mass murderer, and his right-hand man Bernardo pursue "holier than thou" Verezzi, the man responsible for the rape of Zastrozzi's mother.

Although the characters have starkly different personalities, Berg notes, "it is difficult for them to exist without one another. That sense of relativity truly shows you can't have good without evil."

Berg, who enjoys reading about Jewish history and recently started studying the Kabbalah, juggles a busy schedule that includes rehearsals, stand-up gigs, two-hour daily workouts and occasional spots in feature films.

He is eagerly awaiting the release of *The Ladies Man* this October, in which he plays *Saturday Night Live* star Will Ferrell's wrestling coach.

Acting alongside improv-savvy performers like Ferrell and Tim Meadows was a real thrill for Berg.

"It was a very off-the-wall set," he says. "I take the craft of acting seriously, but after every scene I couldn't help but be in tears from laughter."

Aaron Philip Berg

Berg is intrigued by the "grandeur" of feature filmmaking, but continues to find theatre rewarding.

"The beauty of going on stage is that you'll always have a rehearsal process… which allows so much room for discovery and exploration of the role and the story itself."

The Toronto native feels comfortable acting in his home-town, but finds the lure of Hollywood tempting. "Toronto is a great town to gather experience, playing small roles in big productions, but everyone who's made it big has done what you have to do, which is go down [to Hollywood]."

Zastrozzi the Master of Discipline will be at the Poor Alex Theatre for one week, starting on Aug. 2. For tickets call 416-324-9863.

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Arts & Travel

Mark Weinstock: Minstrel man

By JOYCE SINGER-D'APRILE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Journalists meet many fascinating folks, but occasionally an interview resonates as a personal favourite. Such was the case recently, when I met Mark Weinstock, a young musician who serenaded me in my living room.

He's only in his early 20s and already this local bard has travelled extensively. He's lived and performed in exotic places, (solo or with a band), and he's just cut his first CD, *Mark's Patchwork*.

"We had two CD launches in Toronto as we decided to celebrate twice with two concerts. It was wonderful. There was a different energy level at each concert, so we're really happy we did that," he says.

Now he's hoping to take it on the road to expand his fan base. Haunting instrumentals are the highlight of the CD. This singer-songwriter is tremendously proficient with several eclectic instruments from around the world including the Tarbukah (Israel); Didgeridoo (Australia); Kalimba (Africa); Bamboo flute (India); Pan flutes (Ecuador); Reed pipes (Egypt); and Tibetan bells.

"I love to travel. In Australia, I didn't mean to play. I didn't even bring my guitar. I showed up at a cabaret, I borrowed a guitar, and they squeezed me in. It was a great crowd, of a few hundred people. So I played some songs and then I discovered I won – and I didn't even know it was a contest!"

He learned how to make his own didgeridoo from a local master, and

Mark Weinstock

began getting gigs in Australia.

"Whenever I travel I try to learn an instrument that's indigenous to the place where I'm visiting," he says. "For me it's like a toy. I definitely have respect for it. But it's like when kids play with toys, the more they play the better they get. Piano and guitar are my primary instruments, but I love percussion instruments."

He called the CD *Mark's Patchwork* because of the different musicians he plays with. "While I write and compose everything, I play with different musicians. I have a Toronto-based band. But when I travel, I'll hook up with my favourite local musicians wherever I am, and ask them to listen to my songs. And if we connect, I'll perform with them."

Not every adventure he's had was a pleasure ride. He loved staying in Israel, but one day everything stopped cold in the streets, as a bus bomb went off on a bus ahead of the one in which he was travelling. He says it was the end of a time of innocence for him, inspiring some profound songs for his repertoire.

"I've played heavy rock to bluegrass. In the last five years I've really found my own voice."

In high school, Mark discovered his natural affinity for music, and his future vocation. His "folky nature" evolved with receptive audiences, which he found incredibly encouraging. As a result he began telling stories at these concerts.

"Lyrically my inspiration comes from the great storytellers of a few decades ago," he says, "like Robert Hunter or Joni Mitchell and others who say something very sincere, rather than something that just sounds nice."

His vocals reflect the Bob Dylan/Leonard Cohen genre. It will be fascinating to observe the continuing maturation process of Weinstock's intensely heartfelt lyrics and evocative music.

To order a copy of his debut CD *Mark's Patchwork*, call toll-free 1-877-FOR-MY-CD (1-877-367-6923). Net surfers can log on to www.markspatchwork.com to surf his personal Web site.

Evening belonged to young chazzan

By MORDECHAI BEN-DAT

TORONTO — In a real sense, it was the young chazzan's official introduction into his new community.

Celebrating his first anniversary as the cantor of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in North York, Ont., Aaron Bensoussan recently hosted a trio of eminent chazzanim from Israel along with his predecessor, now chazzan emeritus of the synagogue, Louis Danto, in an evening titled Sweet Song.

Joining Bensoussan and Danto were cantors Chaim Adler, the chief cantor of Tel Aviv, Arie Braun, the chief cantor of the Israel Defence Forces and Naftali Herstik, senior cantor of Hechal Shlomo, the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem.

Together, they entertained the overflowing sanctuary of appreciative cantorial enthusiasts with two hours of musical festivity.

The evening began with a rousing rendition by the entire ensemble of the familiar Shehechianu blessing. Braun carried the melody, his deep voice in front of all the others, leading them as if on a military parade.

The positive energy among the five distinguished singers was a treat to behold; they enthusiastically maintained the pace and the flow throughout the entire 19-song concert.

In terms of its sheer volume, Braun's voice was the most powerful. His baritone-bass sound was formidable. When he sang the Adon Olam medley, the sound was almost tangible, like layers of waves rolling out toward the audience.

Herstik's voice, more baritone than tenor, was impressively effective when he sang the Yiddish folksong, *Sluzk Mayn Shtetele*. In response to the intricacies of the arrangement, his voice ranged between robustly assertive to softly caressing. He demonstrated the same masterful control in the upper register as he did in the lower.

Adler's voice was true tenor. It soared. At times it seemed to fill the room. When he sang the traditional *Retzei*, he plunged full force into the daunting challenge of the upper reaches of the music.

He achieved a spellbinding tour de force in the song *Dos Yiddishe Lied*. It was an emotional, touching showcase for three tunes from the High Holy Day liturgy.

The selections by Louis Danto, Ezkera and Avremele Melamed, were the most musically challenging and technically difficult. Danto's classical training was put to good use and he especially pleased the audience with his energetic operatic offering of Leoncavallo's *Mattinata*.

Though he didn't sing more solos than his colleagues, the evening really "belonged" to Aaron Bensoussan. This was his Toronto debut as cantorial host to world-renowned fellow cantors. It was in his honour that his Israeli guests joined him warmly and convivially on the bimah at his new professional home. His happiness, humility and deference to his colleagues were evident throughout the evening.

Born some four decades ago in the seaport Moroccan town of Mogodor, Bensoussan came to North America as a teenager. Into his soul have been poured a trans-ethnic brew of vastly diverse but spiritually complementary religious influences. From that brew, he has imbibed deeply; its expansive effect has shaped his unique "hybrid" Jewish character.

Bensoussan's grandfather, Rabbi Haim Bensoussan, was the chief rabbi of Morocco. Yet, in the United States, the young cantor-to-be studied at the quintessentially Ashkenazi Lithuanian Telsher Yeshiva in Chicago. He received his formal cantorial and musical training at Queen's College, Yeshiva University Belz School of Music and at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

In its sound and range, Bensoussan's tenor voice is reminiscent of that of the Israeli songster Yehoram Gaon. Like Gaon, Bensoussan sings with a joyful pleasantness and a sunny spontaneity.

Continued on page 42

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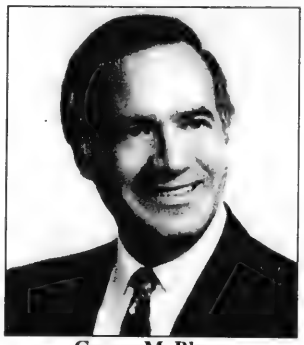

Casper M. Bloom

Mr. Gerald Carter, Chairman of the Board of Canadian Lake Carriers Association, is pleased to announce the appointment of Casper M. Bloom, Q.C., as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Lake Carriers Association (CLCA).

Mr. Bloom comes to the CLCA after 33 years of active practice with the law firm of Ogilvy Renault where he was a senior partner specializing in the field of labour and employment law and where he continues to serve as counsel. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Political Science from McGill University, a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario and a Licence in Law from the Université de Montréal.

The CLCA is an association of maritime shipping companies with offices in Quebec and Ontario, with responsibility for providing advice, information and assistance to its member companies with respect to all matters concerning labour and industrial relations in the shipping industry as well as responsibility for conducting collective bargaining on.their behalf.

The member companies of the Association are involved primarily in inland shipping, that is, in the Great Lakes — St. Lawrence system between Canadian ports and in import and export trades with American inland ports.

SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN —PART I

Some years ago, Syracuse University Press (SUP) launched an ambitious publication series called the *Library of Modern Jewish Literature*. The roughly two dozen handsome hardcover volumes produced to date, include numerous works by critic-novelist **Cynthia Ozick** and representations by other celebrated writers such as **Arthur Miller**, **S. Y. Agnon** and **Ludwig Lewisohn**.

Eye on Arts
By Bill Gladstone

One of the chief benefits of such a project, it would seem, would be to put lesser-known writers into the limelight. SUP achieved this purpose admirably in the case of Warsaw-born Yiddish writer **Yehuda Elberg** of Montreal.

Elberg's two wonderful novels, *The Ship of the Hunted* and *The Empire of Kalman the Cripple*, were presented in English translation a couple of years back. Both books drew immense critical praise, and the *Globe and Mail*, without a grain of hyperbole, dubbed Elberg "a literary master living among us."

More recently, SUP presented English translations of two Yiddish novels by another great but little-known Canadian, **Chava Rosenfarb**. A survivor of the Lodz ghetto, Rosenfarb came to Montreal after the war, and moved to Toronto two years ago. Her books, *Bociany* and *Of Lodz And Love*, present a rich tapestry of pre-Holocaust life in, respectively, the shtetl of Bociany (the name means "stork" in Polish) and the booming, industrial city of Lodz.

The novels examine Jewish-Christian relations and the growing trends towards socialism, Zionism, secularism and Polish nationalism; in short, the transition from Jewish village life to modernism.

Rosenfarb, who years ago won Israel's esteemed Manger Prize for Yiddish Literature, deserves a wider audience. Despite the present revival, Yiddish will likely not recover its former position as the language of the Jewish masses.

One hopes SUP might eventually bring out popularly priced paperback editions of its library. Each of the four translated works named above costs more than $40, which means that they may be accessible to the mind but not necessarily the pocketbook.

* * *

When SUP brought out Elberg's two volumes a few years back, the 85-year-old proudly announced, "I am the father of twins." Now, at 88, he is expecting triplets, having readied the translations of three Yiddish books for publication in English. Their titles are: *A Man Is But A Man*, *A World Unto Itself* and *A Ladder to Heaven*. Each consists of a novelette and a variety of short stories.

My impression as a reader is that Elberg's writing stands up very well against the work of great writers like **Isaac B. Singer** and **Chaim Grade**, his senior contemporaries, who moved in the same circles he did. Like Singer, Elberg acknowledges being strongly influenced by **Fyodor Dostoyevsky**, the great late-19th-century Russian psychological writer.

"I think Dostoyevsky made me a writer," Elberg says. "Reading him, I got the desire to do the same thing." His own books, he says, are more character studies than plot-driven formulations. "The first thing I do is to create the characters," he says. "The story develops by itself as I go on."

As for publishers, Elberg hasn't chosen any as yet, though several have expressed strong interest. One of his concerns, he says, is that the price of the finished product stays within popular range.

As much as that is an admirable goal, we hope that Elberg's triplets arrive safely, sometime soon.

* * *

Watch for more literary musings in Part II of this column, next week.

Cantors shine at overflowing shul

Continued from page 41

By fate and by design, he is a bridge between two Jewish worlds and two Jewish cultures. During services and during his concerts, he has made a point of introducing Sephardi melodies to his primarily non-Sephardi congregants and audiences.

Standing so prominently astride both nurturing Jewish cultures, Bensoussan embodies the direction in which modern chazzanut must evolve if it is to win the attention and, more importantly, the affection of the younger generation of Jews for whom the mostly lachrymose, minor-key evocations of traditional Eastern European liturgy is often, alas, impenetrable.

The symbolism of this modern transition was most poignantly captured in the rendition of *Chazzanim oif Probe* (The Auditioning of the Chazzanim). Cantors Herstik and Adler sang the multi-role voices of narrators, "baalebatim" and traditional chazzanim. Bensoussan sang the role of the newer, younger chazzan whose audition ultimately prevails.

Maestro Raymond Goldstein's deft piano accompaniment was an immeasurable assist to the chazzanim.

Proceeds of the concert were applied to the Ralph Snow Music Fund. Snow, an activist/philanthropist, died earlier in the year. He had been a mentor and patron for Bensoussan.

The concert was an eclectically marvellous evening both for the musical excursion it offered down memory lane and for the possibilities it suggested for the future.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

1 R	2 I	3 T	4 E	■	5 H	6 E	7 B	8 R	9 E	10 W	■	11 S	12 A	13 W
14 O	R	A	L	■	15 A	V	I	A	T	E	■	16 A	B	E
17 M	A	X	F	18 R	I	E	D	M	A	N	■	19 P	B	S
20 P	S	I	■	21 U	R	N	S	■	22 S	T	23 R	E	E	T
■	■	■	24 L	E	S	T	■	■	■	■	25 T	R	Y	■
26 Y	27 A	28 D	A	■	■	■	29 S	30 A	31 T	32 I	33 R	E	S	■
34 A	D	A	G	35 E	36 S	■	■	37 N	I	N	O	■	38 T	39 W	40 A
41 R	A	V	■	42 R	E	43 A	D	M	I	T	■	44 E	A	R
45 D	R	I	■	46 I	N	D	O	■	47 T	H	48 R	I	V	E
■	■	49 D	50 O	C	T	O	R	51 S	■	■	52 O	N	E	S
■	53 K	S	U	■	■	■	■	■	54 P	55 O	56 N	Y	■	■
57 L	E	T	T	E	58 R	59 ■	■	60 M	O	N	O	■	61 H	62 A	63 S
64 I	V	E	■	65 R	E	66 D	A	U	E	R	67 B	A	C	H
68 S	I	R	■	69 O	D	E	S	S	A	■	70 O	T	T	O
71 A	N	N	■	72 S	O	C	K	E	T	■	73 B	E	S	T

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Travel Talk

By Bill Gladstone

TWO 19TH-CENTURY INNS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS OF THE LAKE HURON AREA

It was nearly seven o'clock on a summer's evening when I rolled into the valley of the Benmiller Inn. The sun's oblique rays were casting an exquisite, ephemeral glow onto the towering trees, dappling the rustic grounds of this former village on a river above Lake Huron, near Goderich, Ont.

The Benmiller's centre is an 1830s woolen mill of three storeys, one of five restored 19th-century buildings that feature some 54 guest rooms and several meeting spaces. I climbed the circular stairway that winds around the former mill mechanism to my suite on the second floor, preparing to be charmed. I was not disappointed.

The suite was divided into a sitting area and a sleeping area; the bed was large and comfortable. The wooden cabinets and cupboards set into the walls, and the wooden shutters over the windows established an old-fashioned tone, which the floral wallpaper happily enhanced. An inset bookshelf contained an inviting row of old books. This, I felt at once, was my kind of place.

With only an hour of good daylight remaining, I opened the shutters by the desk and composed a letter. Although I used a modern pen, the atmosphere was such that a quill and ink-pot would not have seemed inappropriate.

A walk before dinner, in the last throes of twilight, revealed a picturesque waterfall, obviously once the power source of the mill.

The refined and versatile dining-room is one of many modern conveniences offered by the inn, whose namesake, the settler Benjamin Miller, operated a grist mill and hotel here in the early 1800s. (Web site: www.benmiller.on.ca)

* * *

Goderich comes as a pleasant surprise to the first-time visitor. The civility and gentility of the town plan are immediately apparent the moment one enters the grand traffic circle, surrounded by numerous fine old storefronts, which constitute the heart of this endearing village.

The Huron County Museum is a delicious treat. The nucleus of its collection is some 4,000 artifacts, including many farm implements, acquired by Herbert Neill, a local whose donation to the county was contingent on his retention as manager of the proposed museum. He proved a brilliant, albeit eccentric, curator.

Occupying an old schoolhouse that has been substantially expanded, the museum is crammed with enticing heirlooms of history, including train locomotives and cars, reconstructed storefronts, military regalia, rare photographs and much more.

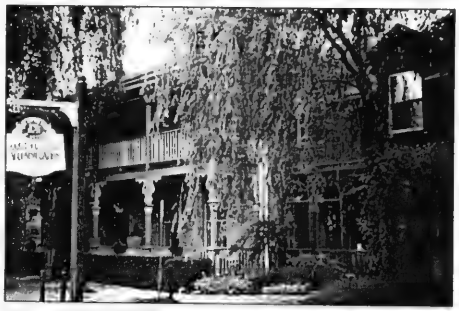
A tinkerer extraordinaire, Neill built dozens of odd contraptions and displays, each more entertaining than the next. His 1927 Essex motorcar, which he rigged with a bed before driving it across the country, is on display in the museum lobby.

The nearby Huron County Jail, built between 1839 and 1841 and now open to visitors, is an eye-opening reminder of the days when a warden's prime "behaviour modification device" was the ball-and-chain, and a prisoner's dinner consisted of oatmeal with molasses. Not to be missed.

* * *

The Little Inn of Bayfield is "the oldest operating inn in Ontario," according to its proprietors, Gayle and Pat Waters, formerly of Toronto. Once known as the Commercial Hotel, the inn was a coach stop in pre-railway days. It dates from roughly the 1830s or earlier.

The heritage building is very well kept. The Waters' have restored the former balconies around the front, restored an adjoining carriage house, added a first-rate dining room, and made many other improvements. The rooms are decorated with period furniture.



The Little Inn of Bayfield is Ontario's oldest operating inn. [Bill Gladstone photo]

The inn is convenient to both the Blythe and Stratford theatrical festivals. Its Web site is www.littleinn.com.

Bayfield's main street is filled with colourful shops and boutiques. The town sits on a bluff above Lake Huron, whose particular meteorological situation reputedly accounts for the glorious sunsets for which the area is renown.

For further details on attractions and accommodations of the Lake Huron area, only a select few of which could be mentioned here, visit the Web site www.hurontourism.on.ca.

Piano whiz and former PM play at Brott Music Festival

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Hershey Felder, the Montreal-born piano whiz and composer who has been wowing audiences in Los Angeles and New York for years, is coming to Ontario for a musical tribute to George Gershwin, accompanied by his muse and companion, former prime minister Kim Campbell.

Felder, 31, and Campbell, 53, will present two performances of *Glorious Gershwin* at the Brott Music Festival, one July 29 at Hamilton's Du Maurier Centre and again the following evening at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

Felder, a Steinway concert pianist, will join a 65-piece orchestra to perform some of Gershwin's best-known pieces, including *Rhapsody in Blue, An American in Paris, Strike Up the Band* and more.

He is also expected to perform *Aliyah*, a concert for piano and orchestra that Felder wrote for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

As well, Felder will present a piece from the opera he and Campbell co-authored in 1997, *Noah's Arc*, a rumination on the Holocaust set against the biblical story of Noah.

He and Campbell collaborated on the piece during her tenure as Canada's consul general in Los Angeles. Felder, nephew of the late Rabbi Gedalia Felder of Toronto, wrote the opera after he interviewed Holocaust survivors for director Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation project. It won strong reviews after its premiere in Los Angeles.

Campbell will appear on stage as a narrator of sorts, explaining scenes and other details of *Noah's Arc*. In a *CJN* interview in 1997, Campbell said she and Felder consulted several Jewish sources in tackling the project, including rabbinic writings and kabbalah. She called herself the project's "dramaturge."

The opera is told from Noah's perspective, and raises issues surrounding moral responsibility and God's wrath.

The Gershwin project has Jewish roots too. Reportedly, Felder became interested when one of the survivors he interviewed for the Spielberg project told him he whistled *Rhapsody in Blue* to Nazi guards, and believed that Gershwin's music contained premonitions of a great disaster.

Felder is a hot property in Los Angeles these days with his acclaimed one-man act, *George Gershwin Alone*. He so impressed Gershwin's heirs that the family granted Felder exclusive rights as writer and performer to adapt the life of the legendary composer for the first time to a stage production.

In September, Felder and Campbell head to New York, where they are fielding offers from Broadway.

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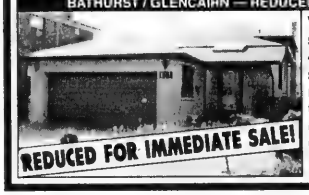

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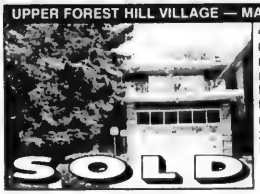

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MEGA SIDESPLIT – BATHURST & STEELES
4 level sidesplit, 4 bdrms., 3 baths, 65x132' lot, updated kitchen, double garage, 3020 square feet, a great family home! **Asking $399,900.** Call Michael at (416)630-0111.

COUNTRY LIVING IN THE CITY
Raised bungalow on Beautiful ravine lot just steps from Bathurst & Sheppard, 4 bdrms., 4 baths, family room and den! **Asking $329,900.** Call Michael at (416)630-0111.

EXCLUSIVE – BATHURST MANOR LUXURY HOME
Spectacular multi-level updated home on ravine lot on best street, 4 bdrms., 4 baths, front courtyard, finished basement! **Asking $569,900.** Call Michael at (416)630-0111.

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME ON CLANTON PARK ROAD
Building lot is 35x175' and the price includes building permit and plans. Build a 2900 square foot home. It's ready to go! **Asking $269,900.** Call Michael at (416)630-0111.

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ALLEN RD. OVERBROOK
1st time offered, spac. 3 bdrm. backsplit, huge liv. & din., fam. size kit., appls., den, w/out to patio, rec. rm., lge. lot, dbl. drive, gar., Don't Miss!

BATHURST YORK DOWNS
Lge. bung., 3 bdrms., 3 baths, up-to-date kit., built-in appls., fin. bsmt. w/priv. entr., dbl. drive, gar, Steps to everything!

CLARK YONGE
4 bdrm. backsplit, liv. & din. comb., lge. kit., fam. rm., w/out, fin. bsmt., dble. gar., quiet court!

AVENUE RD. WILSON
Mod. store + 2 apt., fully rented, pkg., busy location!

FINCH WILMINGTON
Tri-plex, 2-3 bdrms. + 1-1bdrm., garage + pkg., great buy!

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BATHURST-BLUE FLAG
1st time offered. Super large backsplit, 4 bdrm. + fam. rm., rec. rm. and den. Fantastic location. Come and view.

YONGE-JOHNSTON
$279,000. asking. 40x130' lot. 2 bdrm. + fin. bsmt. Completely rented. Buy as live-in/investment.

STEELES & YONGE
3 bdrm. condo. Ask $165,000. Use as investment.

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BATHURST/CLARK — 125 Brickstone Circle. Sun. 2-4, $338,000, 4 Bdrm+Fam Rm, Hrdwd Flrs.

UPPER FOREST HILL —$4290/Mo, 4 Bdrm, Fully Furnished, Main Flr Fam Rm.

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN — $340,000, 40'x135' Lot, 1.5 Storey home, Live-in or Build.

CONDOS

BATHURST/FINCH — $214,000, Lux. 3 Bdrm, Parquet Flrs, Security.

BAY/BLOOR — Lux. 1166 Bay St., $565,000, 3 Bdrm, Valet Parking, 24 Security.

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BATHURST / STEELES 3 bedroom semi + potential in-law apt., $269,000.

BATHURST / STEELES Builder's own home, 5 bdrms., 3,600 sq. ft. w/o basement, $589,000.

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UPPER VILLAGE BUNGALOW – $339,900.
Charming 3 bdrm. home w/finished lower level. Fireplace. Central air conditioning. Private drive & garage. Great starter home. Walk to TTC & Eglinton. *Leslie Dennis.

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LOWER VILLAGE CONDO - $349,000.
Fabulous, professionally decorated suite. Floor to ceiling windows in all rms. Oversized entertaining area. Insuite laundry. CAC. Parking. Concierge. Call *Shawnee Slan/**Don Wagman.

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FOREST HILL – $398,000.
Stone front Tudor bungalow on 40 ft. front. 3 bdrms. Reno'd kitchen. Fireplace. CAC. Private drive, attached garage. Perfect for move-in, top-up or build new. **Don Wagman.

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UPPER VILLAGE – $528,000.
Lovely 4 bdrm. family home. Kitchen + breakfast area w/walk-out to deep lot. Main floor powder rm. Finished lower level. Central air. Double attached garage. *Linda Rose.

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BEAUTIFUL BAYVIEW – $595,000.
Outstanding family home. Luscious landscaped country setting. 4+ bdrms. Main floor family rm. + sun. rm. + powder rm. Finished lower level. 2 car garage. *Linda Rose.

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YONGE/YORK MILLS CONDO – $609,000.
Corner garden suite w/wrap-around balcony. 2 bdrms. + den/3rd bdrm. Powder rm. + 2 baths. Sunny, eat-in kitchen. 3 parking spots. Large locker. *Bernard Pike.

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FOREST HILL – $840,000.
Lovely 5 bdrm. Tudor. Large kitchen & brkfst rm. Main floor family rm. & powder rm. Skylight. CAC. Private drive & garage. *Donna Taylor.

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LOWER VILLAGE – $998,000.
Updated 4 bdrm. home. Centre hall Georgian. Main fl. family rm. + solarium, Powder rm. Central A/C. Finished lower level. Private drive & double garage. **Don Wagman.

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BRIDLE PATH – $1,350,000.
Bayview bungalow with 4+ bdrms. plus den. Master suite w/dressing rm.; Inground pool & cabana. Circular drive. For details & viewing, call *Edie Winberg.

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CHAPLIN ESTATES – $589,000.
Spacious 3-4 bdrm. home. SOLD e loft space on 3rd floor. Finished lower level. Private dble. garage. A wonderful family home on exceptionally quiet street. *Carol Cotton.

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ALLENBY SCHOOL – $469,000.
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YORK MILLS PLACE – $599,900.
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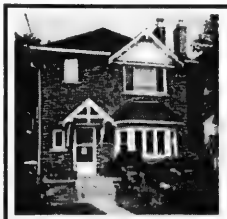

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Traditional 4 bdrm. home, 145 Chiltern Hill Rd., walk to shuls. $489,000

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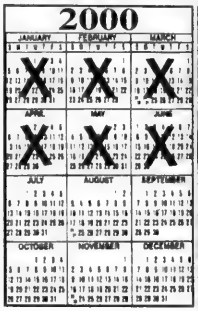

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2000 "Deals to Date"

23 Delavan Ave.*	627 Bedford Park Ave.*	16 Claxton Blvd.
345 Ridley Blvd.	31 Gilgorm Rd.*	32 Menin Rd.
1 Glen Cedar Rd.*	32 Glenview Ave.*	44 Edgecombe Ave.
551 Briar Hill Ave.*	82 Munro Blvd.	152 Chiltern Hill Rd.
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Don Mills/Steeles - Furn. 2 bdrm. townhouse. Kosher kitchen, Close to synagogues. Avail. Sept. 1st. Call 905-763-6775.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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Bath/Steeles, Lux. Townsgate condo. 2 bd., 2 bth. Prv. sale. $229K. Miriam 905-882-9251.

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Upscale Bathurst/Steeles split plan condo. Private furn. bdrm. & full bth. avail. to female (student or working) to share with delightful active senior. Kitchen fac. plus indr. pool, health club, pkg. & locker. Offered at $600/mo. Short/long term. Immed./Sept. 1, 2000. Please call Eva 905-763-5816.

62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Young female, professional, looking to share accom. with mid-20's female. Non smoker & responsible. Call 416-712-9489.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

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Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
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Bath/Centre - bsmt. apt. non smkr. Fem. pref. Steps to Promenade. Call 905-709-0523, day, 905-762-9529, eves.

Bath/Lawrence - Newly reno'd bsmt. apt., perfect for university student. Steps from Lawrence West Subway. 416-789-4878.

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85 APARTMENT WANTED

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122 TIME SHARE FOR SALE/RENT

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125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

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135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/ RENT

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Call: 011-972-9-8664925 or
Fax: 011-972-9-8663102.

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Fax: 604-257-5121
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North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

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seeks
intelligent, good natured independent woman
between the ages of 25 and 30.
Great sense of humour a big plus!
Reply to: CJN Box #7294

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GRIFFEL, Robert Andrei - on June 5, 2000, late of 91 Avenue Rd.
KERDMAN, Edith - on June 30, 2000, late of 3560 Bathust St.
SHUSTERMAN, Isaac Abramovitz - on June 30, 2000.
LANTOS, Jeno Eugene - on July 5, 2000.
STEIN, Joseph - on July 6, 2000, late of 1 Clark Ave. W.
DANIELS, George Ezra - on July 8, 2000.
KLEIN, Joseph (Jozeph) - on July 8, 2000, late of 1085 Steeles Ave. W.
REGHENSTRAIH, Ernestina - on July 8, 2000, late of 25 Viewmount Ave.
BLACKMAN, Gabriel - on July 9, 2000, late of 98 McGillivray Ave.
FLIDER, Meir - on July 9, 2000, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
MALET, Esther - on July 10, 2000, late of 8501 Bayview Ave.
BASEVICH, Dora - on July 11, 2000, late of 6030 Bathurst St.
ZIDER, Nathan - on July 11, 2000, late of 125 Neptune Dr.
CAZES, Myriam - on July 12, 2000.
OFFENBERG, Leslie - on July 12, 2000, late of 9 Elder St.
RETI, Magdalene - on July 13, 2000, late of 47 Peterborough Ave.
CAPLAN, David - on July 15, 2000.
CHARNY, Esther - on July 15, 2000, late of 6200 Bathurst St.
STROBACH, William - on July 15, 2000.
YURKOVETSKAYA, Tanya - on July 15, 2000, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
BENAICH, Evelyne - on July 16, 2000, late of 412 Patricia Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

BENGALL, Jerry - on June 22, 2000, late of 11 Townsgate Dr., #218.
FREY, Joseph - on June 22, 2000, late of Terrace Gdns.
GREENWAL, Ann McKay Lyons - on June 22, 2000, late of 242 Delaware Ave.
STERN, Stella - on June 22, 2000, late of 377 Ridelle Ave.
STUERM, Reinhold Michil - on June 22, 2000, late of 36 Hartley Crt.
BRIKS, Nathan - on June 23, 2000, late of 67 Wembley Rd.
STONE, Helen - on June 23, 2000, late of 149 Earlsdale Ave.
BLUMENTHAL, Doreen - on June 24, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
MARGOLIS, Peter - on June 24, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
HARRIS, Fred - on June 25, 2000, late of 63 St. Clair Ave. W., #403.
ARNOFF, Pearl - on June 27, 2000, late of 535 Sheppard Ave. W., #607.
EDISON, Ida - on June 27, 2000, late of The Willows, Yonge St.
ROTISH, Ben - on June 27, 2000, late of 760 Briar Hill Ave.
EPSTEIN, Irene - on June 28, 2000, late of 38 Esther Cres.
GOLDBERG, Mack - on June 29, 2000, late of 456 Glengrove Ave. W.
AKS, Harold - on June 30, 2000, late of 254 East 68th St., #16B.
COOPER, Kathy - on June 30, 2000, late of 581 Avenue Rd., #202.
KARNOVSKY, Ann - on June 30, 2000, late of 1020 McNichol Ave.
WETSTEIN, Label - on June 30, 2000, late of 6 Citation Dr.
LESSER, Joseph - on July 1, 2000, late of 10072 Oxbow Rd.
GOLDSTEIN, Sally - on July 2, 2000, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
MUSSMAN, Chana - on July 2, 2000, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
SOKOLOWSKI, Kalman - on July 2, 2000, late of 60 Carscadden Dr.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

BELL, Hilda - on July 3, 2000, late of 3000 Bathurst St.
SCHACTER, Leo - on July 3, 2000, late of 61 St. Clair Ave. W., #908.
GRUWER, Aron - on July 4, 2000, late of 523 Finch Ave. W., #534.
INTRATOR, Howard - on July 4, 2000, late of 2 Ivy Green Cres.
ZIMMER, Minnie - on July 4, 2000, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
GOLDSTEIN, Annette - on July 5, 2000, late of Thompson House.
STERN, Shirley - on July 5, 2000, late of 20 Bryant St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

BURMAN, Irving - on July 2, 2000, late of 555 Sheppard Ave. W., #1006.
SCHWARTZ, Myer - on July 2, 2000, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
HABER, Rose - on July 5, 2000, late of Finch Villa.
RICH, Abraham - on July 7, 2000, late of 22 Khedive St.

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FRIENDSHIP
Attractive single mom, honest, kind, sweet, works a lot, enjoys all sports, movies, dining out and quiet times, seeking preferably a single dad, employed, honest, kind and fun, for friendship **AD#1157**

SEEKING SINGLE DAD
Single Jewish mom, 39 yrs, attractive, kind, honest, sincere and hard working, seeking single dad, who's attractive, honest, employed and fun to be with, to enjoys adult times together. **AD#1395**

BE MY SUNSHINE
Attractive single Jewish female, 5' 5", straight brown hair, brown/hazel eyes, fit, non smoker, kind, good natured, emotionally stable, seeking single traditional Jewish gentleman, 45-50 yrs, around 6', established, handsome, exciting, honest, funny, caring, non smoker, children welcome, to share life **AD#1045**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, 5' 8", blonde, slim, fit, attractive, vivacious, outgoing, friendly, enjoys dancing, being outside, seeking male, tall, slim, fit, Jewish/family values, attends Shaggogue, friendly, outgoing, down to earth, enjoys relaxing, hanging out, doing fun things, who's respectful and caring **AD#1267**

MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP
Female, 62 yrs but looks 50, European background, owns business, exceptionally attractive, elegant and sophisticated, seeks gentleman, 65-70 yrs, who's also sophisticated in all aspects, professional or businessman, who knows how to treat a lady for a meaningful relationship **AD#1272**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Divorced Jewish female, 44 yrs, 5' 9", smoker, seeks male for dining and dancing, and outdoor activities. **AD#1454**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Widowed female, 66 yrs, young, seeks gentleman mensch, 65-72 yrs, who's young in spirit, clean looking, enjoys movies, watching TV, quiet evenings and appreciates a real nice lady. **AD#1421**

SERIOUS COMMITMENT
Down to earth and outgoing female, 38 yrs, seeks down to earth and outgoing male, 38-48 yrs, who enjoys dancing, dining out, movies, and different interests, to eventually develop a strong serious relationship. **AD#1555**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, attractive, affectionate, active, cuddly and bubbly, caring, compassionate, seeks male, 68-74 yrs, good sense of humour, thoughtful, caring to share life's joys **AD#1099**

ROMANTIC PARTNER
Single female, young 50'ish, attractive, 5' 9", professional, warm, caring, fun, loves the outdoors, music, seeks tall Jewish male, adventurous, intellectual, with good sense of humour. **AD#1378**

PASSION FOR LIFE
Divorced Jewish professional female, 5' 4", slim, pretty, shapely, caring, warm, own home, enjoys theatre, movies, dancing, cottages, and winter south, seeking established, sincere male, 60+, nonsmoker ,who loves life, laughter and enjoys all that life has to offer **AD#1312**

JEWISH VALUES
Single Jewish female, 31 yrs, 5' 8", attractive, fit slim, never married, seeking tall Jewish male, keeping kosher, funny intelligent, articulate, good communication skills, who enjoys outdoors, family events, meeting people, will accept/respect me and value out times together. **AD#1248**

LET'S SETTLE DOWN
Single female, lives in Toronto, outdoorsy, sports, oriented, workout, enjoys cottage/country life, boating, sailing, dining, out, family and horse back riding, seeking male, to meet, talk, get to know, to settle down, and have a family **AD#1495**

SPORTS ENTHUSIAST
Retired female, in early 50's, 5' 4", red headed, new to Toronto, non smoker and enjoys sports **AD#1156**

UNIQUE TREASURE
Traditional Jewish female, with teenage son, 5' 5", straight brown hair, brown hazel eyes, attractive, fit, good natured, emotionally stable, nonsmoker, seeking tall, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 45-50 yrs, 6', exciting, honest, sensitive, humourous, emotionally stable, nonsmoker, to share life. **AD#1410**

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Widowed Jewish female, 5' 2", 118 lbs, with green eyes and enjoys life, seeks male, who's fun, sensitive and secure **AD#1553**

LET'S COMMUNICATE
Single professional female, 31 yrs, non-smoker, energetic and well travelled, seeks male 25-40 yrs, who's down to earth, communicative, outgoing, emotionally mature, fit and nonsmoker **AD#1452**

SOCIAL PROFESSIONALS
The Jewish Health Alliance, a social and professional network for Jewish mental health providers, intends to host various events to foster dialogue between practitioners for networking and socializing. Please leave your name and number **AD#1379**

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Single female, 40 yrs, professional, 5' 5", blonde hair, hazel eyes, intelligent, caring, compassionate, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, family life, fine wine. Seeks male honest, sincere, witty, with a good sense of humour, to be her best friend and soulmate **AD#1279**

FAB 40's
Divorced Jewish female, 44 yrs, 5' 10", smoker, seeks male 44-55 yrs, for outings and to enjoys life **AD#1275**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single female, early 40's, slim, long curly hair, olive complexion, enjoys art, photography, the theatre, the outdoors, nature, hiking, cross country skiing, movies Seeks male, fit, physically and mentally healthy, financially secure, compassionate, for long term relationship. **AD#1276**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, 31 yrs, 5'.2", intelligent, sincere, caring, attractive, good sense of humour, non-smoker, enjoys movies, music. Seeks male, 30-40 yrs, with traditional values **AD#1120**

HAVE A LATTE WITH ME
Single Jewish female, 31 yrs, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, adventurous, caring, sincere, enjoys long walks and having coffee at cafes. Seeking male, 30-40 yrs, who has traditional Jewish values and similar interests **AD#1284**

LET'S CUDDLE
Single Jewish female, petite, brown eyes, red hair, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, enjoy theatre, movies, music, travelling, walking and playing bridge Seeking Jewish male, 55-65 yrs, non-smoker, financially/emotionally stable, who's honest, kind, fun loving, with similar interests **AD#1333**

SUMMER LOVE
Single female, mid 40s, tall thin, model-esque, seeks male, widower, under 50 yrs, 6' or taller, thoughtful, kind, gentle, lives in the 416 area **AD#1023**

LOVE TO LAUGH
Single attractive female, with blue eyes, black hair, very romantic, loves to laugh, with a wonderful sense of humour, seeking attractive male, who's honest, sincere and loving with a great sense of humour. **AD#1096**

LOVE LIFE
Single female, very attractive, fit, no children, loves life, seeks male handsome, financially and emotionally stable, single Dad's or divorced okay caring honest down to earth, clean shaven, well groomed and loves life. **AD#1331**

FREE SPIRIT
Single female, Jewish, 38 yrs, 5'6", slim, pretty, fit, Dr. of natural medicine, teacher, open minded, spiritual, fun loving, dancer, writer, artist, actress, emotionally stable. Seeking male, fun, fit, romantic, easy going, good communicator **AD#1550**

HAPPINESS IS KEY
Female, 41 yrs, green eyes, auburn hair, pretty, fun loving, kind, humourous, open minded, love for humanity and animals Seeking kind, open hearted, generous gentleman, age/height/weight not important, financially secure, similar qualities, who'll treat me with respect and kindness. **AD#1507**

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Retired female, successful Jewish business, professional, widow, 52 yrs, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, caring, fun loving, positive, passionate, and looking for excitement in life. Seeking successful, tall, Jewish, businessman, or professional 50-62 yrs **AD#1118**

LOVE'S LIFE
Single Jewish female, slim, young looking, attractive, kind, warm hearted, outgoing, enjoys theatre, reading, nature walks, art, movies, tradition, travel and dancing. Seeking male, 49-59 yrs, with similar interest, who's ready to share life to the fullest. **AD#1215**

SERIOUS COMMITMENT
Attractive Jewish female, 59 yrs, sincere, compassionate, fun loving, selective, and unincumbered, enjoy bridge, tennis, jazz, books, movies and dining Seeking handsome male, who's elegant, intelligent, independent, and non-smoker, to share the best years of life. **AD#1332**

LASTING RELATIONSHIP
Single Eastern European, born female, 55 yrs, 5'7", independent, intelligent, and a smoker, seeks male for a loving and lasting relationship **AD#1432**

LIFE'S PLEASURES
Attractive single professional female, educated, independent, compassionate, imaginative, athletic, sensual and vibrant, enjoy nature, the arts and enlightened conversations Seeking cultured, witty, literate, accomplished and kind male, 40-50 yrs, who thinks outside the box, to sample life's pleasures together. **AD#1010**

SERIOUS INTENTIONS
Single female, fit, full of energy, blonde hair, hazel eyes, seeks male, attractive, fit, 37-45 yrs, emotionally and financially stable. **AD#1398**

SHARE LIFE
Female, with many interests, enjoy theatre, movies, dining out and quiet times at home, seeks male 65+ to share interests with **AD#1230**

SECOND CHANCES
Divorced Jewish professional female, 51 yrs, Eastern European background, speak Hebrew, loving, caring, romantic, great personality, sense of humour, family values, enjoys good conversation, walks, movies, theatre and travelling, seeking male, 51-58 yrs, with similar qualities and interests, for long term relationship **AD#1323**

MARRIAGE ONLY
Separated female, attractive, Hebrew teacher, with 5 yr old daughter, seeking only attractive, financially secure male 30-38, who wants quiet family life, must love my daughter and be ready to care her as a father. **AD#1229**

TAKE A CHANCE
Single professional female, 43 yrs, with one 14 yr old daughter, originally from Eastern Europe, attractive, slim, enjoys dining, reading and long walks. Seeking financially independent male, 45-55 yrs, with similar interests. **AD#1194**

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Men seeking Women

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SERIOUS INTENTIONS
Single male, 46 yrs, professional, 5' 8", medium build, down to earth, sincere, easy going, seeks female, 35-45 yrs, intelligent, sincere, honest, good sense of humour, no head games please, for possible long term relationship **AD#1476**

GREAT RELATIONSHIP
Attractive retired male, 76 yrs, widow for 2 years, seeks non smoking, nice young female, for great relationship. **AD#1047**

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY
Single male, 5' 9½", 150 lbs, small-medium build, blue eyes, in reasonable physical condition, an amateur musician, with stron interest in music, conservation, environment, nature and social sciences, seeking female with small-medium build and similar interests **AD#1204**

A GREAT CATCH
Single male, 34 yrs, 5' 7", 175 lbs, blonde hair, blue eyes, attactive, fit, workout, educated, multilingual, employed on internet, in Canada and abroad, enjoys studying, writing, reading, travelling, outdoor activities, anything cultural/historical, seeking female 20-30 yrs, attractive, smart, stable, ambitious, enjoys travelling, having fun. **AD#1460**

LET'S TALK
Single Jewish male, educated professional, tall, witty, smart, loves the arts, theatre, movies, music, dining, dancing, and many other thing, seeking Jewish female, children and pet are okay. **AD#1011**

MUST WANT CHILDREN
Divorced male, with no children, working on my first book, speaks English, Yiddish, family generous, involved with volunteer work for many years, seeking female, young enough to start a family, and must want to have children, for true happiness. **AD#1071**

LIFE AND LAUGHTER
Single Jewish male, a vegetarian, tall, slim, romantic, sensitive, with a sense of humour, seeking female, 43-55 yrs, who's health conscious, and would like to share life and laughter **AD#1376**

LET'S TALK
Male, 70 yrs, 5' 10", 190 lbs, in good physical condition, seeks communicative female to develop a relationship with. **AD#1020**

WAITING FOR YOU
Single male, seeking female, nonsmoker and non drinker, for serious long term relationship. **AD#1200**

HEART TO HEART
Single, unattached and unincumbered, seeking female, who's intelligent, with high integrity, pleasant dispostion, without sense of ownership or assumed expectations, for open heart to heart communication **AD#1360**

LET'S TALK
Single male, 34 yrs, not shy, loves exercise and conversations, seeks female with similar qualities **AD#1334**

ORTHODOX PREFERRED
Single Jewish male, late 40s, 5' 10", great blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, compassionate, with a great sense of humour, enjoys theatre, long walks in the park, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking single or widowed female, intelligent, 32-45 yrs, with similar personality and interests. **AD#1097**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single male, Shoma-Shabbas, professional Jewish educator, warm, caring, handsome, and eclectic, seeking Jewish observant, female, who's spiritual, with jois de vive, for love, marriage and children. **AD#1245**

SUMMER ROMANCE
Divorced male, Jewish, 37 yrs, handsome, athletic, 5'10", no children, condo owner, enjoys tennis, squash, movies, reading, dining and dancing Seeks female, Jewish, 32-42 yrs, slim, attractive, for possible long term relationship **AD#1160**

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 36 yrs, 5'7", blonde hair, never been married, fun loving, easy going, happy, with good sense of humour, enjoys sports oriented, activities, and going out to movies Seeking female of similar age **AD#1422**

LOVING GENTLEMAN
Single male, tall, youthful appearance, active, fit, loving, considerate, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks amiable female for companionship and friends first relationship **AD#1686**

HEART OF GOLD
Single senior gentleman, tall, youthful active, thoughtful, loving non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks female similar for companionship **AD#1244**

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, non-observant Jewish male, widow, 50 yrs, professional, no kids or other dependents, very fit, works out 4 times a week Seeking female, 45-50 yrs, with very similar attributes, for a relationship **AD#1241**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, professional accountant, enjoys sports, long walks, dining and dancing, keeping fit, movies, reading travel Seeks female, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1445**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Divorced male, 44 yrs, Toronto born and raised, 5'10", smoker, lived in Israel for 11 yrs, variety of interests, seeks female, sexy, attractive, adventurous, fun loving, for romantic relationship **AD#1375**

LET'S TALK
Caring nature, semi-retired, 67 yr old, professional male, non-smoker with many interests and hobbies, seeking easy going, down to earth female, who's slim, attractive, and fun to be with **AD#1094**

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Semi-retired male, 5'11", 165 lbs, slim, blue eyes, healthy, attractive, casual, romantic, enjoys intimate restaurants, sea, sun, walks on the beach sports, swimming, tennis, 60's music and kissing, seeking attractive female, caring, humourous, financially secure, physically and emotionally fit. **AD#1524**

POSSIBLE ROMANCE
Single male, 48 yrs, 5'10", 175 lbs, attractive, friendly, outgoing, romantic, passionate, straight forward, open-minded, employed, enjoy movies, dining, walks in parks, sporting events, golf, cuddling and watching TV. Seeking female with similar qualities and interests, for friendship and perhaps romance. **AD#1623**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people. Seeks female similar qualities and interests **AD#1388**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography. Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with. **AD#1038**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family. **AD#1370**

SPECIAL SENIOR DOLL
Single retired male, living in Toronto and Florida, seeking female, 65+, who's good looking, slim, and must have a good sense of humour, for meaningful relationship. **AD#1536**

LOVE WAITS
Single male, 5'7", Greenish blue eyes, handsome, poor starving writer, reliable, enjoys sports, swimming, tennis, very down to earth, ready to start a family Seeks Jewish female, with similar interests **AD#1195**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 34 yrs, seeking female with professional status, intelligent, good conversationalist, who enjoys movies, sports, dining, dancing, walks, reading, having fun and tender moments **AD#1190**

IT'S SPRING!
Single male, 46 yrs, special education teacher, 2 grown children, 23 yrs & 21 yrs, romantic, self-confident, enjoys roller-blading, travel, country walks, have eclectic tastes, good sense of humour. Seeks female with similar qualities and interests **AD#1498**

FAMILY MAN
Separated male, 50 yrs, 5'7", 160lbs, with 3 teenage children, family oriented, fairly intelligent and financially secure. Seeking female who enjoys dining, theatre, movies, outdoor activities and welcomes anyone with family **AD#1533**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Single Jewish male, 33 yrs, good sense of humour, honest, nice, intelligent, happy, warm hearted, energetic. Seeks female, happy go lucky who's wants some good laughs **AD#1442**

TIMELESS LOVE
Single male, 49 yrs, 5'11", Brown hair, Brown eyes, handsome, successful, caring, supportive, romantic, passionate, sensual, open honest with feelings, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cooking quiet evenings at home. Seeks attractive female 35-45 yrs, affectionate, emotionally healthy, passionate about herself and the man in her life. **AD#1377**

WANTS FAMILY LIFE
Divorced male, 53 yrs, a writer, no children, good hearted, good looking, good humoured and good brain. Seeking female to have children with and start a family **AD#1151**

TO SHARE LIFE
Single male, 41 yrs, seeks female who's attractive, nice, good sense of humour, lives in the Toronto, enjoys theatre, having a good time and the great outdoors to share my life with **AD#1265**

SCHOLARLY MYSTIC
Attorney and international entrepreneur, cultured, aereodite, talmud, chachim, kabalist, thaumaturgical healer, violinist, poet, parachutist, scuba diver, wishes to a new period. Seeks slender, intelligent, attractive, adventurous lady who's emotionally/financially secure as my queen. **AD#1386**

GOOD IN EVERY WAY!
Divorced male, 53 yrs, no children, good hearted, good humoured, good looking Seeks female for loving relationship. **AD#1600**

WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS MOST
Single male, 47 yrs, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies-especially Hitchcock, and drives in the country. Seeking female, professional or non-professional, non slim okay, children okay, smoker on non-smoker, a basically nice, down to earth person. **AD#1055**

WARM & CARING
Single white male, 57 yrs, warm, caring, romantic, self-employed. Enjoys travel, movies, quiet romantic evenings, good conversation. Seeks female with similar interests and qualities. **AD#1565**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single male, young looking, 45 yrs, 5'11", brown hair, brown eyes, cute smile, university educated, employed professional, good manners. Enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, sporting events. Seeks female 30-42 yrs, for casual relationship, possible long lasting relationship. **AD#1568**

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Sports & Leisure

Knesset committee comes down hard on world Maccabi

CJN News Services

A Knesset committee has recommended the State of Israel not finance the 16th Maccabiah Games to be held next summer, and that no official Israeli representative attend public events held by the Maccabi World Union (MWU) unless MWU president Ronald Bakalarz resigns.

The committee was set up to examine the aftermath of the 1997 Maccabiah Games bridge disaster in which four members of the Australian delegation were killed and dozens injured.

The report was presented recently to Knesset speaker Avraham Burg. It states that "under the leadership of Bakalarz, the MWU made some terrible mistakes that only served to deepen the divide between the Jewish communities... The committee calls on the government to continue to operate so as to close the issue of compensation for those injured in the Maccabiah disaster as soon as possible."

"This incident clouds the relations between Israel and the Jewish community of Australia and everything must be done to put it behind us," the report stated.

The report was greeted with jubilation by members of the Australian Jewish community. Ron Weiser, president of the Australian Zionist Federation, said he felt "ecstatic" about the findings.

Colin Elterman, father of Sasha Elterman, who was seriously injured in the bridge collapse four years ago, said he was "delighted" by the report, which he believes "vindicates us and our supporters" following three years of bitter complaints about "the insensitive conduct of MWU and the need for the state to pay all compensation to the victims and their families."

He added the proviso that the report "will mean nothing, unless it is implemented."

There was no rejoicing at the MWU headquarters in Kfar Hamaccabiah, Ramat Gan. Australian hopes for the resignation by Bakalarz have not been realized.

Amir Peled, honorary secretary of MWU, said he "objected strongly" to the "formula" outlined in the report: "Bakalarz out; Australia Maccabi in [at the next Maccabi games]" and with "the stipulation that unless Bakalarz resigns, the government will boycott 56 delegations coming to Israel for the Jewish games." He emphasized that Bakalarz was not convicted of any offence.

MWU chair Uzi Netanel resigned his position in April, several hours after five defendants, including Yoram Eyal, MWU's chair of the Games organizing committee, were found guilty of negligently causing the deaths of the four members of Australia's delegation.

Peled did admit that "not everything went smoothly" in dealing with the aftermath of the bridge collapse and that MWU was not "totally sensitive" to the victims, "something [MWU] is very sorry about."

Isi Leibler, chair of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress and a former head of the Australian Jewish community, said he was "delighted" with the recommendations outlined in the report, but "we'll be watching with interest to see if they are implemented."

Leibler called on Bakalarz to "do the right thing for the organization."

"The leadership of MWU will be meeting within a few weeks and we'll be making some decisions," said Roy Salomon, co-chair of the North American Confederation of MWU.

Salomon, who also serves as president of Maccabi Canada, declined further comment.

In other developments, Australian Jewry has threatened to boycott the Israeli delegation at the Sydney Olympiad.

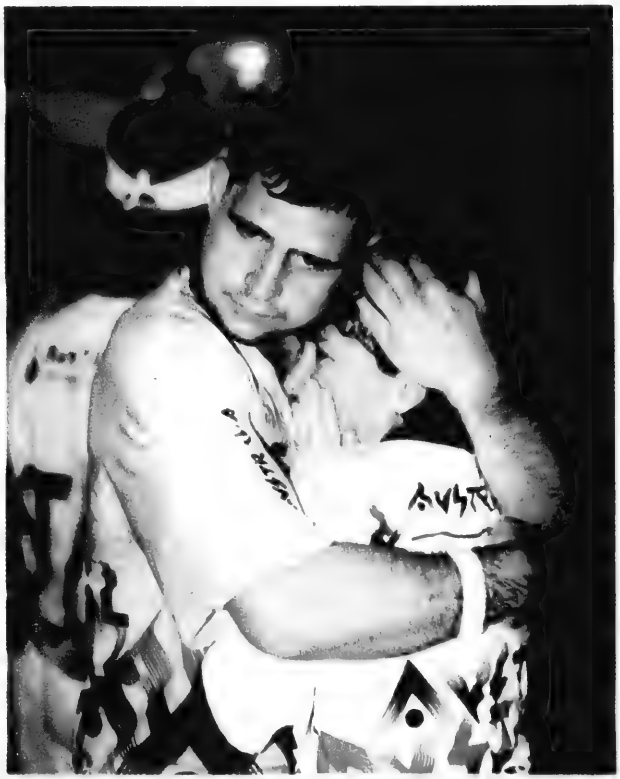
"No Australian [Jewish] official should meet the Israeli Olympic team – otherwise, the result could be the painful spectre of Jews in Australia demonstrating against the Israeli team," said Colin Rubenstein, executive director of the Australia Israel and Jewish Affairs Council, at Knesset committee hearings in Melbourne.

Rubenstein's sister was one of 60 Australian Jewish athletes injured in the bridge collapse.

His statement came two days after the Australian Maccabiah organization suspended its involvement in next year's Maccabiah Games.

Meanwhile, 63 people have lodged claims with Israel's courts for compensation, with more expected to make private claims. Isi Leibler called on all Jewish organizations to boycott MWU while his brother, Australia United Israel Appeal chair Mark Leibler said he would ask the Jewish Agency to suspend any connections with MWU.

Meanwhile, the threat of Israel withholding public subsidies for the 16th Maccabiah could blow a hole of 10 to 15 percent in the next Maccabiah budget, forcing MWU to make drastic savings or pass on the shortfall to participating athletes. The Israeli government has postponed making an allocation from the Ministry of Sport's budget for next summer's Maccabiah.



Australian team members were overcome with emotion following the bridge collapse at the 1997 Maccabiah Games. [Isranet photo]

Baseball tryouts on tap for juniors

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The boys of summer will be taking their act to Israel next summer, as baseball makes its debut at the Maccabiah Games.

Canada will be sending a junior boys team to the first-ever hardball competition, said Mark Bendahan, the team's coach.

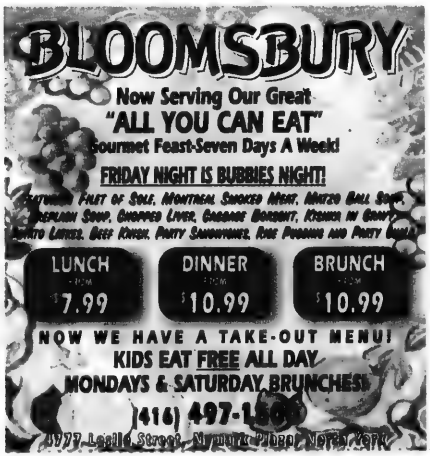
Bendahan, who has pitched for Canada's softball team at several Maccabiahs, announced that tryouts for the Canadian team will be held in Toronto on July 30 at Richmond Green, near Leslie and Elgin Mills, beginning at 9 a.m.

Only boys born in 1985, '86 or '87 are eligible for the team.

Regional tryouts have already been held in Montreal and Bendahan expects to scout more talent in western Canada later this summer. National tryouts to determine the final roster will be held in Toronto some time in August.

Bendahan said baseball made its Maccabi debut at the Pan American Maccabi Games in Mexico City last year, with the Canadian juniors winning a silver medal.

For more information, call Mark Bendahan at 905-884-8664.



Inside Back

Stories that touch the heart

By ELI RUBENSTEIN ALEC GELCER

As a teenager during the war, I lived with my family in a suburb of Warsaw. It was filled with Luftwaffe officers who were being billeted in the neighbouring Polish houses.

Our villa stood in a pretty garden, full of flowers and surrounded by a fence. In front of the house, there were fields and gardens in which we, and others, planted potatoes and various kinds of vegetables to survive.

All around us was raging one of the cruelest wars in history.

For several months, the bell used to ring at our front door. Infrequently at first and then more often. Looking out the window we did not see anybody at the gate. But some invisible hands had put on the low fence wall two empty cans, with a length of string fastened to them serving as handles.

They were placed there by starving Jews in the hopes they would be filled with food.

Whatever extra food we had we shared with a Jewish woman whom we concealed in our home for 2½ years. Yet, my mother poured some soup into one of the cans and she filled the other with rich bread and potatoes, even though bread was rationed and we were very, very short of it all the time during the war.

Replacing the tins on the same place on the fence, I first had to look carefully around to make sure no German was watching.

However, we knew very well that from the nearby potato field, two anxious pairs of eyes were watching my every movement. Those eyes – serious, alert, frightened yet courageous – belonged to children no more than six and eight years old.

Every day, they left the bleak streets of the ghetto, and then, stealing through some breach in the wall which separated them from the world of the living, they crept along the seemingly peaceful district of our neighbourhood.

Dressed in rags and oversized coats – much too big for their size and age – with large pockets, they were barefoot so they could move noiselessly. Crouching almost to the ground, they leaped out of the thicket and, in a flash, snatched the tins and vanished.

Discreetly observing them through the curtains, I noticed they did not eat what they received; it was meant for others more hungry than them.

They were very careful as they realized that their presence could bring danger and disaster to our whole family. They did not, or could not, think of what lay in store for them.

This lasted a few months – not every day – but every few days, the boys would come. We had almost become friends, even though we hadn't exchanged a word.

One day they stopped coming…

Some time later, the wind from Warsaw brought to our garden pieces of partly burnt paper and smoke with strange, at that time unknown to me, letters and signs. Those were Jewish letters, Jewish characters.

The Warsaw Ghetto was on fire. I never saw my two Jewish friends again.

All this took place during the festive days of Osterfest, Passover, Easter of 1943 – holidays that should have brought joy and peace to people of all nations…

***

Zbigniew Mankowski then raised a medal and holding it near his heart, told the students: "Years later, I received this medal from Yad Vashem, the most beautiful medal one can imagine. You see, most people receive medals for taking lives, but this medal was given for saving lives.

"I have received many awards in my life, but this one is the most precious to me.

"When, after nearly 50 years, I had the honour of receiving the distinction of Righteous Among the Nations, I shared in my mind a part of that honour with those anonymous Jewish boys, heroes of those years who will forever remain engraved in my memory.

"They tried to save people too."

***

Based on a letter written by Zbigniew Mankowski and an address he gave to Canadian Jewish students visiting Poland in 1999. A version of this story was read by Wojtek Ziemilski during the 2000 March of the Living ceremony in Birkenau.

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1 onion, quartered
Your favourite BBQ sauce

Mix all sauce ingredients together. Marinate ribs in sauce at least 4 hrs. BBQ ribs on grill. (Dr. Pepper contains sugar so watch that ribs don't burn.)

About Life

Dear Ella,

I am a 33-year-old single woman, average in height, weight, intelligence and appearance. Needless to say, I have no men beating down my door.

There are certain times of the year that being single makes me feel inferior and very alone. This time of year is tough. Wherever I go I see couples and families. Everyone seems to have that special someone to be with, to lean on, to talk to.

I have made a pact with myself that I will go on no more blind dates. I have been on my share of them over the years and they are always disastrous.

My friend Joanie knows a friend who has a friend that just moved to Toronto. He is supposed to be a very nice guy with a good career and all the rest of that stuff.

From what I understand, he is somewhat observant. He is shomer Shabbat and keeps kosher. I do neither of those things. Do you think I should even bother wasting my time and his? I will probably end up more depressed after the date. Any comments?

Dating Doldrums

Dear Dating Doldrums,

First of all, 33 does not mean you have one foot in a nursing home. You seem to be focused on the negative. Cheer up! Pick yourself up and dust yourself off.

You are too young to be making pacts about dating. Don't assume the worst before you know anything about this fellow's mind, soul and life. He may be a wonderful man with a heart of gold. He may be the guy that you can be with, lean on and talk to. Why would you discount all that? Certainly not because he is shomer Shabbat and keeps kosher.

If he was everything in a guy you were hoping for, would the fact that he is somewhat observant stand in the way of trying to make a relationship work with him? I don't think so.

Take a chance. Put on a smile, have a PMA (positive mental attitude) and go out with him.

Life is full of surprises. This might just be one of them.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. *But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

The Canadian Jewish News

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Court Cases"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

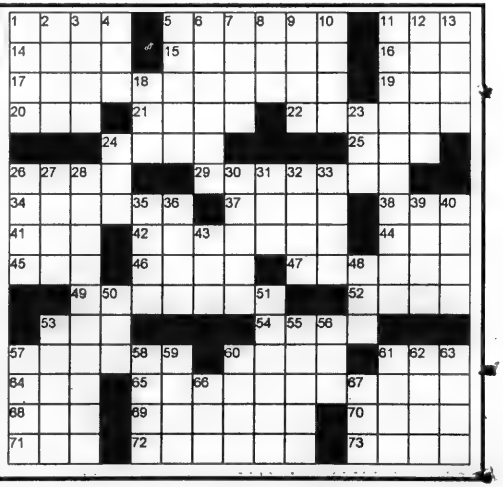
Across

1 Bris or bar mitzvah
5 ___ National (hot dog brand)
11 Spotted
14 Type of law
15 Emulate Amelia Earhart
16 With 11-down, Harlem Globetrotters founder
17 Basketball Hall-of-famer
19 Documentary airer, often
20 Greek consonant
21 Coffee holders
22 King George, say
24 "___ we forget"
25 Bring before the judge
26 One-third of a "Seinfeld" saying
29 Some Woody Allen works
34 Wise words
37 El ___ (weather phenomenon)
38 Delta rival
41 Rabbi
42 Let back in
44 Musical taste
45 Soft n' ___ deodorant
46 Prefix with European or Chinese
47 Flourish
49 The ___ Plot of 1953
52 Mind ___ manners (behave)
53 Plains sch.
54 Express vehicle?
57 Nun, say
60 Two less than tri-
61 Is afflicted with
64 "___ had it!"
65 Famed Celtics coach
68 Address for Richard Attenborough
69 Site of the first pogrom
70 "The Simpsons" bus driver
71 Advice column name
72 Plug home
73 Tops

Down

1 Win hands-down
2 See 33-down
3 Judd Hirsch's show
4 Eleven, in Yiddish
5 Sidelock components
6 Stadium goings-on
7 Auction cries
8 Shofar source
9 Greek vowels
10 Left
11 See 16-across
12 Road for the Beatles
13 Bank in the news
18 One of Bea's "Golden Girls" costars
23 66, e.g.
24 Fall behind
26 36 inches
27 Shevat follower
28 NBA commissioner
30 Words separated by a slash
31 Funnyman Curry
32 "What's ___ for me?"
33 With 2-down, modern nest egg
35 Guitarist Clapton
36 E-mailed
39 Haifa sight
40 War god
43 Fuss
48 Lawyer Cohn
50 It's not safe
51 Jacob, to Rachel
53 "Casino" actor Pollak
55 ___ a time (singly)
56 Neither partner
57 Bart's sis
58 Love god
59 Try again
60 Part of a Purim get-up
61 Loathe
62 Does what Dreyfuss does
63 Used an Uzi
66 Chanukah mo.
67 Bernstein colleague Woodward

(Answers are on page 42.)



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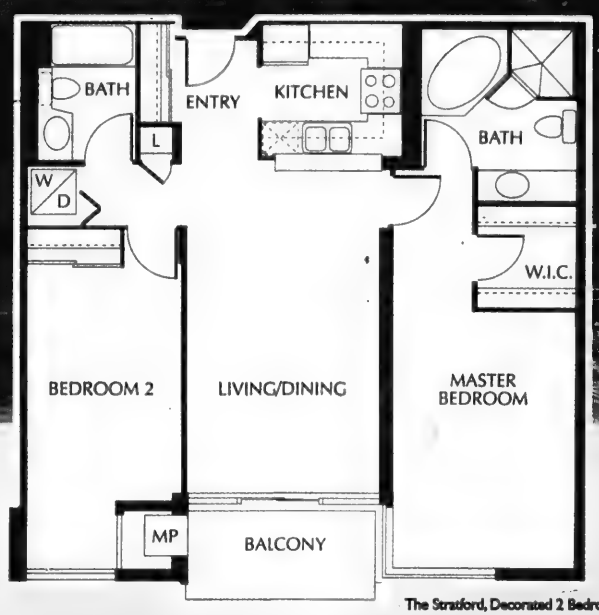

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This Week

National

Toronto women greet Queen Mother on her 100th birthday celebration. ***Page 6***

Harry Pollock's passion for James Joyce undimmed at 80. ***Page 16***

Arts & Travel

Toronto actress relishes her role in summer blockbuster. ***Page 28***

Business Profile

Young couple's speakers' agency thrives. ***Page 32***

Sports

London teen named to provincial soccer team. ***Page 38***

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PRESIDENT-ELECT MOSHE KATZAV: In a surprise result Monday morning, former Likud party cabinet minister Moshe Katzav was elected by his Knesset peers to be Israel's eighth president, defeating Shimon Peres. *[Israel photos]*

Barak willing to defer issue of Jerusalem

By DALIA SHEHORI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — If negotiations with the Palestinians are resumed, Prime Minister Ehud Barak would consider postponing discussion of the Jerusalem issue along the lines of proposals broached by U.S. President Bill Clinton during the recent Camp David summit.

Ministers briefed by Barak last weekend about the Camp David summit said the prime minister showed willingness to consider a deferral of negotiations.

At the weekly cabinet meeting, Barak reported that after Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat rejected American proposals to resolve the Jerusalem issue, Clinton brought up the possibility of postponing negotiations about the disputed city.

Specifically, Clinton raised two options: First, discussions concerning the status of the Old City and the Temple Mount would be deferred for 15 to 20 years; and secondly, discussion of Jerusalem's outlying areas would be postponed for several years. In the meantime, Israel would refrain from officially annexing to Jerusalem peripheral Jewish neighbourhoods built after 1967, such as Neve Yaakov and Ma'aleh Adumim; these satellite neighbourhoods would belong to an area whose status would be negotiated several years down the line, in talks between Israel and the Palestinian state.

Continued on page 26

14-year-old wins Rockower award

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Michael Nisimov, a summer student at *The Canadian Jewish News*, has won an honourable mention in the Noah Bee Award for excellence in cartooning or illustrating, part of the 1999 Simon Rockower Memorial Awards in Jewish Journalism, for drawings he created while he worked at the paper last summer.

It is the fifth year in a row that *The CJN* has won a Rockower Award.

A graduate of Associated Hebrew Schools, Nisimov, 14, was born in the former Soviet Union and lived in Israel until he was 11 years old.

He credits his mother Nataly, a kindergarten teacher and also an artist, for encouraging his artwork and motivating him to keep drawing.

"She gave me a sheet of paper and pen when I was five years old and she noticed that I drew an actual picture – not the [childish] drawing of a typical five year old," he says.

Continued on page 17

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat Chazon: Devarim
Candlelighting: 8:18
Havdallah: 9:23

Jerusalem as symbol and as city — please see page 25

The News in Brief

Canada

Friends Cheer Romalis

VANCOUVER — Dr. Garson Romalis, who was stabbed July 11, presumably by an anti-abortion fanatic, is in good spirits and expected to be make a full recovery, his friends and family say. Romalis, president of Beth Israel Congregation, made headlines six years ago when he was shot by a sniper in his Vancouver home. Of the five abortion providers who have been attacked in recent years, three have been Jewish.

Emergency Stop

GANDER, Nfld. — An El Al Boeing 747 with 339 passengers aboard was forced to make an emergency landing here last week after a gas leak was discovered in one of the engines. Crews were unable to fix the problem, and passengers spent the night in Gander, waiting for another plane to continue their trip from Tel Aviv to New York.

Vini-der-Pu

MONTREAL — Christopher Robin, Eeyore, Piglet and the other inhabitants of the Hundred-Acre Wood are now available in Yiddish. A Yiddish version of A.A. Milne's children's classic *Winnie-the-Pooh*, titled *Vini-der-Pu*, is the work of Yiddish scholar Leonard Wolf of Montreal.

Israel

Child Allowances

JERUSALEM — Israel's Knesset is scheduled to vote on a bill that would greatly increase child allowances paid by the state to families with more than four children, a measure that will primarily benefit haredi families. The Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported that at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, some 40 women who are giving birth each year already have at least 15 children.

Second Cup Closes

TEL AVIV — The Second Cup outlet here has filed for bankruptcy and closed its doors. The shop, just off Ben Yehuda Street, was a regular meeting place mainly for North American students. It was opened by the Canadian chain amid much fanfare a few years ago, but faced stiff competition from nearby cafes frequented by Israelis.

World

Citizenship Revoked

PHILADELPHIA — A federal court judge here has revoked the U.S. citizenship of retired machinist Theodor Szehinskyj, 76, of Drexel Hill, Penn., for his war-era activity. The court ruled that Szehinskyj's service in the SS Death Head Battalions as an armed guard of civilians at Gross-Rosen and Sachsenhausen concentration camps, constituted assistance in persecution as well as "participation in the Third Reich's closed culture of murder."

Giving Up on Web

BERLIN — Germany has given up trying to bar its citizens from accessing foreign-based neo-Nazi sites on the Internet. Germany, which has some of the world's toughest laws banning hate speech, has decided that it is unrealistic to try to shield Germans from foreign Web sites. "You can't build a wall around Germany," one official said.

Woman Elected

LONDON — The umbrella organization that represents most British Jews elected its first woman president in its 240-year history. Jo Wagerman, a former senior vice-president of the Board of Deputies, ran unopposed for a three-year term.

Get Bill Quashed

LONDON — A bill designed to help women whose husbands will not grant them a get (Jewish divorce) was quashed in Britain's House of Commons. The bill would have enabled British courts to help women obtain a religious divorce before granting the final stage of a civil divorce.

Church's Confession

BERLIN — Germany's Roman Catholic Church has admitted there is evidence it may have used forced labourers during World War II. As a result, the church may contribute to a $7.1 billion fund created in Germany to compensate Nazi-era slaves and forced labourers.

Aussies Deport Five

SYDNEY — Australia has deported five people linked to Mideast terrorist groups in advance of September's Olympic Games in Sydney. Word of the deportations came after the government denied reports that agreements have been made with the United States and Israel to allow private security guards to carry guns to protect athletes at the Games.

Shoah Flap

LONDON — The director of the documentary *Shoah* pulled out of a Holocaust conference because a controversial American academic was also invited to speak. Filmmaker Claude Lanzmann objected to the presence of Norman Finkelstein, author of *The Holocaust Industry*, which charges that Jewish groups have blackmailed European nations to pay the victims of the Nazis. Conference organizers claimed Finkelstein had been invited without their knowledge.

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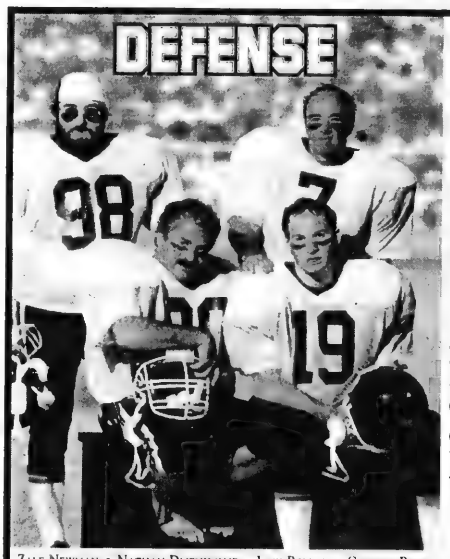

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Leaders React to Failed Talks

OTTAWA — Canadian Jewish organizations reacted last week to the collapse of the Camp David peace summit.

Joseph Wilder, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, observed that his organization understands "that differences remain that could not be bridged at this time. Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the efforts made by the two sides." Wilder also praised the efforts of Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to pursue an agreement by the September deadline.

Canadian Jewish Congress president Moshe Ronen urged calm in the wake of the failed talks. In a statement, Ronen said there is "an obvious unwillingness on the part of the Palestinians to compromise on the most crucial and thorny issues at this point." CJC too said it was heartened that renewed attempts to reach an agreement will be made before the Palestinians' self-imposed deadline of Sept. 13.

B'nai Brith Canada reacted "with grave concern" to the collapsed talks. BBC president Lawrence Hart called on Barak to convene a "World Solidarity Conference" of Jewish leaders to offer support for Israel and to "reaffirm our consensus on the question of Jerusalem."

The Canadian Jewish news

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Young people sought for race relations program

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — What is sometimes forgotten in the often tense relationship between the Black and Jewish communities, is the common history of oppression, enslavement and attempts at dehumanization.

Richard Gosling, executive director of North York Committee on Community, Race & Ethnic Relations, has come up with a way to "educate youth between the ages of 15 to 24 about the lasting effects of racial hatred," according to a media release.

The idea, Gosling told *The CJN*, is to have bright, socially conscious young people – 20 from the Black community and 20 from the Jewish community – learn about each other's history.

They would then go out in the community to help sensitize people to the dangers of racial hatred. In particular, said Gosling, they would help youngsters from, for instance, Rwanda, Somalia, Vietnam, the Sudan and Ethiopia, deal with the lasting effects of racism.

This project, the committee hopes, will "help build bridges between different groups by encouraging the gradual development of understanding and respect for one another, to encourage young people to realize their responsibility for eradicating racial hatred in their communities, and to motivate them to make a positive move towards change."

In early fall, the participants will take part in programs at a Windsor centre commemorating the Underground Railroad – which smuggled slaves into Canada – and the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre, UJA FEDERATION, in Toronto.

They will learn about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad and the events leading up to its construction. They will also learn about Rosa Parks, the woman who faced taunts, threats and physical harm when she sat at the front of the bus in pre-integration Alabama.

The group will then go to Windsor, where they will take a simulated journey of the Underground Railroad. They will see the wagons with false

Continued on page 17

The parochet (covering for the ark holding the Torah) created by Suzy Tanzer for the Beth Emeth Bais Yehudah Synagogue in Toronto.
Please see story on page 14.

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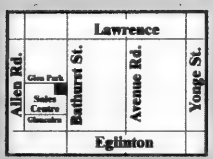

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VETERANS ARE CHARITABLE: The General Wingate Branch 256 recently donated a wheelchair to the Baycrest Centre. Seen, from left, are the late Adolph Goldberg, vice-president; Sam Romberg, president; and Shirley Worth, Baycrest Centre.

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Accountable for our decisions

From the editor's desk

Accountability – the notion that individuals who vie for the authority to make decisions affecting the lives of the people over whom they wield authority must be responsible for the consequences of their decisions – infuses every level of western, democratic life.

It is democracy's most valued test of personal integrity.

First and foremost, it applies in the public sector. It applies in the volunteer sector too, and even in the private sector – although with certain modifications.

The concept rests essentially on two pillars: that we be able to change our decision-makers seamlessly, without disruption in the decision-making process, and certainly without violence or upheaval; and second, that our decision-makers are always acting in the larger, communal interest and not in the narrower, self-interest.

This is the basic theory of accountability. Of course there are myriad variations on the theory according to the institutions, the histories, the cultures and the loyalties involved. Moreover, one person's call to account is another's vendetta. And one person's forbearance is another's accusation.

Nevertheless, it was against the backdrop of our esteemed theory of accountability, that I mused over two items that appeared in last weekend's news.

The headline on the first item was "Ontario water-system crisis looms." The item dealt with a report released by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment that found more than half of 241 municipal water treatment facilities examined by the ministry in the wake of the Walkerton e-coli tragedy, did not meet provincial safety standards! Fully 131 of the 241 systems inspected failed inspection. Another 389 municipal treatment systems remain to be inspected. Who knows what the results of those inspections will be, but there is no reason to think that they will yield a safety rate higher than the shocking 46 percent evidenced in the first 241 systems examined.

The release of the ministry's report followed by one day the uncharacteristically harsh words of the environmental commissioner, Gord Miller, on the government's failure to attach any urgency or priority to environmental protection. "Is the ministry unwilling, incapable or incompetent to perform the task? Or has the ministry management abdicated its responsibility," Miller pointedly asked.

Miller asked the question of the government. But it was directed at all Ontarians.

Ideological differences among us aside, do we not all agree that the provision of safe, healthy drinking water is one of the minimum expectations we can reasonably demand of our provincial government?

Our society is one of the most technologically advanced in the world; it is one of the most affluent in the world. How is it possible then, in this day and age when space shuttles leave the earth's atmosphere and return as a matter of routine, when information travels in a matter of seconds from one computer terminal to another thousands of miles away, that so many Ontarians live with the imminent possibility of being unable to drink from their local community's water supply?

The headline on the second news item was "Canadian Alliance could court Bloc Québécois." The sub-headline expanded upon the main one: "Day won't rule out post-election coalition with separatist party to boost conservatism."

Boosting conservatism is surely a valid political objective. But is it a higher objective than the preservation of the country itself?

The question is not simply rhetorical; nor is it unreasonable to ask it in the circumstance.

The Bloc Québécois, along with the Parti Québécois, is committed to the secession of Quebec from Canada. Both have countless times, unambiguously and publicly, rejected the renewal of the federation in favour of the dismantling of the federation.

Assuming the Canadian Alliance's objective is to one day govern Canada, surely such a laudable objective is antithetical to that of the Bloc Québécois, which is to one day diminish Canada.

If the two parties' strategic aims are incompatible, as they appear to be, any common tactical arrangement must also be incompatible.

Can the two parties' common cause of toppling the Liberals be a sufficient platform on which to build voter trust?

Surely voter trust must be earned on the basis of positive aims, on the basis of defined, and even possibly, lofty and idealistic visions for a country. But for Canadians, can there be anything positive in the Bloc Québécois's expressly avowed aim of destroying Canada?

A decentralized Canada, which is a chief plank in the Canadian Alliance platform is not synonymous with a dismembered Canada.

A pact of expedience with the Bloc Québécois therefore seems hardly an appropriate way of winning support among Canadians for the right to improve the Canadian federation.

* * *

The next column in this space will appear on Aug. 24. I hope to share with you some of the interesting material that will have undoubtedly collected on my desk in the intervening two weeks.

MBD

SEE JN

ROUGHING IT: Sixteen young immigrants to Toronto spent five days camping in tents near Bolton, Ont. and learning about their Jewish heritage, as part of a Jewish Newcomer Youth Project. The UJA FEDERATION/Jewish Immigrant Aid Service initiative plans two more sessions this summer. Clockwise from left are Pavel Anianov, Anton Poverennov, counsellor Alex Zaidlin, Leon Vorobechik and Michael Fil.

Campaign 2001 to focus on children's initiatives

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

BARRIE, Ont. — By focusing on children, adults focus on the future instead of living in the past, Rabbi Yehiel Pupko told a gathering of UJA FEDERATION's Campaign 2001 leadership.

The Judaic resource consultant to Chicago's Jewish federation, Rabbi Pupko – who is also the grandfather of a one-year-old – tied his talk to this year's campaign theme: The Campaign For Our Children.

"Our children are the people who keep us functional," he said.

The day-long leadership retreat, attended by 100 people at the cottage of Allan and Hinda Silber, also included talks by Clive Lessem, New York-based Senior Jewish Agency Representative to United Jewish Communities, and by local representatives of agencies that receive campaign funds.

The campaign goal this year is $45 million, representing a $4 million increase over last year. The extra funds will be devoted strictly to children's initiatives, said Ed Sonshine, who is co-chairing the campaign with Ron Frisch.

Campaign will kick off officially with a community launch at the Royal York Hotel on Aug. 30, featuring Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's minister for Israeli Society and the World Jewish Community; and the Sheba Choir, a troupe of Ethiopian Israeli children.

Perhaps the most poignant presentation of the retreat was that of Jewish Family and Child Service social workers Janice Shaw and Debbie Feldman, about JF&CS' program for children exposed to abuse, as well as services for families living under the poverty line.

When provincial welfare changed two years ago, it put an extra load on JF&CS, said Perry Romberg, senior planner, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Seymour Epstein, executive director of Toronto's Board of Jewish Education, said that although the Jewish community has much to be proud of, it's been "falling behind" because of limitations on day school subsidies.

"This campaign includes a serious increase to the cap," he said. The goal is an increase of $1 million over the $7 million currently allocated, he told *The CJN*.

More funds are also required to meet the needs of special education students, he noted.

Epstein also addressed the connection between local and overseas aspects of the campaign, when he told of a new local supplementary school teacher who is an alumna of a campaign-funded Joint Distribution Committee summer camp in Hungary.

"The campaign is all one," Epstein said. "An investment we made years ago ended up bringing us a Hebrew teacher from the Carpathian Mountains."

There are 18,000 youth in summer and winter camps across the former Soviet Union, said Lessem. Funding isn't available to accommodate everyone who applies, he noted. "For an extra $250 (US) a year, we can take an extra kid to camp."

Enhancing Jewish identity for local youth is a function of the March of the Living, the annual trip to Poland and Israel for 11th and 12th-graders, as well as Birthright, the free 10-day trip to Israel for 18-to-26-year-olds, noted Susan Jackson, UJA Federation's director of community planning, continuity, culture and overseas affairs.

"I became completely inspired," said recent Birthright participant Judith Zwaigenbaum. "Many [of the 325 Toronto participants thus far] are calling their leaders, saying, 'What can I do to continue this experience?' It has given us encouragement to want to become part of the community again."

Allan Reitzes, the federation's executive vice-president, spoke about issues affecting Ethiopian olim, and Maxyne Finkelstein, executive vice-president of UIA Federations Canada, discussed the summer camp in Kiev and the situation of children living near Israel's northern border.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to visit blind or homebound seniors. No physical care is involved. Call Paula Mintzberg 225-2112, ext. 118 at the Bernard Betel Centre.

***

The Canadian Cancer Society is looking for volunteer drivers with vehicles to take people to treatment centres. Can you spare a few hours a week? Choose your own schedule and hours. Drivers will be reimbursed for mileage. For more information, call the North York Unit 638-0771.

***

Read on to tape, segments of math and/or computer science textbooks for Ontario Audio Library. These books are ordered by print disabled students. The location is Don Mills/Sheppard area for two hours per week at flexible times. People with a clear speaking voice and knowledge of the subject matter should call the Volunteer Centre of Toronto-North York Branch at 631-6117.

***

Be professionally trained as a puppeteer! Educate young people about bereavement, drug awareness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, violence, viruses. The Concerned Kids needs volunteers to help present puppet programs to young people ages 4-14. Must be willing to commit ½ day per week for the school year until 2001. A car may be necessary. Call Joyce or Livia at 636-1656.

***

Wanted! Volunteer board members for the North York Women's Centre. The centre is looking for women with skills in fund-raising, finance, public relations, community development, programming, human resources, policy development, anti-racism/anti-discrimination, volunteer development, legal affairs and advocacy. If you are interested, call Iris or Jessica at 781-0479.

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Toronto women greet Queen Mother on her 100th birthday

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The only Canadian Jewish woman known to have spoken to the Queen Mother Elizabeth during her official 100th birthday party in London, England, says she was honoured by the chance to show her respect.

Beverley Lamster Koven of Toronto was representing the Canadian Mothercraft Society, of which she is executive director. She said the parade in front of the royal box slowed down just enough for Koven and her three Mothercraft colleagues to wish the Queen Mother happy birthday and to hear Her Highness and Prince Charles say "thank you very much."

"We were lucky to get that chance," she told *The CJN*. "The group behind us had 60 ladies and they were bearing down."

The Canadians were invited to participate in the celebrations because the Queen Mother is a patron of Mothercraft, which was established in Toronto in 1931.

The organization – Koven has been executive director for 11 years – has a branch in New Zealand, but none in Britain. It offers research, information and training to families and others involved in child care to support healthy child development.

The parade and reception were held July 19, even though the Queen Mother's birthday is not until Aug. 4.

Wearing khaki skirts and white T-shirts emblazoned with "Canada," the four marchers, led by Koven in a red sweater, carried a banner with Mothercraft and its logo. They were one of the smallest groups to take part in the event, which featured many aspects of British life, including dancers in brief costumes representing rock 'n' roll and other forms of modern entertainment.

"The Queen Mother was too tired to attend the reception" that followed at St. James Palace, the home of the host, Prince Charles, Koven said. But, she added, champagne flowed freely for the 500 guests, and a string quartet played.

On one of her five days in London, Koven had a reunion with her son, Mikel Koven, a professor of film at the University of Wales.

Other Canadians attending the celebration included members of the Black Watch and Scottish regiments and members of the Commonwealth Teachers' Exchange program.

Beverley Koven (far right) of Toronto and her three Mothercraft Canada colleagues spoke to the Queen Mother at her 100th birthday party and parade. The others, left to right, are Tanya Condo, Sarah Liddell and Debbie Margetson.

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Designer creates Glenn Gould stamp

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In his native Israel, Avi Dunkelman had never heard of Glenn Gould, the brilliant but eccentric Canadian pianist.

Now, the 45-year-old Thornhill resident has produced an evocative tribute to Gould with his winning design of a Canadian postage stamp that pays tribute to the late pianist.

The 46-cent issue measures barely two square inches, but Dunkelman, a graphic designer and instructor at the Ontario College of Art, has managed to use the small space to tell much about Gould and his quirks.

Dunkelman's design was among the winners for Canada Post's 68-stamp Millennium series.

Last year, Dunkelman placed second in a competition to design a stamp in tribute to the Pan-American Games in Winnipeg.

The Gould stamp was also issued for collectors in blocs of four in homage to Canadian musicians, the others depicting Guy Lombardo, Portia White and Felix Leclerc.

"I'm a fan of classical music, so this was a fun project for me," says Dunkelman, a Haifa native who left Israel for Canada in 1977. "It's also a great honour."

To research Gould, Dunkelman contacted the Glenn Gould Foundation, which provided him with sheaves of information and photographs.

Dunkelman's winner is a collage of three images: a silhouette of a 17-year-old Gould dazzling an audience in Moscow; the last studio portrait taken of the pianist, showing him in a pensive pose; and those famous hands in their trademark position, hovering low just above the keyboard.

It's all set against a backdrop of the opening musical bars of J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, whose interpretation by Gould brought him worldwide fame.

Canada Post issued one-million of the Gould stamps. The entire Millennium collection is also available in book form.

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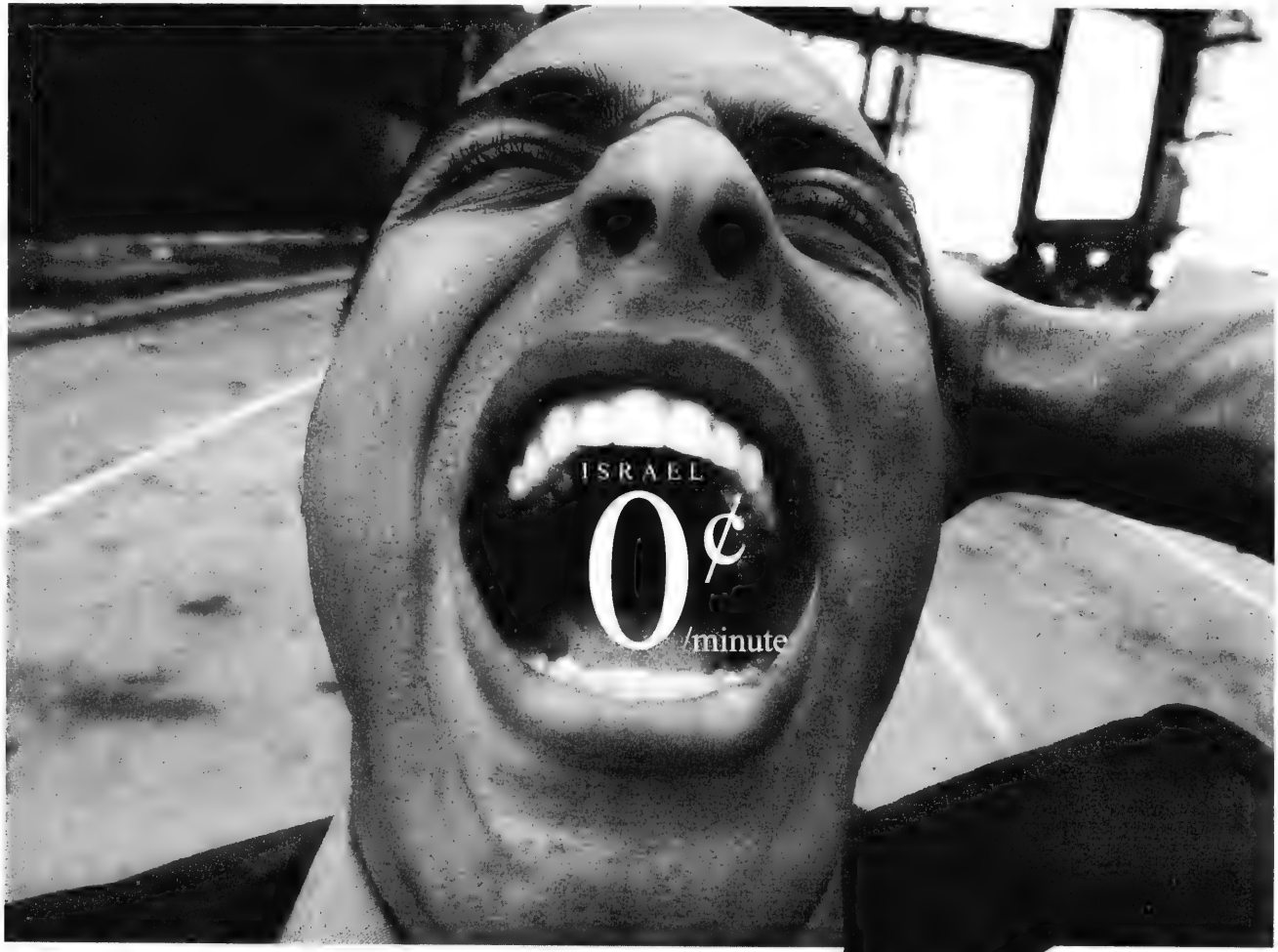

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Dry Bones
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Interpreting Camp David

How are we to interpret what happened at Camp David? A week ago, Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat returned from there without a signed, final agreement in hand. The 14 days of talks were called a failure. A pall immediately settled over the area as various pundits threw up their hands in despair for the peace process and predicted the possibility of renewed Palestinian violence.

Arafat was greeted by throngs of cheering crowds conveniently awaiting his arrival. He was widely hailed among his people as a hero for having resisted the plea to compromise his claim to complete sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem.

Barak was met at the airport by his wife and the dutiful if not friendly foreign minister David Levy, who extended an official but not warm hand of greeting. The prime minister was not hailed a hero by any Israelis. Rather, most reacted with curiosity, some with caution and the Opposition with calumny, branding him a traitor for having offered any sort of compromise over shared sovereignty. Three motions of non-confidence awaited the exhausted prime minister.

Merely days after the "failed" summit, low-level talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians have resumed. Saeb Erekat and Oded Eran met on the weekend to map out the next steps of the discussions left unresolved at Camp David.

One wonders, however, what next steps the two men are mapping out. What compromises will the two sides be willing to make today that they forcefully and definitively rejected 10 days ago? The situation is indeed intriguing.

Some commentators suggest that these events point to a greater measure of consensus having been reached by the parties at Camp David than has been publicly disclosed. They suggest the deliberate depiction in the Arab world of Yasser Arafat having withstood the demands of the prime minister of Israel and the president of the United States has raised his stature among his people to such a degree that it will enable him in relatively short course to announce a modified compromise of some sort, acceptable to the majority of his people.

While the speculation may be interesting, it is in fact pointless. Whether or not the sides have reached more of an agreement than they have told their respective publics is relevant only in terms of the substance of such an agreement, if it exists. And if the substance of the agreement involves compromises regarding the Old City of Jerusalem, it is incumbent upon the government of Israel to make those known as soon as possible.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO

On July 1, in the city of Shiraz in Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Court convicted 10 Jews on the false charge of spying for Israel. They were sentenced to between four and 13 years imprisonment. Each one must be remembered. They are: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr.

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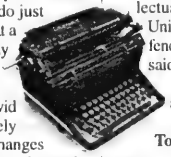
Moderate Mideast forces must align

To those of us who believe in the possibility of peace, the natural response to the failure of the Oslo process to have achieved peace by now is an angry one. We blame Islamic fundamentalism, Hamas bombs, Israeli extremism, the Hebron massacre, Yigal Amir – the forces that have stood as obstacles to the peace process. But in fact the answer is not so simple.

In the Middle East, as in all ethnic conflicts, the key to peace lies in winning over the moderates. It hinges on gaining the support of the silent majority, people who espouse views theoretically supporting peace but say, "While I believe in peace and am prepared to make concessions for peace, how can you trust an enemy who is committed to your destruction?"

Doing so requires significant confidence-building measures that will enable one to recognize the other side's commitment and actively support the peace process. Oslo was originally designed as an attempt to do just that. It was signed with the expectation that a strong alliance of moderates would ultimately lead to a decline in the popularity of extremist factions on both sides.



In the wake of the unresolved Camp David summit, fear and distrust still run extremely high in the region. With all the practical changes that the Oslo process has brought, little has changed on that front. Oslo was built on the recognition that the principle "high fences make good neighbours" is not applicable to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The two societies live among one another. Thousands of Palestinians work within Israel proper, to say nothing of the Israeli-Palestinian Arabs who have representation in the Knesset.

The challenge for Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Chairman Yasser Arafat is to send a joint message that can instil hope and vision among their people. It is time for true confidence-building measures. It is time to get past the rhetoric of conflict, and understand that a successful peace process depends upon the ability to address the concerns of the moderate forces. It is time for Barak and Arafat to tell the Palestinian and Israeli people that it is hopeless to wait for full agreement before aligning themselves with the other side. Rather, they need to agree that only through an alliance between the moderates can a shared vision of the future be forged.

Ilan Gewurz
Boston, Mass.

* * *

Never leave Jerusalem

When the Romans went into Israel, burned and slaughtered the people, most of the Holy places were ruined. Israel is still mourning the tragedy.

The Jews, who were scattered around the world, suffered persecution and pogroms, which were later followed by the Holocaust.

In 1948, Israel got back a portion of its land and became a small state. Right after this happened, the Arabs attacked. The Jews defended. Much unnecessary blood was shed.

Now the Arabs want back what little is left of Jerusalem? The Jewish people should never leave Jerusalem!

Joseph Sugar
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

U of T board should be ashamed

I, like many alumni of the University of Toronto, was shocked by the choice of Edward Said as the recipient of an honorary doctorate at the spring convocation of the university.

However, my surprise turned to revulsion when I read a short statement in the *Jewish Telegraphic Daily News* bulletin of Wednesday, July 19, from New York. It stated: "Professor Threw Stones at Israel: A Palestinian intellectual who is a professor of literature at Columbia University admitted he threw stones at Israel's border fence from Lebanon earlier this month. *Edward Said* said he was indulging in a harmless act of joy."

The board of the university should be ashamed!

Judy Feld Carr
Toronto

* * *

Aghast CJC chose Mulroney

The selection of Brian Mulroney as the keynote speaker of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, Plenary 2000 shows total disdain for the opinions of others. How can it possibly be that Brian Mulroney, who could easily win first place as Canada's most despised political figure, was chosen by a CJC executive?

Reuven Carin
Montreal

* * *

Considers Anne Frank schlock

Re: Stratford production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* (*CJN*, July 27). What do Shoah junkies, "anti-Zionists," those who live off the avails of multiculturalism and their fellow travellers in the media, academe, the UN and the religious left, all have in common?

They just love *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Ahh… the joys of victimhood. It gives them everything they want to believe in about the Jewish stereotype. There's poor old Otto Frank again… with access to weaponry, awaiting the inevitable fate – for the rest of his family, that is. There's young Anne still oozing "hope" that the most misbegotten enemies of the Jewish people might still "cut a bit of slack" after all.

What a role model for combatting our equally misbegotten enemies of the present! Enough already of this anesthetizing "emotionally stretched" schlock.

Norman L. Roth
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

What they said at Camp David

By ALUF BENN and YOSSI VERTER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The Camp David summit failed because Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat "was afraid to make the necessary historic decisions at this time to bring about the end of the conflict," Prime Minister Ehud Barak stated at the concluding press conference.

This came shortly following President Bill Clinton's announcement, that, after 14 days of "intensive talks," he had "concluded with regret" that Israel and the Palestinians "will not be able to reach an agreement at this time."

Barak said it was Arafat's position on the Jerusalem question that had prevented an agreement. He said the "vision of peace is not dead but has suffered a hard blow at the hands of the Palestinians."

Clinton announced that a senior American official would visit the Middle East in the weeks ahead to assess the possibility of renewing the negotiations. He also called on Barak and Arafat to avert violence and not to take unilateral steps.

Arafat left Washington without making a statement. However, senior Palestinian sources reacted bitterly to the Israeli and American criticism of their negotiating tactics.

Hassan Abdel Rahman, the PLO's representative in Washington, blamed "Israeli intransigence" for the breakdown of the talks. Israel's offer of limited Palestinian sovereignty in Jerusalem was a "non-starter," he said, adding that the Palestinians had insisted on sovereignty over the entire Old City.

A joint statement issued by the three leaders said that Israel and the Palestinians both "commit themselves to continue their efforts to conclude an agreement on all permanent issues as soon as possible."

Pale and clearly exhausted, Clinton said that the fate of Jerusalem proved to be the most intractable issue and that the sides had explored and rejected the possibility of a partial agreement.

The joint statement added that talks should be based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and that the sides should "undertake to create an environment for negotiations free from pressure, intimidation and threats of violence."

In an apparent reference to Arafat's plan to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state on Sept. 13, which the Palestinians could read as a reference to Israeli settlement activity in the territories, the parties said they understood the importance of "avoiding unilateral actions that prejudge the outcome of negotiations, and that their differences will be resolved only by good-faith negotiations."

The breakdown came despite redoubled efforts by Clinton after his return to Camp David from Japan. For two days in a row, Clinton held talks late into the night, Tuesday's ending at 3:15 a.m.

At 3 a.m. Tuesday, Arafat sent a letter to Clinton saying he saw no point in continuing because the Israeli position on Jerusalem could never lead to an agreement, Palestinian sources said.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak and U.S. President Bill Clinton at the concluding Camp David press conference. [RNS Reuters photos]

The summit reached its end following a three-hour meeting between Clinton and the top negotiators for Israel and the Palestinians, Shlomo Ben-Ami and Saeb Erekat, at which the two presented their positions on the Jerusalem issue. When the meeting ended, at 2 a.m. Wednesday, and Ben-Ami briefed Barak on the outcome, it was clear that no agreement would be reached.

Erekat said the Palestinians insisted on full sovereignty over east Jerusalem, which would be the capital of Palestine, with Israel to be given sovereignty over only the Jewish Quarter and a "safe passage" route to the Western Wall.

Ben-Ami proposed the transfer of the Arab neighbourhoods in northern Jerusalem to the Palestinian state, Palestinian administrative rule in the Old City, a Palestinian flag on the Temple Mount with the site to be under Muslim religious control, and free access to the holy places.

Erekat made it plain that this was not enough.

At the subsequent press conference, Clinton said that "significant progress" had been made at the summit, though "under the operating rules that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, [the sides] are of course not bound by any proposal discussed at the summit."

With an eye on the domestic political scene, Barak emphasized this point more than once in his statement and in replying to questions, noting once that all the positions put forward during the summit meeting were rendered "invalid" by the failure, and again that all the positions were "null and void" and could not be invoked by the Palestinians as a starting point in future negotiations.

He said there were three points on which he would not compromise: "The security of Israel, the sacred values of the Jewish people and the unity of the nation. If we face a choice between undercutting one of these [principles] and entering a confrontation, the choice will be clear to every Israeli."

He added, "If we have to enter a confrontation, we will be able to look our children straight in the eyes and say that we did everything, everything, to prevent that confrontation."

On the Jerusalem issue, Barak confirmed that the Israeli delegation had put forward ideas that would have enlarged and strengthened Jerusalem "beyond anything in its history" by annexing to the city the large Jewish settlements around it. In return, the Palestinians would have been given control of the Arab villages around the city.

Regarding his diplomatic disappointments on both the Syrian and Palestinian fronts, Barak said, "We can look in the mirror and say that in the past year, all the possibilities of bringing about the termination of the conflict between us and the Palestinians were exhausted, but unfortunately the conditions are not yet ripe.

"Israel's positions were given full legitimization by the United States and there is no disputing the fact that Israel was ready to go the full road to achieve peace."

Clinton had special praise for Barak's "courage" in "understanding the historical importance of this moment" and for going beyond past Israeli positions on Jerusalem and the other core issues.

The president said that "the prime minister moved forward from his initial position more than Chairman Arafat," particularly on Jerusalem. However, he noted that Arafat "made it clear that he, too, remains committed to the path of peace."

Barak also moved to deflect anticipated criticism from the left-of-centre camp in Israel. "I understand [the feelings] of many in Israel who believe in coexistence and offering our hand in peace to our neighbours the Palestinians. I share their disappointment, but we will not stop the effort to achieve peace, albeit not at any price."

The prime minister said he would not call early elections. "I do not need a new mandate," he said in reply to a reporter's question. "I did exactly what I told the Israeli public I would do. I was not deterred by the hurdles, the polls or even by the inconvenient situation in the Knesset."

As details of the summit emerged, it was learned that Barak had agreed to accept as a basis for the discussions a proposal made by Clinton to divide the rule of Jerusalem. His consent was conditional on Arafat's accepting the idea as well. Clinton proposed, among other things, that the Christian and Muslim quarters of the Old City be transferred to Palestinian sovereignty, while the Temple Mount remain under Israeli sovereignty but administered by the Palestinian state.

Arafat rejected all the proposals and insisted throughout the summit on full Palestinian sovereignty over the Temple Mount and the Christian and Muslim quarters of the Old City. Barak made clear that he would not compromise sovereignty of the Temple Mount, because it is a "national holy site." Failing to reach agreement on this crucial point, Clinton decided to end the summit.

The trilateral statement

The following is the trilateral statement issued by the United States, Israel and the Palestinians at the end of the Camp David summit:

Between July 11 and 24, under the auspices of President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Chairman Yasser Arafat met at Camp David in an effort to reach an agreement on permanent status.

While they were not able to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement, their negotiations were unprecedented in both scope and detail. Building on the progress achieved at Camp David, the two leaders agreed on the following principles to guide their negotiations:

- The two sides agreed that the aim of their negotiations is to put an end to decades of conflict and achieve a just and lasting peace.
- The two sides commit themselves to continue their efforts to conclude an agreement on all permanent status issues as soon as possible.
- Both sides agree that negotiations based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 are the only way to achieve such an agreement and they undertake to create an environment for negotiations free from pressure, intimidation and threats of violence.
- The two sides understand the importance of avoiding unilateral actions that prejudge the outcome of negotiations and that their differences will be resolved only by good-faith negotiations.
- Both sides agree that the United States remains a vital partner in the search for peace and will continue to consult closely with President Clinton and Secretary Madeleine Albright in the period ahead.

The Shoah in American life

Some time ago, I read Eva Hoffman's book review discussing a work by Peter Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life*. Since so much had been written about the Shoah at the time, I refrained from commenting on it. But a recent article in Germany's leading newspaper on the subject led me to have another look at it.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The author considers the fact that as late as the 1950s and '60s, the Shoah was not a significant subject of discussion even in the Jewish community and there were no museums or monuments dedicated to its memory. Novick believes that — at least in the United States — this was in part due to Jewish worry of possible accusations of dual loyalty, for a discussion of the Holocaust inevitably led to the role of American and other western countries during the 1930s and '40s vis-a-vis Jewish persecution.

At the same time, the embattled position of Israel and the new identification of Jews with Israel's fate seemed to constrain an emphasis on Jewish faith and identity. Things changed after the Six Day War and with a strengthening of Jewish self-esteem in the Diaspora, the Holocaust became a major concern.

Novick discusses a remark American politician Jesse Jackson made in 1979, that he was "sick and tired of hearing about the Holocaust," and the somewhat related discussion by Israeli author Boas Evron, who in 1983 said that awareness of the Holocaust did not really further an understanding of the past, but had become a manipulation of the present. With the growth of Jewish economic well-being, a move from the political left toward the right and the rise of Jewish neo-conservatism, concentration on the Holocaust became a function of Jewish identity, a means of defence against inimical critique and thus an aspect of self-immunization.

Novick's book is not a polemical treatise, but it certainly has elicited the discussion of contrasting themes. In the course of this debate about the meaning of the Holocaust, it has become evident that a remembrance of the past no longer stands alone. It must be combined with a discussion of how it is being perceived and whether it is moving to the centre of awareness.

There are some people who claim that the Holocaust stands more in the centre of American cultural life than the Civil War, and that more Americans know about the Shoah than about Pearl Harbour or the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. I do not know whether it is so, but if that should be the case, it would certainly be a subject of keen interest and worthy of study.

One year later

In her fourth year of university, Talia (Tammy) McLaughlin is majoring in history, political science and publishing. She is currently the editor of the Hillel newspaper, *HaKesher*, and the chair of the Torah and Mitzvah Fund of the Beth Israel Synagogue Sisterhood. I asked her to write this column soon after she returned from Israel as a Birthright participant.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

When I asked her to tell me about her first year of Jewish life, this was her reply:

* * *

It is hard to know where to begin, she said. My Jewish life began with the waters of the mikvah as much as it did six years and nine rabbis ago when I read my first book on Judaism.

My beit din one year ago was a process of letting go, as well as a test of my knowledge and acceptance of Jewish practices. Yet it was the mikvah with its warm waters that passed over, under and around me that served to truly usher me into my Jewish life. It is those few minutes that I remember with such clarity. In that small space of time, I slid into my new life that occasionally amazes me with its differences. My first year as Talia has been one of simple changes, experienced with both tears and laughter.

It was my chance trip to Israel that brought about the biggest change. The Old City of Jerusalem with its narrow winding streets. The hot and barren desert of the Negev. The cosmopolitan city of Tel Aviv on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea. I will always be intrigued by the tenacity of this nation of people fighting to survive, as easily seen in desert kibbutzim with green groves as in soldiers with guns on Israeli borders. It was in such a diverse place that I was able to realize that I, too, could fit into a corner of the Jewish world without the shyness and marginality of "the convert" as before; I was simply another Jew.

I remind myself of this simple bit of wisdom when in my synagogue I slowly stumble through prayers and pages, or in social circles when I smile in cryptic explanation of my Irish last name. I have become part of my synagogue and university Jewish communities with happiness, both in undertaking new responsibilities and in acquiring new friends.

Yet I will always wonder if I will ever pass the "Jewish radar test," as one rabbi called the instinctive knowing of being in the presence of another Jew. In other words, I wonder if my Jewishness has become an intrinsic part of my actions as much as it has become a part of my thinking.

It is in the months of winter that this idea takes hold of me, because I do miss parts of my past life that are rare memories of my childhood – the twinkling lights strung around bushes and houses at the beginning of November, the carols sung ad nauseam at Christmas time, the family dinners that were not yet invaded by my choice of a different path.

My life will forever be divided into two distinct phases of before and after I became Jewish, which demand and need to be finely balanced. As difficult as my task is at times, it is as if I am seeing the world through new eyes, and as I navigate this new path, I must chuckle at my odd circumstance.

Yet for those times that I still feel shyly "the gentile" in my mistakes and lack of knowledge, I keep my conversion papers tucked away for the small reminder that I have created my own life, safe, loving and filled with simple joy as another unique member of the Jewish people. I will live, God willing, the next 50 years, slowly learning the jokes, the recipes, the Yiddishisms and the communalism of a Jewish life and culture that will both enhance and maintain my quiet faith.

It is an exciting prospect, and one that makes me grin from ear to ear.

Suffering not good motivation for Judaism

I was recently in an Orthodox shul that apparently has a noise problem. Congregants are seemingly more interested in talking about business than they are in davening – prayer. Copies of the following leaflet appeared in the shul prior to Shabbat: "We have seen so much tragedy, *so much suffering... Won't you stop talking now?...* It's time to Daven! *Talk to HaShem, not to your friends*!"

Bruce Elman in Windsor

Now, I am not unsympathetic to the purpose behind the notice. I certainly agree that this shul has a terrible problem with noise. It is often difficult to hear the chazzan's davening from the men's section let alone the women's. It is disturbing to those who are serious about prayer. It inhibits one's ability to daven with true kavanah – spiritual commitment. I am just not convinced that this particular appeal will do much good.

It reminds me of a morning minyan I once attended at a junior high school. The students were particularly uninspired by and generally uninvolved in the prayers. One teacher, who was – quite properly – disturbed by the students' behaviour interrupted the service.

She told the students that there had been a story in the newspaper that day about the construction of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin. Many German government officials had attended a ceremony to mark the significance of this memorial, but the mayor of Berlin had boycotted the proceedings because he did not want to have a Holocaust memorial built in his city.

Furthermore, the teacher told the students that even today, there were many people who were anti-Semites and would deny the Holocaust. *So, they should stop fooling around and take the prayers seriously!*

Once again, I sympathized with the teacher's intent. The students, generally, were making a mockery of the service and some attempt had to be made to get them back on track. But once again, this particular message will not – in the long run at least – solve the problem.

The fact is that any rational person hearing these messages would probably reason: "We've been davening for thousands of years. What do we have to show for it? 'So much tragedy, *so much suffering*.' In that case, why daven at all?"

And what of the pupils in the school? It seems to me that a child, or even a teenager, confronted continuously with stories of catastrophe and sorrow, would certainly conclude that, if so many people dislike us and want to harm us, perhaps it's better – or at least safer – not to be Jewish at all!

We seem to have lost the correct paradigm to explain the importance of Judaism. In order to place Judaism in its proper context, we should emphasize triumph over tragedy, freedom over slavery, blessings over curses, celebration over suffering and sanctity over sorrow.

In our dealings with young people, we must learn that tales of tragedy and suffering, catastrophe and sorrow, will not motivate them to lead a serious Jewish life. Joy and gladness, prosperity and fulfilment, blessings and thanksgiving, triumph and exultation, family and community, these are reasons to be serious about our davening, these are reasons to lead a committed Jewish life!

I once heard a Conservative rabbi give a High Holy Day sermon in which he told parents that, if they were going to bring their children to the synagogue only three times a year, they should *not* bring them on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Rather, he suggested they should bring them to synagogue on Simchat Torah and Shabbat Chanukah and Purim! He was right, of course, because when the children see the joy and happiness, the triumph and the thanksgiving, they will want to return to the synagogue over and over again.

The leaflet in shul should have read: "We have witnessed the triumph of the Jewish people, *we have so much to celebrate!* It is time to daven! Give thanks to HaShem!"

Bruce Elman is dean of the Windsor Law School.

The Kirshner File

Germany and Israel forge close relations

Last September, Ehud Barak, Israel's prime minister, became the first foreign leader to visit Berlin – Germany's old-new capital – on official business. Charged with historic symbolism, Barak's trip was, as he put it, tangible evidence of the important relationship between "the new, democratic Germany and the State of Israel that emerged from the ashes of the Holocaust."

Sheldon Kirshner in Germany

Thirty-five years after Israel and Germany formally established diplomatic ties, Germany today is Israel's closest friend after the United States. It is not by chance that Israel's new embassy in Berlin, scheduled to be opened in September, will be its largest in Europe.

Germany's special relations with Israel, and its treatment of its thriving Jewish community, stem from a desire to cleanse itself of the stain of Nazism. Beyond this compelling historical imperative, Israel and Germany are bonded by common western values, though policy disagreements occasionally flare up.

It may sound odd, but as Israel's former foreign minister, Abba Eban, has observed, no other country, with the exception of the United States, has done more to strengthen Israel than Germany. "We are aware of our special responsibility for the security of the Jewish state," Johannes Rau, Germany's president, told the American Jewish Committee recently. Germany's relationship with Israel, he declared, is "a cornerstone" of its foreign policy.

Across the board, from trade and tourism to cultural, scientific and military exchanges, Israel and Germany are bound together inextricably by a web of strong personal, political and institutional networks. "It really astonishes me," said a German diplomat in charge of the Israel desk at the foreign ministry in Berlin. "It's a close, very reliable relationship."

"Our history melds us together," said David Walzer, Israel's acting ambassador to Germany. "The shadow of the past will always be there, but both sides are trying to build bridges of understanding."

Politically, as Walzer pointed out, Germany is the engine that powers Israel's drive for closer links with the European Union (EU). Thanks to a German initiative, Israel was granted "privileged status" in the EU in 1994. And in 1999, under Germany's presidency, the EU signed a scientific and technical agreement with Israel. When Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder met with Barak last year, he promised to enhance Israel's economic position in the EU. And, Walzer added, Germany sought to soften the provisions of a 1998 EU edict to boycott goods produced by Israel in the disputed territories. On another front, Germany worked with the United States in May to gain membership for Israel in the United Nations' West European regional group.

In addition, Germany has been helpful in arranging exchanges of deceased Israeli soldiers and Arab guerrillas, and has played a role in trying to find downed Israeli navigator Ron Arad. Several weeks ago, Germany offered asylum to 400 members of the South Lebanon Army, which disintegrated following Israel's precipitous withdrawal from southern Lebanon on May 24.

Economically, Israel is Germany's biggest trading partner in the Middle East. The current volume of trade stands at $2.5 billion (US), excluding military sales. Israel's chief exports are high-tech products and machinery, computer software, medical equipment, agricultural produce and Dead Sea minerals. Israel buys German cars and trucks, industrial equipment and household electronic goods.

Germany's investments in Israel are growing, judging by the entry of Volkswagen, Siemens and Daimler-Chrysler into the Israeli marketplace. German companies helped build a new rail line from Tel Aviv to Haifa.

Although both sides are reluctant to discuss the topic, military relations, including intelligence co-operation in the field of anti-terrorism, are on the upswing. Germany has bought Uzi submachine guns from Israel, while Israel has purchased German tank engines for its fleet of Merkava tanks. The chiefs of staff of the Israeli and German armies have visited each other. German and Israeli soldiers have participated in joint exercises.

Embarrassed by the disclosure that German companies illegally transferred sophisticated technology to Iraq before the 1991 Gulf War, Germany dispatched Patriot missiles and gas masks to Israel, then agreed to deliver three Dolphin-class submarines to the Israeli navy.

Scientific, cultural and academic relations are on a high level. "They have developed quite well," said Walzer, who was posted to the Israeli embassy in Ottawa for several years starting in the late 1980s. Some 80 Israeli and German towns and cities are twinned. In youth exchanges, Israel ranks third behind France and Poland. One hundred and eighty thousand German tourists visited Israel last year, second only to Americans.

From Willy Brandt and Helmut Kohl to Yitzhak Rabin and Benjamin Netanyahu, German and Israeli politicians pay each other regular visits. "Germany's decision-makers know Israel personally," said a German diplomat who served in Tel Aviv. "They have an understanding of Israeli thinking on a wide range of issues." Indeed, the Israel-German friendship league is dwarfed by only those of France and the United States.

Germany and Israel exchanged ambassadors on May 12, 1965 – 15 years after the first formal meeting between Israeli and German parliamentarians in Istanbul, 13 years after the two nations signed a restitution accord in Luxembourg, and five years after David Ben-Gurion, Israel's prime minister, met with his German counterpart, Konrad Adenauer, in New York City. Since the early 1950s, Israel has received billions of dollars in German reparation payments, and until last year, Israel was the recipient of a separate aid package of about $100 million annually. These funds contributed to Israel's stability and survival in its critical formative years. Prior to the Six Day War, Germany shipped a whole host of weaponry, notably tanks, to Israel.

For all the warmth, tensions, some severe, have surfaced in the past four decades. Israel protested the presence of German rocket scientists in Egypt before they were removed.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder inspect a German honour guard in Berlin in September 1999.

At Israel's insistence, Germany extended the statute of limitations for Nazi crimes. Under Israeli pressure, Germany cancelled the sale of Leopard 2 tanks to Saudi Arabia. In 1981, Menachem Begin lambasted Helmut Schmidt over a speech in which he endorsed Palestinian national rights.

During the first half of the 1990s, a variety of problems roiled the waters, from the sale of German dual-use technology to Iraq to an upsurge of neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism on the heels of Germany's reunification. Germany's view of Israeli settlements in the territories as illegal under international law has ruffled feathers in Jerusalem, but its support of Palestinian self-determination is no longer a hot-button issue in Israel. In a declaration approved in Berlin in April 1999, the EU issued its strongest statement yet on behalf of Palestinian statehood.

Germany supports the Oslo peace process, and, according to Walzer, has tried, without success so far, to revive the multilateral track.

In Ramallah, Germany has opened a representative office accredited to the Palestinian Authority (PA). German and EU aid to the PA totals $120 million per annum. German assistance projects in the Palestinian autonomous areas include a desalination plant in Gaza, a sewage system in Bethlehem and Nablus, and an industrial park in Jenin. It's clear that, in Germany, the Palestinians have found a sympathetic partner.

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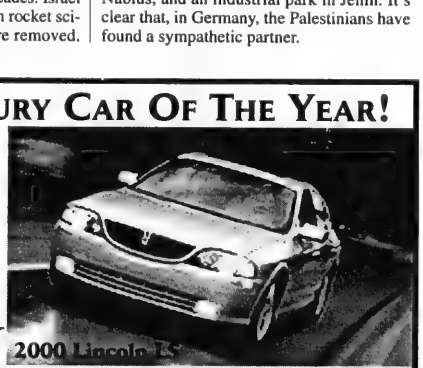

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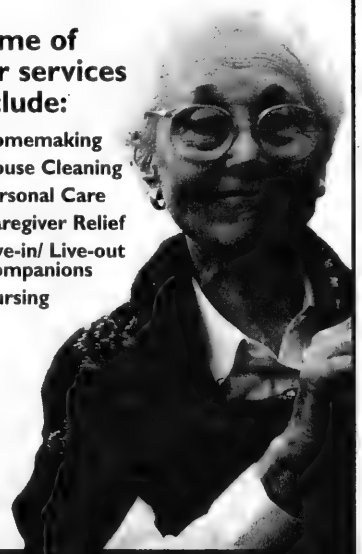

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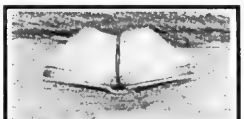
Jewish Life

Exploring Tisha b'Av

By RABBI MOSHE J. YERES

Parshat Devarim, Shabbat Chazon, always occurs immediately prior to Tisha b'Av, and this year it begins on Wednesday evening Aug. 9.

The Emperor Napoleon is purported to have visited a synagogue on the night of Tisha b'Av. Watching the multitude of Jewish worshippers seated on the floor, mournfully chanting and crying the dirges of Eichah and Kinot, he was very taken and is said to have remarked that a people that can continue for 18 centuries to observe a national day of mourning and sadness will surely survive forever.



Rabbinic Reflections

The Jewish people have survived for so long not simply through despair and mourning, but rather on account of a positive Jewish identity.

Yet it cannot be discounted that many of our people search out a rabbi and synagogue just to say Kaddish. I have not studied the statistics, but years of my service in the rabbinate brings to mind faces of Jews whose initial connection to faith and commitment began or was renewed when they first came for Kaddish or Yizkor.

Yet if death and mourning tend to be the draw for modern Jews to attend shul, then why is Tisha b'Av today not attended with greater intensity, both in numbers and in feeling? Why is it that Tisha b'Av just doesn't have the same feeling as Pesach or Shabbat? Why is the Kinot text less popular than the Haggadah? Is it just the matzah balls or cholent that we feel are missing?

Part of the answer is that we find it difficult and painful to picture the violence, starvation, upheaval, exile and utter despair that accompanied the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem, as well as the other pogroms, persecutions and Crusades that have affected Jewish history.

After all, these are not very pretty things to think about, and some of the kinot are fairly graphic. True, the Exodus does have its share of destruction, but the stress in its midrashim is not on the gore. And besides, at Pesach it was we who were saved from the plagues and the Red Sea through miracles.

Another part of the answer, I suspect, is that we are all sort of comfortable in our Diaspora, and we are really not all that anxious to recreate a Beit Mikdash-centred faith to replace the Judaism of 5760.

Many of us have gotten quite used to celebrating Pesach at five-star resorts. How many of us honestly would feel excited about shlepping the Passover lamb to Jerusalem to shuffle in line with every other Jewish family in order to join a mega-kiddush barbecue on Har Habayit?

I believe the real reason, though, is that Tisha b'Av tends to raise more questions than it answers. Why did the Almighty allow this terrible destruction to occur, and then have it recur a second time? And if it was for the theological reasons suggested by the prophets, then what does that portend for us today?

Have we suddenly become such a righteous nation not to fear with apprehension religious catastrophe and *churban* (destruction) again? And can we really comprehend the reason for *churban Habayit*?

We can search to try to find solace and comfort for individual mourners grappling with loss, but what can we say when it affects an entire people? The perplexing problem of *tzadik v'ra lo* – good and evil – is brought on Tisha b'Av to the forefront of our historical and religious experience and remains unanswered and unresolved.

But that may be the very reason to come to say the Tisha b'Av Kinot – because the common point of all these elegies in the Kinot is the didactic argument that man makes to the Almighty about His decree. While accepting God's judgment and decree as final and correct (*lecha Hashem hatzedakah*), there remains the nagging and perplexing question – why God do you appear to be removed (*lamah ta'amod berachok*)? This question is asked over and over again in the Kinot.

The Kinot offers a recognition of our faults, yet it wonders out loud if the punishment exceeds the wrong committed. The questions of Eichah have not been answered, and so we ask them to the Almighty over and over again. Kinot, therefore, gives expression to the dialectical nature of the relationship between the Almighty and the Jewish people.

Our tefillot explore both sides of this special relationship, and through the medium of Kinot, we come to grips with our own iniquities and also give vent to our frustrations.

Rabbi Yeres is a teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and at Aish Hatorah.

FATHER AND SON CHAVRUTAH: — Students from the Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad enjoyed prayers and Torah recently as fathers and sons studied together in the chavrutah (paired study) style. The study session was part of a Father and Son Brunch held in honor of Shavuoth, the holiday that commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai 3,300 years ago.

Jewish Life

Jewish distance learning

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You've dreamed of studying at an Israeli university but never had the chance. Or maybe you feel that it's time to join a regular Jewish studies class but can't make the commitment to show up on the same night every week. Well, there is an alternative. Now you can be part of a virtual classroom that's as far away as your keyboard. Today: Jewish distance learning on the World Wide Web.

First, an overview of how these courses operate: Some are self-directed and you follow prescribed courses at your own pace. Others use live, classroom-based video conferencing that allows students and instructors to communicate directly with each other, face-to-face. Still others are conducted via e-mail and a Web site. The instructor posts a lecture or assignment on the Web. Participants have a few days to do the required work. This is followed by a virtual class discussion, usually conducted via an e-mail list.

Classes are often free. However, courses that are offered by degree-granting universities normally charge a fee. Access to online materials in those courses is usually restricted to enrolled students who have a password. Most universities view their distance learning courses as equal in workload and as demanding as their classroom-based courses, and offer comparable credits.

Bar-Ilan University offers a wide assortment of courses guaranteed to challenge and stimulate **[http://www.barilan. edu/courses.html]**. This year you can delve into the Judean Desert Scrolls with Dr. Hanan Eshel. Dr. David Elgavish looks at War and Peace in the Bible, starting with Abraham and following the exploits of Joshua and King David. And for something a bit more peaceful, join Prof. Edwin Seroussi as he introduces you to Music in Traditional Jewish Culture and Society where he compares and contrasts "Jewish music in its diverse forms across the cultural bounds of Ashkenazi, Moroccan, Yemenite, Turkish and many other communities." These credit courses cost $360 (US) or you can sit in and audit them for $180 each. The next semester starts Sept. 17.

The Jewish Theological Seminary runs what seems to be a very sophisticated and well-designed site **[http://courses.jtsa.edu/]**. Credit courses at the Distance Learning Project include Introduction to Talmud, Methods of Teaching Prayer, Reintroduction to the Bible and Women in Rabbinic Literature. Jewish educators can participate in these courses at a reduced fee without receiving the course credits. There are also shorter two-month non-credit courses such as Talking about God, Finding Spirituality in Prayer and Teshuvah as Worship. Also check out the free courses and children's educational courses at learn@jts **[http://learn.jtsa.edu/]**.

How did Christianity cease to be a form of Judaism? What were the forces that made Christianity so antagonistic toward Judaism through the millennia? How should Jews relate to this religion? Those are some of the provocative questions that you could discuss and debate if you joined the cyber-class at Baltimore's jewishstudiesonline.com **[http://jewishstudiesonline.com/]**.

Hebrew College in Brookline, Mass., is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and is authorized to offer bachelor's and master's degrees in Jewish studies and Jewish education **[http://hebrewcollege.edu]**. Recent courses include Individual and Communal Responsibility to the Vulnerable, The Israel Dimension in Jewish Education, Using the Internet for Jewish Education and Finding Your Voice: A Cross-Cultural/Interfaith Writing Workshop.

Chicago's Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies offers distance learning for its master's and doctoral programs in Jewish studies and Jewish education **[http://www.spertus.edu/College/MJS/Dist_Lrn.html]**. Course packages include audio/video tapes, reading materials, a course curriculum and assignments. Distance learners are encouraged to be in regular contact with their program advisor by phone, fax or e-mail. And for a real personal feeling, distance learners are expected to spend at least five or six days a year at the Spertus home campus in Chicago.

Next time, we'll check out some free distance learning courses and look at how distance learning technology is helping hospitalized children in Israel continue their studies.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@home.com].

'Good gets good back'

***The Perfect System*, by Syd Kessler, Stoddart, $26.95.**

At the age of 30, Syd Kessler of Toronto was already a millionaire. His creative and innovative talent as a writer for radio commercials led to quick and unusual success. At one point, a company in which he was a partner controlled 68 percent of all Canadian broadcast advertising.

Books
Bernard Baskin

He writes, "I was wealthy and influential, had a great wife, two amazing kids, a beautiful home, and all the other trappings and distractions that money could buy. But – and clichés become clichés because they're true – inside I felt empty. It was a classic case: here I was with everything I had worked so hard to attain, yet I had never felt less fulfilled."

Then, after a six-year period of unhappiness he fell victim to a series of debilitating ailments and a protracted period of convalescence. He saw his career founder and his business wither away. Eventually, he was able to establish new business relationships on a more modest level in the field of cybertechnology.

Out of these vicissitudes – and much reflection and study, especially in the field of Kabbalah – the author has fashioned a philosophy of living that he calls "the Perfect System."

The principles that he advocates seem simple, practical and essentially religious in nature. Starting with the scientific premise that the physical universe is a result of a first cause, an explosion that moved outwards into space and time, he asserts that the world is governed by inflexible and unassailable rules.

"Even when we don't see any cause and effect link, we must remind ourselves that it is always present, always in play. Every action – good, bad, ugly, or indifferent – generates a consequence, a reaction, according to its nature. This is a major component in the basic laws of physics, but it's also a rule that affects us. Never forget that this system is perfect. It is not arbitrary and it doesn't make mistakes."

It is our failure to grasp the laws of cause and effect that creates chaos in our lives and in our world.

With apt illustrations from his life and experience, Kessler provides rich insights on such themes as, "our thoughts have power," "limitations of the five senses," "everything is in the seed," "no pain, no gain," and "energy is infinite."

When the author is unsure of what to do in any situation he asks himself two questions before acting. First, "How would I want to be treated in the same situation?" And then, "What good will it do?"

He asserts that the good must be to others first, not to yourself, that nothing good can come from an action that is not focused first on the betterment of another person. He maintains that we all want to be treated with respect, forgiveness and compassion, and believes beyond all doubt, that good gets good back – and vice versa.

Some readers will find Kessler's ideas about human nature and behaviour rather simplistic and over-optimistic, and the scientific framework in which the ideas are enfolded irrelevant. Others, however, in search of a pattern of workable values, will find this slender volume a helpful and valuable approach to more successful living.

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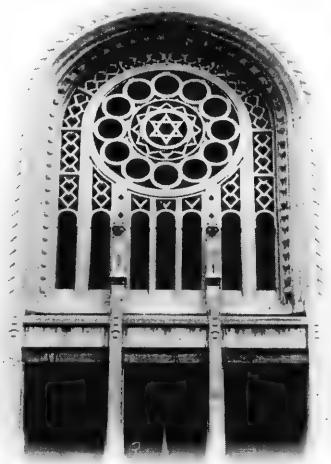

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Dreams and Fantasies: senior's view of youth's imagination

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to the CJN

TORONTO — Toronto artist Miklos Emhecht's whimsical and mythological paintings and poems are on exhibit at the Children's Own Museum (COM) at 90 Queen's Park, until Aug. 31.

Titled Dreams and Fantasies, the exhibition demonstrates the 78-year-old's vivid imagination and understanding of the unbounded visualizations of youngsters. Each painting is accompanied by a short poem.

Asked about his fantasy-like paintings, he says, "I feel like a child at heart. Many years were taken away from us in Europe – the war, communism. In every tragic situation, you must find a spark of humour to survive, like looking in a distorted mirror because jokes, antidotes and humour depict the truth."

With a rose in his lapel, the artist, humourist, composer, lyricist and lecturer could be taken for an English gentleman.

But his gentlemanly demeanour belies his wit and youthful outlook on life. Emhecht prides himself as being the oldest person (according to United Way) to have climbed the CN Tower's 1,800 steps, a feat he accomplished in 23 minutes.

He advises young people to "discover and see beauty, kindness and compassion in your surroundings and in the persons you meet" and to "learn how to listen."

He also emphasizes the need for creative thinking. "Imagination drove mankind ahead," he says.

Born and educated in Budapest, Hungary, Emhecht came to Canada after the revolution against the Communist regime in 1956.

Emhecht's interest in art developed during his childhood. When he was nine, he wrote a four-line poem and won a nationwide competition for students. At age 11, he wrote the lyrics and music to a song and entered a national student competition. He won first prize.

Miklos Emhecht

After seeing a large panoramic work by 19th-century painter Arpad Feszty titled *The Taking of Hungary*, the then 15-year-old Emhecht recalls being "dazed."

"I went to a park with my mandolin and in one sitting, wrote an entire symphony titled *Turanian Fantasia* [*The Hungarians*]."

It took 62 years before the symphony was premiered at a concert in Toronto sponsored by the Canadian Embassy of the Republic of Hungary, he adds.

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Artist inspired by Judaism

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — Suzy Tanzer has found a creative way to express her connection to Judaism – through Judaic art.

Tanzer, 36, is an award-winning textile and fabric artist who specializes in designing items such as chupahs, torah covers, Ark curtains and tallitot.

Biblical stories, mysticism and Jewish artifacts have spurred her creative juices. Her recent project, an Ark curtain with an intricate array of multi-coloured leaves, was inspired by the biblical notion of the tree of life.

"I'm drawn to vibrant colours and natural imagery," she said. 'There's a lot of natural imagery in the Bible."

The colourful curtain, which took 350 hours to complete, now covers Torahs inside Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue's Aron Kodesh.

Tanzer did not plan to enter the Judaic art industry. After a short stint as an independent filmmaker in the early '90s – she wrote, directed and produced *Vanishing Points*, a 20-minute drama that aired on CBC – she itched for a more personal, hands-on and less chaotic career.

"They say the film industry isn't for the faint at heart," she said. "I guess I'm not faint at heart."

After receiving compliments on furniture she painted as a hobby and with her knack for sewing, she decided to study material art and design at the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD), and textiles at Sheridan College.

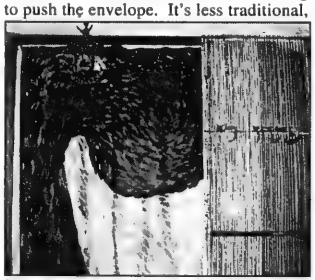
Around the time Tanzer entered OCAD in 1994, she attended a week-long camp for Jewish adults at the National Havurah Institute in the New England area.

Jewish observance, something she was not raised with, quickly became an inspiration for her art work and life.

Although inspired by Judaism, Tanzer notes her art is a personal expression and may veer away from traditional Jewish principles.

For instance, a tallit she stitched was decorated with special light blue fabric to symbolize water. "My idea of prayer and meditation is nature. I brought that idea to the tallit."

She said her work is "bringing a new sensibility to Judaic art, one that's willing to push the envelope. It's less traditional, more innovative."



Please see photo on page 3 for full colour details.

And the response has been positive, she said. A stark-white Torah cover she designed using old family linens, silk organza and silk duppioni has been entered into the world-renowned Spertus Museum Exhibition in Chicago.

Like many artists, Tanzer comes from a family of creative and artistic people. Her mother, Margaret, used to design sweaters, and her father, Sigfried, was a photographer. Her sister, Kathy Hart, currently works as a Judaic metalsmith.

But Tanzer warns that having art in the genes isn't enough to be successful. "It's like Einstein said. 'Being a genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration."

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

תשעה באָב, טאָג פון קאָלעקטיוון טרויער

פון אַלעק סילוועד

זיבן טעג פון היינט ווערט דאָס יידישע פֿאָלק איבער דער וועלט אָפּגיכטן דעם טענית פון תשעה באָב, אַ נאַציאָנאַל־רעליגיעזער טרויער־טאָג אין וועלכן יידן פֿאַסטן און טרויערן אויף דעם חורבן פון בית המקדש און פון ירושלים. שוין טויזנטער יאָרן טרויערן יידן איבער דער צעשטערונג פון בידע בתי־מקדש אין ניינטן טאָג פון פינפטן חודש אָב. דער ערשטער בית המקדש איז פֿאַרווייסט געווארן אין 586 (פֿאַר דער ניימער צייט רעכענונג) דורך נבוכדנצר, דער מלך פון בָּבל. ער האָט חורב געמאַכט ירושלים, פֿאַרברענט דאָס הייליקע הויז און געמאַכט אַ סוף צו דער יידישער מלוכה אין ארץ־ישראל. מיט 656 יאָרן שפּעטער (אין יאָר 70 פּוּ דער ניימער צייט רעכענונג) האָבן די רוימישע לעגיאָנערן געטאָן דאָס זעלבע אויפן באָפּעל פון רוימישן קיסר, טיטוס הרשע.

אויך אַנדערע שרעקלעכע געשעענישן אין דער יידישער געשיכטע זיינען דערמאָנט אין דאָזיקן טענית־טאָג, כאָטש זיי האָבן פּאַסירט אין שפּעטערע יאָרן. ביזן בַּר־כוכבאַ לעצטע פעסטונג, איז געפּאַלן אין דעם טאָג. גירוש שפּאַניע אין 1492 איז אויסגעפֿאַלן אין דעם טאָג אין נאַך אַנדערע. אָפּילו די אומגליקן, וואָס זיינען נישט אויסגעפֿאַלן פונקט אין דעם טאָג, ווערן אין פֿאַלקס זכרון אויך פֿאַרבונדן מיט תשעה באָב.

פּירן מיך מיינע זכרונות צוריק צו מיינע קינדער־יאָרן. אין דעם אָלגעמיינעם טרויער, וואָס האָט געהערשט אין אונדזער שטעטל סטאָפּניץ, האָבן אויך די חדרי־מגלך געמוסען אָן אָנטיל. שוין מיט וואָכן פריער האָבן מיר געלערנט „איכה", געוואָגט און פֿאַרטיטשט די פסוקים מיט אַזאַ אומעטיקן אָן האַלב־ווייַנעדיקן ניגון, אַז עס האָט זיך בשעת־מעשה געשטעלט טרערן אין די אויגן. ספּעציעל אין געווארן אומעטיק אויפן הארצן, ווען דער מורה פלעגט יעדע פֿאַר מינוט אַרויסלאָזן אַזאַ טיפֿן זיפֿץ פון זיין הארצן, אַזוי ווי ער אליין וואָלט אויפֿגערגעלעבט בידע חורבנות פון ירושלים.

חוץ דעם לערנען „איכה" האָט דער מורה דערציילט מעשיות וועגן חורבן, וואָס ער האָט אַרויסגענומען פון אַנדערע ספּרים. די קינדער האָבן אויפֿגעשטעלט מויל אין אויערן אין זיך צוגעהערט צו יעדן וואָרט. זיערע פֿאַנטאַזיעס צעשפּילן זיך אין זיי דוכט זיך אויס, אַז זיי לעבן אויבער די אַלע לעגענדעס, וואָס דער מורה האָט ערשט דערציילט. די געשעענישן אין די תקופות מישן זיך אויס אין עס ווערט שווער פֿאַר זיי קיינדער אויס־צוסאָרטירן די פֿאַקטן אין זייער ריכטיקער צייט.

פֿאַרנאַכט פֿאַרפֿאַלן די יידן אין שטעטל. מען עסט אַ מאָלצייט אין מען גייט מיט „קינות" אין די הענט אין שול. אַרויס אַנצוהייבן דעם טענית. מיין טאַטע ע"ה אין איך האָבן געדאַוונט אין דער גרויסער שול. מיין זיידע, מרדכי־לייב ע"ה, האָט געדאַוונט אין שכנותדיקן בית־מדרש. בין איך געגאַנגען פון איין פֿלאַץ אין אַנדערן, ווייל ס'זאָל מיך באַהערשט אַ רחמנות אויפן זיידן, וואָס ער איז אליין אין אַזאַ טרויערקער נאָכט.

עס איז האַלב־טונקל אין בידע היילקע פלעצער. חלבנע ליכטלעך, דאָ און דאָרט, וואַרפן אַ קאַרגן שיין אויף די ספרים. אויף די אַוועקגעלייגטע שטענדערס אויף דער פֿאַדלאָגע, אויף די נידעריקע בענקלעך, וואָס יידן האָבן מיט זיך געברענגט, זיצט מען אין די זאָקן און מען הערט זיך צו ווי דער בעל־קורא לייענט „איכה", האַלב זינגענדיק, האַלב רעציטירנדיק מיטן טראָפּ.

„איכה ישבה בדד העיר" לייענט אויפן קול. דער בעל־קורא אָן יידן זאָגן נאָך מיט אַראָפּגעלאָזטע קעפּ ווי אבלים. די לופט איז שוין איז פול מיט דעם אומע־טיקן ניגון פון די אוראַלטע קלאָגלידער. מען באַווייזט דעם חורבן ירושלים, „די שטאָט, וואָס איז געווען פול מיט מענטשן, איז ווי אַן אלמנה".

מיר ווינטשן אַלעמען אַ ליכטן טענית און האָפֿן, אַז דער פֿאַסט־טאָג פון פינפטן חודש ווערט פֿאַרוואַנדלט ווערן אין „מאבל לשמחה".

Harry Pollock's lifelong passion for James Joyce undimmed at 80

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — What would attract a good Jewish boy from Toronto to an abstruse Irish writer like James Joyce?

"Sex," says Harry Pollock flatly. "I had heard that Joyce's writing contained explicit sexual material, and I wasn't allowed to read it. Nobody tells me what's not allowed if it doesn't harm anyone else."

Pollock's initial prurient interest in the author of *Dubliners, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Ulysses* resulted in a lifetime of study and fascination. No dilettante, Pollock is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost Joycean scholars, no mean feat considering that *Ulysses*, despite its brain-bruising experimentalist style, was voted by literature experts late last year as the greatest novel of the 20th century.

Now, on his 80th birthday and with his passion for Joyce as undimmed as ever, Pollock can indulge in some of the fulsome praise that has come his way, including one plaudit that termed him "possibly the keenest James Joyce fan in the world."

Five years ago, York University recognized his self-taught skills with an honorary doctor of letters degree.

All not bad for someone whose formal education ended with a high school diploma from Harbord Collegiate Institute in 1939. Even so, "they stamped me for life," Pollock recalls of his salad days as a student. "They made me aware of a wider world."

Good thing, for his well-rounded training made him a true renaissance man: teacher, journalist, actor, playwright, novelist, poet and theatre director, not to mention founder of Toronto's Temple Sinai, and founder and (still) president of the Canadian James Joyce Society.

He's 80, but a young 80, and can still flex his considerable prowess. Opening Joyce's impossibly intractable *Finnegans Wake*, said to be the most difficult book in the English language, Pollock slowly but methodically unravels the puns, mutli-layered foreign words, portmanteaus, and dreamy, stream-of-consciousness meanderings with the ease of an Oxford don.

Harry Pollock

Joyce "opened up so much for me," he told *The CJN* in his book-lined study. "He led me to the Bible, to languages…to so much I love."

The Dublin Joyce both revered and reviled is a far cry from Pollock's birthplace, the Polish shtetl of Opatow, near Kielce. He was brought to Toronto at age five by his father, a penurious cobbler who had settled earlier in Kensington Market. The young Pollock took an instant liking to mythology and tales of adventure.

But his first jobs out of school were menial, grinding lenses (like Jewish philosopher Baruch Spinoza, he points out) and buffing plastic combs. During World War II, he never left town, serving with a Royal Canadian Air Force training command on York Street.

At war's end, Pollock began using his talent, becoming an advertising copy writer for a safety supply company. With two partners, he later opened his own ad agency, penning copy that hustled everything from pickles to hosiery.

"But all this time, my mind was somewhere else," Pollock recalls, "in the world of James Joyce, of language, stories, novels and literary criticism." His interest in Joyce had been piqued by the banning of *Ulysses* in the United States, which cited obscenity laws. A U.S. court lifted the ban in 1933 but prudish Canadian customs officials were seizing copies for years after.

Pollock began reading it in bits and pieces at a precocious 18, and finally smuggled a copy into Canada from New York in a suitcase's false bottom. The work thrilled him, for here was the tale of a day in the life of Leopold Bloom, a Jewish advertising salesman (note the resemblance) who wanders the streets of Dublin for 20 hours and encounters Jewish brothel keepers, drunken, anti-Semitic louts and assorted mythic-like figures. And here was his lusty wife, Molly, who cuckolds him, and whose famous orgasmic soliloquy ending the book ("Yes I said yes I will Yes.") nailed down its lascivious reputation. The book was just as steamy as Pollock had hoped.

Joyce's masterpiece, in turn, led him to Homer's ancient epics *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (on which *Ulysses* was modelled) and to Irish history and its pain.

Pollock began a torrent of activity, starting with an address to the prestigious James Joyce Society in New York. In 1964, he set up a Canadian society, and secured leading figures in the field for presentations. (At the First International James Joyce Symposium, held in Dublin, Pollock even got drunk with Joyce's son, Georgio.)

Fulfilling another dream, he got to play Leopold Bloom in a 1966 Toronto stage production of *Ulysses in Nighttown*.

Pollock was used to the classroom – he'd taught at Holy Blossom Temple's religious school – so it was a natural progression for him to be asked to teach Joyce to undergraduates at York University's Stong College in 1969. Here was someone who never attended university being asked to teach at one. He gave up business and never looked back. The relationship with York would last nearly 30 years through several courses, including creative writing.

Which he did, in spades. He's authored five plays adapted from sections of *Ulysses* and other Joyce texts; a book of poems, *The He and the She of It*; countless newspapers reviews and travel pieces; television scripts and radio documentaries; and is now putting the finishing touches to *Anna's Journal*, the third novel in a trilogy that began with *Gabriel* (1975) and *Max* (1997). The final instalment, he says, will sum up "the combination of the sacred and profane in my own life."

In between, Pollock found time to personally correspond with media guru Marshall McLuhan and Irish dramatist Samuel Beckett, not to mention the top Joyce scholars in the world.

He's been married to the same woman for going on 56 years, Vera (née Bacal). They have a son, a daughter and one grandchild.

The question Jewish readers of Joyce may have is this: why did the author make the greatest character in modern literature a Jew?

"Joyce had many Jewish friends," Pollock explains. "He studied languages and the Bible, and knew some Hebrew words. He probably had a sympathy for Jews, but he needed to construct a typical 'wandering Jew' who lives in an alien world. He did that in Bloom."

Joyce once said, perhaps mischievously, that he put enough mind-bending knots into his books to keep professors busy for a hundred years. Harry Pollock has loved every minute.

Greater Toronto Area

Government lies were greatest disappointment

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Lies to the Jewish people by both the Liberals and Progressive Conservative parties have been the greatest disappointment of his career, said Ben Kayfetz, former director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress.

Ben Kayfetz

"The leaders of either party knew they were lying when they promised to take action on Nazi war criminals. The reason for this was that in 1948, Canada signed an agreement to halt action on war criminals. This was a move in the Cold War that no one outside government knew of until decades afterwards.

"We were deliberately and knowingly lied to all those years," Kayfetz said at a luncheon marking the 40th anniversary of the New Fraternal Jewish Association (NFJA).

The most satisfying achievement of his long career, he said, was the enactment of anti-discrimination laws.

The NFJA was born after the murder of Yiddish writers in the Soviet Union was exposed, said Sidney Blinick, acting president of the association. "At the time, many Jewish leaders said we [NFJA] would last a maximum of three years."

The NFJA broke away from the United Jewish Peoples Order when "its domination by the Communist party became evident," he said.

The Yiddish and popular singer, Lenka Lichtenberg, who had just returned from the Czech Republic, entertained.

CJN student wins award

Continued from page 1

Although he has never taken professional lessons, Nisimov says he has learned a lot from his mother and from watching an Israeli television program about drawing cartoons.

He plans on attending an art college and hopes some day to work in an animation studio. "If I can draw, I should do something with it."

Becoming an artist, he says, "requires a small bit of talent and a lot of practice. Everyone has the talent, they just need to like to draw and have the desire to work hard at it."

Nisimov has returned to *The CJN* this summer as a cartoonist and illustrator.

Some of Michael's award-winning samples.

Race relations focus of project

Continued from page 3

bottoms that were used to smuggle slaves into Canada, learn about the different escape routes, and see the kind of irons the slaves were forced to wear.

They may have the opportunity to meet Rosa Parks herself, Gosling said. Before the visit to the Holocaust Memorial Centre, the youngsters will learn about the background and significance of the Holocaust, as well as the importance of the memorial and the role of survivors.

They will discuss how the Holocaust affected the Jewish community and society as a whole. They will also meet with survivors.

After the two programs, the participants will discuss how the trips affected them, and what they thought similar programs could accomplish for others.

Gosling said that "we want these young people to take leadership roles – we hope they will be champions of racial harmony."

For more information, or to take part, call the committee at 416-395-6475.

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Recipes make good gifts

BY EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

I love to share recipes with family and friends. I write out the recipes, place them in plastic sheets that fit into a binder, and give them as part of a first apartment or shower gift. I try and tailor the remaining part of the gift to go with the recipe. A roasting pan with a recipe for brisket, a rolling pin, cookie sheet and measuring cups with a cookie recipe, or a cake platter and a recipe for chocolate cake.

TENDER BEEF BRISKET WITH ONIONS

1 brisket (about 7 to 8 lb.)
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
½ tsp. paprika
8 to 10 large onions, sliced (about 3 lb.)
2 cups water

Preheat oven to 325. In large roasting pan, place the brisket, fat side up. Season the brisket with the garlic, salt, pepper and paprika. Place the sliced onions on top and around the brisket, then pour the water around meat. Place the roasting pan on a stovetop and bring the mixture to a boil (keep uncovered). Place the roast in the oven and roast, uncovered, for 2 hours, turning the roast over occasionally, each time spooning the onions back onto meat. Roast, covered, for 4 hours longer or until very tender. Remove from oven and let cool; cover and refrigerate overnight. Skim off fat. Trim fat from meat; slice thinly. To serve, arrange meat on platter, mounding onions over top. Yield: 16 servings.

Note: This roast can be made a day ahead. The flavour actually improves on reheating.

APRICOT CHICKEN

2 chickens cut in 8ths
½ cup apricot jam
1 tbsp. white vinegar
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
2 tbsp. soy sauce
1½ tsp. cornstarch
1 tbsp. cold water

In a bowl mix together everything but the chicken. Place the chicken pieces in baking dish and pour the glaze over the top. Cover and refrigerate 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 350. Bake uncovered for 1½ hours making sure to baste the chicken with the sauce twice. Serves 4 to 6. This can be doubled or tripled.

SWEET NOODLE KUGEL CUSTARD

½ lb. medium egg noodles
1 stick butter
8 oz. creamed cottage cheese
8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
8 oz. sour cream
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups milk
5 eggs
Cinnamon/sugar mixture

Preheat oven to 350. In a large saucepan cook and drain the noodles according to directions on package. Return noodles to the pan after they are drained and then mix the butter and cream cheese into the drained noodles. Mix well. Add the cottage cheese, sour cream, sugar, vanilla and milk to the noodles, mix well. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs. Add the beaten eggs and mix well. Pour the noodle mixture into a greased 3-quart casserole. Sprinkle the top of the kugel with cinnamon and sugar and bake for 1 hour. Serves 8.

VEGETABLE KUGEL

¼ cup pareve margarine or oil
3 onions, sliced
¼ tsp. dried thyme
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
2¼ cups grated raw potato
2¼ cups grated carrots
1½ cups grated tart apple
3 eggs, lightly beaten
¼ cup matzah meal
¼ tsp. grated lemon rind

Preheat oven to 325. In a skillet, melt half of the margarine. Saute onions, stirring and adding up to 2 tbsp. of water to prevent sticking, for approx. 5 minutes. Add thyme, salt and pepper. Reduce heat and cook, stirring often, for 15 minutes or until the onions are soft and golden. Let cool for 5 minutes. In bowl, combine the onion mixture, potatoes, carrot, apple, eggs, matzah meal and lemon rind. Mix well and then pat mixture into a greased 8-in.-sq. baking dish. Melt remaining margarine and drizzle over the top. Bake for about 1 hour or until golden around edges. (Can be covered and refrigerated up to 24 hours before baking.) Makes approx. 8 servings

YERUSHALAYIM KUGEL

7 cups water, boiling
1½ cups sugar
¾ cup margarine
1½-2 tsp. salt (depending on taste)
¼ tsp. pepper
1 lb. angel hair noodles
3 eggs, beaten

In a large pot, melt the sugar until it is liquid and a light golden brown. Do not overcook, and remove it from the heat immediately. Pour in water slowly, being careful not to let the steam burn you. Add margarine, salt and pepper. When margarine melts, add noodles. Bring noodles to boil and let them cook for 5 minutes. Cool for 20 minutes or longer. Slowly add eggs and mix well. (Make sure the mixture isn't too hot, or the eggs will be cooked instead of combined with the rest of the mixture.) After mixture is combined pour into a 9 x 13-in. greased pan. This can also be made in a deep round pan. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes. Serves 10 to 12.

POTATO KUGEL

6 medium potatoes
1 onion, grated
½ cup flour or potato flour
½ tsp. baking powder
1½ tsp. salt
¼ cup margarine
2 eggs, beaten
Pepper

Preheat oven to 350. Peel and grate the potatoes into a large bowl and add the beaten eggs. Mix well. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, salt, baking powder and pepper. When the mixture is combined add it to the potato mixture. Add the grated onion. Melt margarine and gently stir it in. Pour the mixture into a well greased casserole. Bake for 1 hour or until crisp and brown on top. Makes 6 servings.

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Who is the enemy of peace?

By BEN ARCHIBALD
Special to The CJN

Comment

At this writing, American President Bill Clinton has just announced the failure of the 15-day Camp David summit to yield a peace agreement ending the 100-year conflict between the Palestinians and Israel. Although the failure has delayed inevitable compromises on Jerusalem, borders and refugees, the approach taken by Prime Minister Ehud Barak was the responsible one.

Unlike the Oslo and Wye models, Barak sought to determine whether or not the Palestinians were genuinely interested in reaching an agreement with Israel. Sadly, the cries of the right are finally proving true, breaking the left's "Oslo-illusion" that Israel can be at peace with its neighbours as long as it continues to yield territory to the Palestinians.

Yielding territory and making concessions will only bear fruit when the party you are yielding to respects the agreement and abides by its principles.

Only a year ago in these pages, this author suggested that the glee world leaders took in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's demise was misplaced.

Netanyahu took an unpopular position, stating clearly that peace could not come without reciprocity or security for Israel. Barak built on this principle by making aggressive moves toward peace, sacrificing his coalition in order to determine once and for all if peace was attainable.

Peace on reasonable terms reflective of the common history of Israeli and Palestinian claims is not yet here. Another series of interim accords in which Israel continues to cede authority and control to the Palestinians without receiving anything in return will not change this basic fact.

Recognizing this, Barak pushed the Palestinians to the wall, stating that he and Israel were ready to risk national unity and much territory in order to make the hard decisions that are required of great leaders.

Many feel Barak went too far in his courtship of Arafat and a potential agreement. Leaving internal politics aside, Barak made a generous offer that would have proven a hard sell in a national referendum. Nonetheless, accustomed to the Israeli pattern of agreeing to interim accords and eventual concessions on all material points, Arafat balked at Barak's offer and chose to walk away from compromise and possibly into conflict.

Barak has displayed the courage of a great statesman, risking total failure in an attempt to determine what kind of partner Israel has in the current Palestinian leadership. After seven years of supposed bridge building and working side-by-side, Israel's partner is not yet ready.

Camp David's failure must not stop Israel from seeking peace. The lesson of Camp David is clear: concession upon concession will not make the Palestinians recognize or accept Israel's existence. What is needed is a fundamental change in perceptions and attitudes toward the Jewish state.

Until then, the Oslo model remains a poor and misguided one. Netanyahu was not the enemy of peace nor is Barak the enemy of the national camp. Israel must unite behind its prime minister in light of the sad reality that compromise does not always result in agreement.

The search for peace must continue, however, Israel must follow Barak's lead and only make agreements when they address all core issues to the conflict.

Ben Archibald is a fourth year law student at McGill University and a former judicial clerk on the Quebec Court of Appeal.

McGill grad wins journalism award

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Whether she's writing about an obscure 19th-century English poet or issues affecting world Jewry, Miriam Shaviv's high standards are evident.

The 1999 McGill graduate – who majored in English on a full scholarship and wrote her honours BA thesis on Jesuit bard Gerard Manley Hopkins – is the recipient of this year's JDC-Smolar Student Journalism Award for an article that appeared in the Aug. 16, 1999 issue of *The Jerusalem Report*.

The $1,000 (US) award is given by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to the Jewish student whose published story best fosters understanding of world Jewry. It was established in 1980 to honour the late Boris Smolar, former editor-in-chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Shaviv's winner dealt with the efforts of Winnipeg's Jewish community to recruit Jewish immigrants from Argentina. The magazine – a glossy, Jerusalem-based, English-language weekly – sent Shaviv to Winnipeg from her Toronto home for two days last summer to research the article.

Three years ago, she served as a summer intern at the *Jerusalem Report*. "I learned an incredible amount," she said. "It was really a formative experience for me."

Although her duties in Israel included a number of routine tasks, it was through the editing process that she learned the most, she said. Once she successfully completed her first article, her work appeared in every issue for the rest of her three-month internship.

"I was very lucky to get to write a lot. It doesn't always happen," Shaviv, 23, said in her distinctive accent reflecting a childhood and adolescence during which she lived in three countries.

Miriam Shaviv

It's "relatively rare" for interns to continue writing for the publication once their internship is over, she added. Other pieces she's contributed to the *Report* include a profile of Toronto's Mayor Mel Lastman and a feature on declining numbers in the Montreal Jewish community.

The award-winner, entitled *The Diaspora Raiders' Dilemma*, was "one of the pieces I was most excited about writing. I found the subject fascinating," Shaviv said in an interview at the Ontario Association of Optometrists, where she works as communications co-ordinator.

The "dilemma" in the headline refers to concerns about the propriety of encouraging Jewish immigration to a Diaspora community instead of Israel.

"What's remarkable about the Winnipeg story is the sensitivity that the recruiters have shown," said *Report* editor David Horovitz in his column of the same issue.

As a first-time visitor to Winnipeg, Shaviv was impressed by the vibrancy of the Jewish community, whose population has dwindled from 20,000 to 14,000 over the past two decades.

The Winnipeg article represented "a fresh take on something I'm really interested in." It was only when she won the Smolar award, however, that Shaviv realized how much of her work has dealt with Israel-Diaspora relations.

From a personal standpoint, Shaviv is well qualified to write about the subject. A native of London, England, she made aliyah with her family at age 6, returned to England as a teenager, then finished high school in Sydney, Australia before moving to Canada.

She credits her parents – Paul, the headmaster of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, and Judy – for teaching her and her two brothers to regard each of their moves as an adventure.

Shaviv, who was the first female editor of the biannual student journal *Dateline: Middle East*, has also contributed to *New Voices* and *Afterword*.

These days, she is learning about "the flip side of the media" as she works on press releases and public relations for the association. Her background has given her "a better feel for what might be an interesting story," and she finds she "quite" enjoys working on the other side as well.

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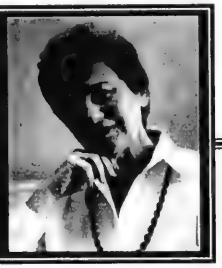
What's New



By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER
What's New and About People deadlines: Tuesday, Aug. 8, is deadline for Aug. 17 issue and Monday, Aug. 14, is deadline for Aug. 24. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Sunday, Aug. 6

CAMP NAIVELT

Camp Naivelt celebrates its 75th anniversary starting at 11 a.m. at Eldorado Park, Brampton, with sports, hikes, campfire, storytelling, singsongs plus a Jubilee Concert featuring folk singers The Travellers, Yiddish performer **Dovid Kunigis**, Yiddish soprano **Claire Klein-Osipov** and the Naivelt Klezmer Band. $30 adult, $18 child, $80 family of 4. Reservations and location information, 789-5502.

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Love of a Good Woman by **Alice Munro** is discussed by the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, 1:45 p.m. **Ruth Goldsmith** 782-6414.

Thursday, Aug. 10

TISHA B'AV

Tisha b'Av in Thought and Action. Beth Jacob V'Anshe Dridz Congregation (BeYAD), 147 Overbrook Pl., invites the community to a special Tisha b'Av program. Davening at 8 a.m. followed by in-depth study of selected Kinot (elegies) led by **Rabbi Jay Kelman.** Minchah at 2 p.m. followed by a series of 5 lectures 2:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, 638-5955.

And What Else Is New

KOLEL KALLAH

The 9th annual Canadian Kolel Kallah takes place Aug.23-27 at UAHC Camp George, Parry Sound. This year's theme is Learning and Yearning: The Art of Jewish Prayer. Text study, faculty lectures, services and evening programs each day. 485-7007, ext. 222.

CONCERT FOR STUDENTS

The Jewish Youth Learning Centre presents a concert for students and young adults ages 18 and up featuring **Ronnie Weisman**, king of Jewish reggae and his band Kedusha, Saturday, Aug. 19, 10 p.m. at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre. $5. For information, **Rabbi Danny Behar** 827-5952 or TAP-JYLC.

DINNER DRAW

David Anisman hosts dinner draw on behalf of Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital on Tuesday, Aug. 15. Call 785-8946 to reserve your ticket. Great prizes! Limited tickets available.

THE SOUL OF SHABBAT

Project Tikkun: Shabbat Throughout the City focuses on The Soul of Shabbat Exposed, Friday, Aug. 11, and Saturday, Aug. 12, at Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrew St. (Kensington Market). Featured are **Rebbitzen Chana Shaffer** and **Rabbi Nossen Shaffer** of Boston, **Rabbi Shmuel Spero** of Anshe Minsk and **Ronnie Weisman** and his band Kedusha: Jewish Reggae. Reserve by Aug. 8. 784-3515.

NCSY GOLF DAY

Join alumni and friends on Aug. 17. Shotgun start 1 p.m. at Pheasant Golf Club. $180 includes green fees, cart and more. Great auction! Great meals! 905-761-6279, ext. 32.

KENTON TINY TOTS

Kenton Tiny Tots, a recreational co-op program for children aged 2½-4 years, 5 mornings a week 9:15-11:45 a.m. Weekly themes and Jewish holidays through arts and crafts, stories, outdoor play, creative music and drama specialists, ABC recognition, special events, kosher snacks. Sponsored by the City of Toronto Parks and Recreation Department. **Rosie** 663-5948 or **Tammy** 784-0175.

RESOURCE CENTRE

Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. **Bernice Friedman** 905-882-8509.

Continued on page 21

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Jewish TORONTO TOMORROW

What's New

Continued from page 20

Decorate Family Resource Centre Family Tree Tuesday, Aug. 8.

Summer's End (indoor) Picnic Tuesday, Aug. 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-register.

Jen's Circle/Storytime, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to noon and 2:45-3:15 p.m.; Knitting Club Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.; Jewish Arts and Crafts Thursdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Shabbat party every Thursday 11:30 a.m. to noon.; sensory play Wednesdays during August.

Summer Workshops, pre-register: Junior Jewish Art Workshop for preschool children. Thursdays 1:30-3 p.m.; Jewish Art Workshop for Kids ages 6-10. Call for more information.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. 638-7800.

Beyond the Chupah: Becoming a Couple, 6-week marriage preparation program. Begins in the fall. **Pat Lieberman** ext. 215.

Parenting the ADHD Child, series begins Sept. 27. Register early. **Teena** ext. 212.

Social Skills Groups, ages 6-15, parent participation included, begins in the fall; Parenting Teens: The Challenges and Rewards begins Sept. 27; Parenting Can Be... 1,2,3 Magic, 3 sessions, begins Sept. 25, daytime and evening groups. **Teena** ext. 212.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama Aug. 16, 30; Barbecue party and entertainment Aug. 13, 1-3 p.m.; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23; Line dancing Tuesday mornings during August. 395-7881.

Seniors Mixed Bowling League is looking for new members. Group bowls every second Saturday night in the Dufferin and Wilson area. Call **Walter Herrmann** 633-6175.

LZA Seniors luncheon Wednesday Aug. 16, with entertainment by **Mikhael Kinkis**. Information about Miami trip will be discussed. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Cultural Club meets Tuesdays 10 a.m. in the boardroom. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. Aug. 3, free evening; Aug. 10, Israeli video; Sunday, Aug. 13, dance party with live music and light supper; Aug. 17, bingo; Aug. 24, dinner out at Bais Burger, 6 p.m.; Aug. 31, sing-along. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club Aug. 22, *Damn Yankees*, Drayton Festival Theatre. Painting classes every Wednesday 1-3 p.m. **Lena** 785-5773.

New Image 50 Plus dance for single seniors Saturday, Aug. 5, Earl Bales Community Centre. **Mollie** 733-3634.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Parkinson's Support Group meets Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1:15 p.m. The movie, *The Supporting Hand – The Carer in Parkinson's Disease* will be screened. **Ruth** ext. 105.

Therapeutic Touch Tuesday, Aug. 8. Nurse **Florence Baum** will be available to give Therapeutic Touch treatments 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Joan.**

Hearing Aid Checkup with **Barry Katz** 12:15 p.m. Call ext. 131 to book appointment.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Aug. 8, lecture; Aug. 15, picnic in the park; Aug. 22, sing-along; Aug. 29, summer party. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie Sunday, Aug. 8, 2 p.m. *Clear and Present Danger.*

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. 785-2500.

Computer Lab Tuesdays 10 a.m. to noon. Register at Service Desk in person. For information, **Mara** ext. 2275.

Instructional Beginners Bridge course with **Ed Danziger** Mondays 10 a.m. to noon, beginning mid-September. Register. **Mara.**

An afternoon with the Entertainers of the Wagman Centre, Monday, Aug. 21, 2-3:30 p.m. Register in person at Service Desk. For further details, **Laura Bark** ext. 2279.

A day at Woodbine Race Track Thursday, Aug. 24. Register at Service Desk. For questions, **Mara.**

Lunch & Learn Tuesday, Aug. 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kosher lunch. Reserve at Service Desk. For information, call **Mara.**

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Nostalgia, music and fun, The Last "Y" Rooftop Dance at the Bloor JCC, Thursday, Aug. 17, 7:30-11 p.m. featuring **Jay Jackson** with Take 3 Plus 1 and disc jockey **Gene Lew.** $18 at Reception Desk until Aug. 14, $23 at door.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

55 Plus Department of Adult Services annual concert Sept. 25 with **Aelita** and Friends, Around the World in 90 Minutes. Tickets on sale now at Information Desk. Reserved seating $12.

Tuesday, Aug. 29, trip to Casino Niagara and steamship tour on the Niagara River. Tickets on sale now until Aug. 14. **Janet** ext. 259.

ABOUT PEOPLE

BEIT HALOCHEM CANADA

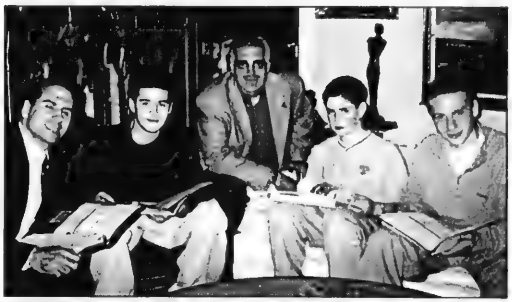
Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel/Beit Halochem Canada announces that **Toby Feldberg** has been re-elected president. A long-standing member of Beit Halochem, she has also served many leadership roles in the general community.

The newly elected executive also includes **Sharon Bizouati, Henry Fischler, Miriam Grunwald, Hope Maissner, Irit Nayot, Peter Sevitt, Julia Sax and Diane Shiffmun.**

MSH AUXILIARY DIRECTOR

Cindy Berk

Cindy Berk has been appointed the new director of Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary. She previously worked at the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and brings many years of experience in the not for profit sector.



TEENS' PROJECT: Guided by their parents and grandparents, teenagers Brandon Koffler, Jeffrey Warshafsky and Sam Jonas shared their bar mitzvah gifts with less fortunate Israeli children through the Canada-Israel Children's Centres (CICC). With the help of CICC, they formed the New Young Leadership group with its own board. Pictured, from left, are Kevin Green, president CICC; Brandon Koffler; Robert Barkin, vice-president CICC; Jeffrey Warshafsky; and Sam Jonas. [Cynthia Gasner photo]

CANTORIAL TRIBUTE: Beth Torah Congregation hosted a gala cantorial tribute in honour of Cantor Samuel Frankel who was named cantor emeritus at Beth Torah upon his recent retirement. Several cantors performed at this special dinner-dance musical event. Pictured above, from left, are Rabbi Yossi Sapirman, spiritual leader of Beth Torah; Frankel; and Shawn Goldenberg, president of Beth Torah. [Mollie Rothman photo]

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Coast to Coast

Why public has disdain

Consider for a moment the following scenario. A young fellow approaches you with a proposition that he take your daughter out on a date. He promises to show her a good time and return her safely home after an innocuous evening of dinner and dancing. He then adds that he has no real interest in your daughter. Rather, he unabashedly acknowledges that he is using her to publicly demonstrate his suave manners and dancing skills in the hope of attracting a more attractive partner.

As you slammed the door in his face, no doubt you'd be thinking that this seemingly earnest fellow is pretty damned arrogant...and stupid!

If I were living in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, those would certainly be the thoughts that crossed my mind as I digested Joe Clark's announcement that he would be running in the upcoming byelection.

Here's a guy who has been leader of a party for more than two years, who has had just under a dozen opportunities to run for a seat in the House of Commons in various byelections during that time. Finally, he wakes up and realizes that he desperately must get into the House before the next election – which may be only three months away.

It should come as no surprise then, that on the same day he announced his bid for the riding of Kings-Hants the media reported a new survey that confirms growing public cynicism with politicians and their craft.

The Joe Clark gambit is representative of much that has contributed to this sense of public despair and disdain for the world of politics. By choosing to run in a forced by-election, Clark is guilty – at least in the eyes of a majority of jaded Canadians – of having displaced a highly regarded, much liked MP for the sake of advancing his political ambitions.

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

Clark has neither the intimate knowledge of the riding that Scott Brison (the man who represented the riding until last week) does, nor the interest in defending the interests of that riding in any serious, sustained way.

Even if the governing Liberals give Joe Clark a "bye" in this byelection, those cynical Canadians can be comforted by the NDP pledge to fiercely contest the election. Notwithstanding a Tory provincial government in Nova Scotia, we shouldn't discount an NDP upset...mostly reflecting how upset constituents are with politics in general.

First ever mini-ulpan opens in Vancouver

By MARLANE SMITH
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — Been vowing to brush up on your Hebrew? The opportunity for immersion in an intensive ulpan Hebrew experience is closer than you may think.

"Come to Vancouver and learn with us," said Rahel Halabe, head teacher of Vancouver's Hebrew immersion program.

A former teacher from Israel, Halabe will facilitate and instruct the week-long course with another former Israeli teacher, Shoshana Hofman. Both Halabe and Hofman live and work in Vancouver as Hebrew language instructors. The course is the first of its kind in Vancouver.

"It has received quite a warm welcome so far," said program co-ordinator Lorne Mallin. "One big piece of evidence is the $1,000 grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver."

Under Halabe's tutoring, Mallin has been taking intermediate Hebrew lessons since October. During these language studies, he recalled how fundamental his first ulpan experience was in crystallizing his Hebrew abilities: "It was a few years after my bar mitzvah, and in three months, I was conversational. Keep in mind, however, that was a 20-year-old mind."

Now 53, Mallin said he wanted something to kick-start his Hebrew again. "I didn't have the cash to fly all the way to Israel and I thought, well, why don't we do something here in Vancouver?"

The five-day program, which has been named a mini-ulpan will begin Aug. 14 and will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Or Shalom Synagogue.

The program is designed to enrich students' vocabulary, give them confidence in conversation, encourage them to read more in Hebrew and deepen their understanding of Hebrew grammar, Mallin said.

He also emphasized the social aspect of the rigorous program. Video night, song night, potluck dinners and a kabbalah and learning evening will keep students busy – and immersed in Hebrew – outside of the daytime schedule.

Interested students should have completed the Level Alef textbook or an equivalent, and have some level of conversational ability to qualify for and feel comfortable in the mini-ulpan. Described as Ulpan Level Beit, the course's students will have a choice between two levels within the group, the lower of which will accommodate students who have not yet reached an intermediate level.

"We've got 13 people registered so far," Mallin said, adding that the full enrolment is targeted at between 15 and 20 students.

For more information, contact Rahel Halabe 604-879-2677 or Lorne Mallin 604-222-3379. Information is also available online at orshalom.bc.ca.

Peretz School graduates hold reunion in Vancouver

By ESTER SCHWARTZ-KAGAN
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — They say you can't go home again, but the I.L. Peretz Folk School class of 1963 reunion made us feel as if we had.

Held recently in Vancouver, the reunion brought together 26 of the 41 graduates of the Peretz School in Winnipeg, some of whom had not seen each other in more than 35 years. People flew in from Winnipeg, Toronto, New York and San Francisco to reminisce, shmooze and laugh.

Attending the Peretz School was a unique experience. Although we learned some Hebrew, we spent most of the day immersed in Yiddish, the language spoken most frequently at home or by our bubbies and zaydes. To us it was "git Shabbos" not "Shabbat shalom."

Our parents had sent us to the school for various reasons. Some had escaped the horrors of the war, and having their children educated in Yiddish was important to them. Parents born in Winnipeg chose the school because of its socialist philosophy. The heimish environment forged a bond that brought us together 37 years later.

The hosts, four classmates who now live in Vancouver, planned a weekend of dinners, lunches and poetry readings. Loot bags were distributed and old pictures were viewed.

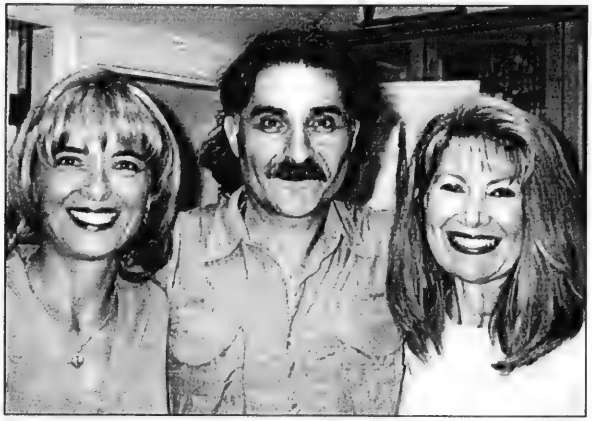
Over the three days we talked, laughed and told stories about our time as Peretz School students. We commented on how good we all looked – gray hair, no hair and extra pounds notwithstanding.

And the weather was typically West Coast – rain, rain and more rain – but no one cared.

On Friday night at Faigie Raber's home, we ate corned beef that came from a transplanted Winnipeg butcher shop, shared stories about our careers, children and spouses, nodded sympathetically about the divorces, illnesses and deaths, and took dozens of pictures.

Reesa Margolis treated us to a Saturday evening of delicacies we had enjoyed as children, which she had brought back from a recent trip to Winnipeg.

It was like being home again as we spoke Yiddish and sang Yiddish songs.



Seen are (from left) Ester Schwartz-Kagan, Bayter and Ethel Levine-Kofsky. The three were part of a group of 26 graduates of Winnipeg's Peretz School, class of 1963, who attended a reunion held in Vancouver.

Nazi collaborator proclaims his innocence

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A former police officer in an auxiliary unit linked closely with the German SS is proclaiming his innocence – more than one year after a Federal Court judge found he lied to enter Canada.

Serge Kisluk, 77, told the *St. Catharines Standard* he is an innocent man.

"I don't feel guilty about anything they say I did. I feel injustice," Kisluk told *The Standard*.

Kisluk claimed the evidence against him was part of a KGB plot.

Despite Kisluk's protestations – and his testimony during his Federal Court citizenship hearing – Judge Allan Lufty found Kisluk lied to immigration authorities about his wartime collaboration with the Nazis and that his testimony was not credible.

The judge found Kisluk assisted the Germans as a railway guard and later as an auxiliary policeman in the Turlysk region of Ukraine, between 1941 and 1943. Judge Lufty also found that Kisluk forcibly escorted a Jewish woman to her execution and was present when she was shot.

Lufty dismissed Kisluk's suggestion that the KGB fabricated evidence against him and he found that, "simply put, I do not believe [Kisluk's] testimony on any contentious issue."

The Standard described Kisluk and his wife Todosia as living in fear and uncertainty. The paper reported Kisluk's legal difficulties "have taken a toll on the elderly man who suffers from diabetes and problems."

His wife suffers from breast cancer and says she may not be able to obtain the expensive medication needed to combat the disease if she accompanies Kisluk to Ukraine – in the event he is deported to his former homeland.

Responding to a question about whether it is cruel to deport Kisluk at this stage in his life, Canadian Jewish Congress spokesperson Bernie Farber said it is not unfair to deport him. What is unfair, Farber told *The Standard*, is for Kisluk to have lived in Canada for 50 years.

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Daughters of Eve do her proud

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Some people think that only men are important in the Torah and in Jewish history. They think that almost the only job women had was to carry the unleavened bread on their heads during the exodus from Egypt.

Lillian Hammer Ross sets the record straight in her new book, *Daughters of Eve; strong women of the Bible* (Barefoot Press, 2000), with illustrations by Kyra Teis.

Women in the Bible were brave and showed great trust in God, Ross says. They were willing to speak their minds, or to act against the will of their husbands or fathers to do what was right.

Of course, the women she writes about were very special – prophets, queens, community leaders. Still what a great example for us to follow!

Ross makes the women – Miriam, Zipporah, the daughters of Zelophehad, Ruth, Abigail, Huldah, Judith and Esther – very real, people with dreams, fears and hopes.

Miriam, for instance, misses her brother Moses when he goes to live in Pharaoh's palace, and she is cheered up by her mother's gift of a tambourine.

Zipporah wants a husband who is strong, intelligent and kind.

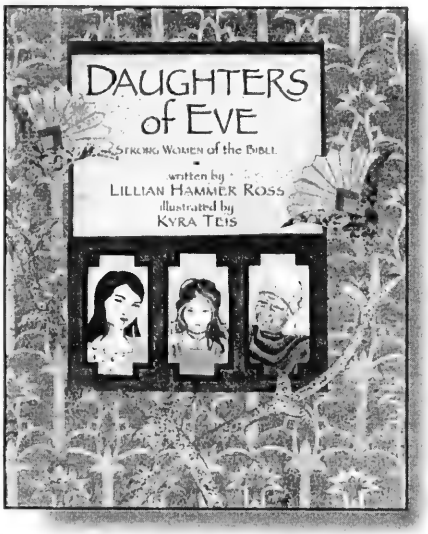
Esther muses while waiting for Achashverosh to choose a bride: "A woman is not a water-jug to be bought at the market."

These women are by no means wimps. Judith is quite willing to risk her life to save her town from the Babylonians, and the daughters of Zelophehad don't hesitate to fight for their claim to their father's estate.

As you can see from this review, Ross does not stick to the usual accounts in the Bible – she makes up stories about these women to make them more interesting and to highlight different parts of their personalities.

Before each story, there is a page of historical and biblical background about the person's times.

Kyra Teis' illustrations are rich with shades of rust and purple.



It is interesting that in a book called *Daughters of Eve*, she doesn't talk at all about Eve herself. And I would have liked to see what she might have written about Deborah, who was not only a prophet, but was also a judge, at a time when it was almost unheard of for women to hold that position.

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See Page 31

Dealing with Jerusalem as a symbol and as a city

By AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Jews and Arabs cross paths as they go about their daily business in Jerusalem. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Jerusalem may be a city infused with historical and religious significance to three of the world's great faiths, but it is also a city with ordinary people who live ordinary lives.

As the fate of Jerusalem was brought to the negotiating table in Camp David, pundits tried to determine whether compromise could supersede the passions that have prevented Israelis and Palestinians from discussing the city until now, and lead to a historic peace accord.

But there was little talk about things like garbage collection or social security, issues that would have been affected by any agreement to change the status of parts of the city.

Apparently, passions over the city were too strong for the Camp David negotiators and were primarily the reasons for the summit's end.

If there ever is any decision on Jerusalem, it would need to take into account both the heavenly aura of a city charged with emotion and faith, as well as the earthly details of how municipal bureaucracy would function in a shared metropolis.

The issues are further complicated by difficult geography, with Arab and Jewish neighbourhoods in eastern Jerusalem situated side by side.

During the negotiations, it was unclear what type of formula for sharing the city – if any – the leaders were discussing.

What is clear is that during the 33 years since Israel captured eastern Jerusalem in the Six Day War, the unification of the two extremely different sides of the city has created a dynamic that will be hard to reverse.

Many Palestinians work in Jewish parts of Jerusalem and are an integral part of the city's economic pulse. They may work primarily in menial jobs, but at least they have jobs, in contrast to the many Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who are unemployed.

Indeed, the economic realities of the city, combined with the mutual need for free access to holy sites, are among the reasons why Israeli and Palestinian leaders knew from the start that any change in the city's status could not include a physical division of Jerusalem. Neither side wants new masses of unemployed Palestinians or a checkpoint in the centre of the city.

Still, the lives of Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem would likely change significantly if an accord is signed that would place control of their affairs under the Palestinian Authority – and not necessarily for the better.

An increasing number of Palestinians are putting patriotism aside and speaking out openly about their fears of living under Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's regime, with its well-documented corruption and stagnant economic policy.

Khader Ali, a 50-year-old unemployed resident of the Shuafat refugee camp, which could be transferred to the Palestinians, is not looking forward to Palestinian rule as he watches what he calls "corruption or nepotism" just down the road.

"The truth is we don't want either side, the status quo is good," he said. Under that status quo, Ali, who has 12 children, enjoys a standard Israeli per-child social security stipend that totals more than $1,200 a month – more than the typical salary of a Palestinian police officer and a decent sum even for blue-collar Israeli workers.

A few years ago, he worked on the printing press at *The Jerusalem Post*. When he lost his job, he received $500 a month in unemployment benefits for several months.

"Arafat won't pay me unemployment benefits or social security," he said. "We cannot say it openly but we prefer Israel."

For Israelis, it is unclear what the practical ramifications of any agreements on Jerusalem would be. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, has spoken out repeatedly against any compromise in Jerusalem, mostly on historical and religious grounds.

In a recent op-ed piece in *Yediot Achronot*, Israel's largest mass circulation newspaper, Olmert alluded to the potential problems of sharing sovereignty with the Palestinians.

"The Israeli government is constantly talking about separation, but in practice this produces an idea that has no ground in reality," wrote Olmert.

Yet when asked by JTA for more detail on the possible practical ramifications of a compromise in the city, and how it could affect the lives of Jewish residents, a spokesperson for the mayor said, "the question is irrelevant since the mayor is against any division of Jerusalem." In any case, said the official, Olmert could not respond in more detail until an accord was announced.

However, the increasing roster of prominent figures now speaking out in favour of a compromise on Jerusalem includes people who say Israelis would feel absolutely no change in their lives if some form of sovereignty is granted to the Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem.

"Practically speaking, there is no problem for Palestinians to officially take over their affairs in Jerusalem," said Arieh Amit, a businessperson who served as Jerusalem police chief between 1994 and 1996 and who has published papers supporting a compromise.

"There will be no change whatsoever for Israelis, since they do not go to those places that would be handed over to the Palestinians."

Amit argues that the city is already divided in reality because during the past few years the Palestinian Authority has quietly started providing civil services and even begun to take control of security affairs in Arab neighbourhoods of eastern Jerusalem.

He even predicts improvements in security for Israelis if the city is divided, due to increased co-operation between Israeli and Palestinian forces, and expects Palestinians to continue to work freely with Jews.

Jewish Community Centre in dynamic Atlanta
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Peace talks reach new level of seriousness

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

The collapse of the Camp David summit was, as Prime Minister Ehud Barak acknowledged wearily, a "major blow" as well as a missed opportunity along the rocky road toward peace.

Mideast Analysis

After two weeks of intensive negotiations presided over by President Bill Clinton, he and Yasser Arafat left Maryland dejectedly, not having signed an accord that could have heralded an end to Israel's protracted, acrimonious conflict with the Palestinians. No one was particularly surprised that the ultimate deal breakers were the status of Jerusalem and the fate of the Palestinian refugees.

Yet the summit was not an unmitigated failure, since it raised the excruciatingly difficult talks to a new level of seriousness and set the stage for further meetings.

For the first time since they entered into face-to-face negotiations at the Madrid conference in 1991, two years before the startling Oslo breakthrough, Israel and the Palestinians got down to the unfinished business of addressing the make-or-break issues that fester at the heart of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Barak, breaking long-cherished taboos, much to the outrage of his right-wing political opponents at home, offered the Palestinians unprecedented concessions as part of a rigorous security package and an unambiguous Palestinian declaration ending all claims against Israel. As Clinton suggested in a post-Camp David assessment, the offer was a testament to Barak's courage, purpose and flexibility.

Although the details remain shrouded in fog, Barak, by all accounts, was prepared to grant the Palestinians a mosaic of sovereignty and administrative control of some Arab neighbourhoods and holy places in eastern Jerusalem in exchange for annexing several settlements near the city. Arafat conceded the principle of Israeli sovereignty over western Jerusalem, the Jewish quarter and the Western Wall, but demanded sovereignty over the rest of East Jerusalem.

As for the Palestinian refugee issue, Barak agreed to admit about 100,000 refugees within a phased-in family reunification and compensation plan. But here, too, Arafat balked.

In an unmistakable signal of his readiness to acquiesce to an independent, demilitarized and territorially contiguous Palestinian state, Barak was prepared to relinquish the whole of the Gaza Strip and upwards of 95 percent of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley. In exchange for retaining about five percent of the West Bank, with its cluster of three settlement blocs encompassing 80 percent of Jewish settlers, he was willing to give up a stretch of uninhabited Israeli land adjacent to Gaza.

With the failure of the summit, Barak declared that all understandings reached at Camp David were "null and void." Under its ground rules, there would be no agreement unless all issues were resolved. But one can safely assume that the historic compromises hammered out in Maryland will be the basis of new talks, which both sides clearly desire. Yet, like the Syrians, the Palestinians will insist that a fresh round of negotiations should begin at the point they left off.

Upon his return to Israel, Barak spoke of the "painful, difficult and heart-wrenching price" Israel will have to pay for peace. The question now, therefore, is whether Barak can proceed on this path and rebuild his shattered coalition, torn asunder by his conciliatory policies and his decision to go to Camp David.

During the next few weeks, he will try to cobble together a government capable of solving the Palestinian problem before Arafat declares unilateral statehood on Sept. 13, an event that could set off violence. Yet Barak's enemies, spearheaded by the Likud and the National Religious Party, are clamouring for new elections.

Arafat, having resisted Israeli and American pressure to settle for a principled compromise, is stronger today than he was prior to Camp David, and thus, ironically, in a better position to reach a deal with Israel. If Barak can keep his foes at bay, he and Arafat may yet sign a peace treaty.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak (left), U.S. President Bill Clinton (centre) and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at Camp David, shortly before the talks collapsed. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Three held for synagogue arson

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Police here arrested three men last week on suspicion of being involved in the arson attack on the Ya'ar Ramot Synagogue last month.

The three are newly religious residents of the Ramot neighbourhood, aged 29 to 30, and are known to police.

Police sources say one suspect, who expressed no regrets, admitted torching the synagogue and implicated the other two, who deny any involvement in the arson.

The suspect said he and his accomplices did not like having the synagogue in their neighbourhood and decided to set it on fire. Jerusalem Magistrate's Court remanded two of the suspects in custody for four days and the third for three days.

Witnesses reported seeing a number of haredim running away from the site.

PA supports suggestion for Arab summit on Jerusalem

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian Authority supports the idea of holding an Arab summit meeting as soon as possible to create a united front against Israel on the Jerusalem question, an adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday.

Speaking in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, where Arafat held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, Nabil Abu Rowadena said the PA leader, who flew to Saudi Arabia on Saturday from Paris, had discussed the Jerusalem issue with Saudi leaders.

Arafat was also scheduled to visit Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan on his current tour in which he is briefing the Arab leaders on the outcome of the Camp David talks and trying to get support for an Arab summit meeting on the disputed city.

The Palestinians were infuriated by President Bill Clinton's statement in an Israel Television interview Friday night that a Palestinian declaration of unilateral statehood would "inevitably [lead to] consequences."

In response, Arafat told reporters in Paris on Saturday, after his meeting with President Jacques Chirac: "The date [for proclaiming statehood] should normally fall in September, in a few weeks. When the right time comes, we will consider what to do."

He added that the Palestinians "will take the advice of our friends into consideration."

Prince Abdullah was quoted by a Palestinian official as saying that "Jerusalem is the basis for any peace settlement in the Middle East. Without full Arab control over Jerusalem there will not be peace in the Middle East."

PM willing to defer issue of capital

Continued from page 1

In the second option, the resolution of the status of east Jerusalem neighbourhoods would be deferred for some time.

Barak told the cabinet Sunday that the Israeli contingent was not enthusiastic about either of these options, but eventually told the Americans that Israel would be willing to consider the proposal, should Arafat also show interest.

Barak told Clinton that any agreed-upon deferral concerning a contentious issue must not preclude reaching a comprehensive agreement. Under a full Israeli-Palestinian agreement, the sides would declare that the dispute between them is concluded, and any outstanding issues (such as Jerusalem) would be resolved at a later date, in peaceful talks between two states.

Barak also asked that a time frame for discussing the postponed issues be established, along with a mechanism for facilitating talks.

The Palestinians, however, rejected both U.S. Jerusalem-deferral options. They argued that procrastination about Jerusalem could lead to a situation akin to the fate of Kashmir, whose status was supposed to be resolved a short time after a ceasefire was enforced between India and Pakistan in 1949, only to have its fate disputed until the present day.

Barak said that although he's leaving most negotiation options open, he would oppose the forging of another interim agreement, "because it would be dangerous to Israel." He argued against an interim proposal supported by Minister Haim Ramon, who believes that attaining a full agreement with the Palestinians now is a near impossibility, because of the deep-seated disputes concerning sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Ramon said straightening out sovereignty issues in Jerusalem will require years of work and negotiation, and therefore an interim agreement is the most feasible option.

Barak replied he has concluded that Israel has a supreme interest in solving its dispute with the Palestinians comprehensively, if possible.

Yet, he clarified, "before the summit and during it, we were willing to discuss the American proposal for two scenarios of deferring the discussion of Jerusalem, but the Palestinians refused to talk about them."

The Week in Israel

July 24

• According to a recent report published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, a total of 960,000 new immigrants have moved to Israel in the last decade, *Ha'aretz* reported.

• Children of South Lebanon Army soldiers who fled to Israel after Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in May, will study next year in Israeli schools, *Ha'aretz* reported. They will be taught using the Lebanese curriculum.

July 25

• Cabinet Minister Michael Melchior and other leaders of Meimad toured Jerusalem's Old City in a show of support for Prime Minister Ehud Barak's peace efforts and their own commitment to Jerusalem. A spokesperson for the movement said it could not accept a peace deal that grants sovereignty to a foreign power on the Temple Mount.

July 26

• IDF Chief of Staff, Shaul Mofaz, said he plans to meet with PA security officials to discuss ways of avoiding confrontations following the failed Camp David summit.

July 27

• According to the Interior Ministry, the number of Jews living in the West Bank increased last year by 13,600. The number now totals about 200,000.

July 28

• Major League Baseball signed an agreement with a marketing firm to raise awareness of baseball, and increase the number of youth leagues in Israel, Jordan and the PA.

• Speaking on Israel Radio, U.S. President Bill Clinton said the Palestinians will be making "a big mistake" if they declare independence unilaterally.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Student designs for Jerusalem

By ESTHER HECHT
Special to The CJN

JERUSALEM — A city as complex as Israel's capital, where any architectural change can create an international stir, needs fresh, radical ideas to help shape its future.

That was the inspiration for Beyond the Walls, a competition focused on Jerusalem for local architecture students.

The winner, announced on June 14, was Amal Ubied Zoabi, 26, a third-year student at Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design.

Her project, titled The Light Beyond the Walls, is a pedestrian path linking the Ascension Church, the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, and the Dome of the Rock.

"Most important for me was the feelings I wanted this space to provide," said Zoabi, a Muslim from Nazareth. "The path enables people to discover the light of Jerusalem."

On March 21, the first day of spring, the sun's rays pass from the church marking the place where Jesus ascended to heaven, then through the cemetery, and to the dome over the rock from where Mohammed made his ascent to heaven, she said.

Zoabi was inspired by the biblical account of the resurrection of the dead and a similar account in the Koran. But "my point of view is not religious," she said. Instead, she was interested in joining people "through the myths."

The students' brief was "to propose a plan that expresses the myth and code of the city, serves its inhabitants and visitors, and helps define Jerusalem's space into the future." Entrants could choose one of three sites: the downtown district centring on Independence Park; the hillside from the Mount Scopus-Mount of Olives ridge to the Rockefeller Museum; or the space from the Cinematheque to the train station.

The competition was open to students at schools throughout Israel, the administered territories and the Palestinian Authority. Bir Zeit University, near Ramallah, declined to participate.

The contest was an adjunct to the fifth Jerusalem Seminar in Architecture, a biennial forum sponsored by Yad Hanadiv – The Rothschild Foundation, in which top architects from around the world present their work to more than 2,000 architects and students. The competition and the master class devoted to it were the first attempt of the seminars to grapple with the subject of Jerusalem.

Nazareth-born Amal Ubied Zoabi shows her prize-winning design linking Christian, Muslim and Jewish sites in Jerusalem.

It has been a strange omission. "Jerusalem is a paradigm of complexity," said Daniel Libeskind from Germany, designer of the well-known Jewish Museum in Berlin and chair of the seminar and the competition. "The planning debate about Jerusalem is relevant to the world."

In the final round, the judges chose six projects, created by 13 students from among the 52 entries. Although there was only one woman architect among those who presented their work at the seminar, 10 of the 13 finalists in the competition were women – reflecting the fact that about half the architecture students in Israel are women.

Zoabi, whose prize was a $4,000 travel grant to further her education, was the only finalist who worked alone. The judges had very idiosyncratic ways of approaching the works.

Architecture historian and theoretician Charles Jencks from England, said he had read all the students' descriptive texts carefully and that he "liked the metaphor" of Zoabi's project.

Libeskind said he had ignored the manifestos and explanations and had looked only at the designs. "Architecture is about making," he explained. But he added: "We looked for radical projects that challenge what is a wall. We didn't look for answers [but rather for projects that are] rooted in deeper spiritual longing."

And indeed, that deeper longing was expressed in abundance, though in very different ways. One project in the final round, by Tal Lau, Michal Levoria and Dana Regev of Haifa's Technion, put a positive spin on the capital's fractured nature, portraying "variance as an achievement, not a disease."

Their scheme involved a theatre curtain placed in the Arab neighbourhood of Silwan, "as a metaphoric screen through and by [which] we are viewed on our everyday voyages." It would replace what they termed "the monologue of knowing the truth."

Many of the schemes were conceptualized horizontally. Ronen Boneh and Daphna Daily, of Haifa's Wizo college, viewed the core of Jerusalem as a ring and conceived of the little-known Third Wall (built by Agrippas in the Second Temple period) as part of the ring, changing it "from a wall of detachment and separation to a connecting element" and creating new connections in the neighbourhoods around it.

Other projects invoked verticality. One scheme used the roofs of buildings in the downtown area as additional public space, taking its cue from the idea of walking on the Old City walls. Another project included a raised, "floating" structure with views to the Old City, to be used for educational purposes, snaking over an open area that could become a marketplace.

Nevertheless, none of the entrants dealt with the much-debated issue of whether to build high in Jerusalem, and how to control urban sprawl, Jencks said. Nor, he added, had the entrants dealt with the issue of stone (a city ordinance dating back to the British Mandate requires stone facings on all Jerusalem buildings), which once had helped form the city's identity but now is a "straitjacket," so that "you have to build concrete buildings out of stone, wooden buildings out of stone."

Ken Yeang from Malaysia, known for his concept of the "green skyscraper," wondered why the students had not allowed for "the play of landscape" in their schemes.

Libeskind added a general criticism of the works: Many of the entrants did not relate to how their schemes could be implemented. One of the most interesting entries, which proposed looking at Jerusalem as a game and playing with the rules of planning, was not chosen precisely because it remained in the abstract.

Libeskind's criticism was certainly legitimate, though the judges' discussions of the works were often far from "down to earth" and tended to wander into the stratosphere of theology, metaphysics and points beyond. But the students' texts – all in English -- were interesting for the combination of optimism and realism they expressed. One stated: "We believe architecture cannot create social or political situations. Architecture provides chances for such situations we did not know exist."

The truest optimist, however, was David Guggenheim from Israel, the competition's co-ordinator, who said, "We thought this kind of competition would open the discussion [on Jerusalem]. I hope people from the municipality come and see."

The seminar itself, titled Reinventing Space: Beyond the Boundaries of the 20th Century, included a dazzling display of some of the most publicized and controversial works throughout the world of the last decade, as well as verbal pyrotechnics from Libeskind, Jencks, Wolf Prix from Austria, design engineer Cecil Balmond from England, and Bernard Tschumi, dean of the Columbia University school of architecture, planning and preservation.

Architect Daniel Libeskind speaks to Amal Ubied Zoabi, winner of the student competition for a sensitive site in Jerusalem. [Photos by Debbi Cooper, courtesy of Yad Hanadiv]

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Arts & Travel

Toronto actress relishes her role in summer blockbuster

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Rhona Shekter

TORONTO — Blink long enough and you might miss it, but local actress Rhona Shekter has a role in one of the biggest blockbusters of the summer.

If you've seen *X-Men* you might remember a scene at the beginning where the villain, Magneto, is still a little boy in wartime Poland and is being separated from his mother by Nazi guards at a concentration camp.

Magneto's mother, played by Shekter, appeals to the guards to be reunited with her son, but to no avail. This three-minute scene is important because it explains the adult Magneto's villainous motives.

It took Shekter three days to film those three minutes. "Three very long days," she says. "We were on the set from daybreak to sunset."

The scene is set in a Polish concentration camp (actually the downtown Lakeshore area in Toronto, between two abandoned warehouses.) It was very wet (the scene was set in rain for dramatic effect), and muddy.

"It was a tough scene. I was walking in mud and we were rained on the whole time. They shot for hours and we got wetter and wetter and my clothes became very heavy and weighted down."

For continuity's sake, after she took off the clothes, they were kept wet for the next day's filming.

"It was very exhausting and I could even remotely imagine what it's like– a tiny taste of what it was like –to be in a concentration camp – except, of course, I had a nice meal to eat."

During shooting she got to meet veteran actor Ian McKellen who plays the adult Magneto. "But, I was too tired and cold to enjoy meeting him," she said.

Actor Patrick Stewart was also on the set but remained hidden the whole time she was there.

Shekter's dialogue in the movie was in Polish. Although she can speak many dialects, she found Polish very tough and they brought in a voice coach to help her.

"Polish is so different than anything else, I was afraid I couldn't do it. I was in a panic and the voice coach helped me through it syllable by syllable."

As it turned out, the dialogue wasn't used in the film. But Shekter isn't complaining. She's just glad she's *in* the movie.

Many times certain roles are left on the cutting room floor (think Kevin Costner in *The Big Chill*). Shekter had a role in Paul Mazursky's *Enemies: A Love Story* a few years ago, but after editing, all that was left of her role was the back of her head.

"There was a glimpse of my head – that was it – and I was on the set for a week."

But she needn't have worried this time. Although the nine-minute scene was edited down, "not only did I make the film, I was high up in the credits. Bryan Singer [the director] did not have to put me so close to the top."

That's not the first time it happened. In the aforementioned *Enemies*, even though she (or the back of her head) was only in it for a second, she got billed right after the two main actors.

"I play 'Rabbi's Wife,'" she says of her role in *Enemies*. "There are actually two rabbi's wives in the movie, an older one and I was the young chassidic wife."

She said because she got such high billing, people assumed she played the older wife, who had a bigger role. "Even my boyfriend at the time thought I was the other wife."

When she was in Hollywood handing in a project to an agent, he looked at her name and said, "You're *the* Rhona Shekter."

"He was one of those guys who memorize every credit in a film."

Shekter has been performing as long as she remembers, as a singer, and in theatre, commercials and films. She's had roles on TV in *Traders*, *Street Legal*, *Due South* and other shows. She's currently wrapped up a role in *Steal This Movie*, a major film based on the role of '60s counter-culture guru Abbie Hoffman, and will be in a TV-movie, *When Andrew Came Home*.

"Performing has always been in my blood," she said. "A performer is always performing. You don't wake up one morning and say you're going to do it."

She said being a performer is a very tough and competitive business and she doesn't take too kindly to people who see her three minutes and say, "Is that all?"

"That's the thing that's hard. I'm a working performer. I've sustained in this industry, as opposed to being an unemployed performer (of which there are many)." she said.

"One commercial I did for Maxwell House had 85 talented people audition for the one role. I have to take my hat off to anybody – a singer who can get a CD out or an actor who gets even one second on film. It's not an easy business."

Shekter sees her role as a performer evolving. She sang in concert series with conductor Boris Brott; she's acted in theatre, done commercials, TV shows, films and movies. She's even done voices for cartoons and you can hear her as the Spanish pink flamingo puppet Bonita Flamingo on the kids' show *Noddy*.

As part of her showbiz evolution, she's also formed her own production company and is pitching ideas to networks.

"If you're not auditioning, you're working or creating. I don't sit around waiting for my phone to ring."

Arts & Travel

Canadian singer rocks Israel

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

TEL AVIV — Canadian pop phenomenon Alanis Morissette recently rocked her way through Israel.

Morissette, whose album *Jagged Little Pill* sold more than 35 million copies worldwide, came to Israel as part of her Summer 2000 tour.

She played two shows in Israel — in Caesarea on July 19 for a sold-out crowd of 4,500, and in Rishon Lezion on July 20, where she drew 10,000 fans.

Morissette's concerts in the Middle East brought her 10-country tour to a close. She opened her tour in Beirut on July 5, and made her way through Italy, France, Germany, India, Portugal and Croatia. Her last concert on this tour was July 22 in Istanbul.

"My intention in coming on this tour was to go to countries I've been wanting to go to for a long time and to share music," she told a press conference in Tel Aviv. "I've always believed that music was my favourite form of communicating."

Touring "reinforces my belief that we are interconnected on a soul level, and I have found no better or more tangible an example of this than visiting and playing in these cities in person," she said.

Despite the steep NIS 199 ticket price ($72 Cdn), Israeli fans packed the amphitheatres to hear Morissette play live.

In 1995, Morissette, then 21, was propelled into the spotlight with *Jagged Little Pill*. But she was no one-disc wonder – her follow-up album, *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie*, has gone triple platinum.

Before completing her second album, Morissette took time off and travelled with her mom and friend through India. She said she returned a much happier person.

"You don't have to suffer to create, to learn, to evolve," she told VH1's *Behind the Music*. "I've learned I can evolve faster if I don't suffer, if I just be."

Though she has said she prefers to sing about "sharing her peace, not her pain," the audience here clearly wanted to hear her "angry woman" hits from *Jagged Little Pill*.

She opened with her India-inspired songs from *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* and received a pleasant welcome. But once she launched into hits from *Jagged Little Pill*, the reception was noticeably louder.

Most of her set revolved around *Jagged Little Pill* songs, though she interspersed hits such as *Baba* and *Thank U* from the 1998 *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie*.

She dismissed any notion of identifying herself as a Canadian, at her press conference before the shows – "I just think of myself as very human, I don't even think about what country I'm from or who my parents are. I just think of myself as one other individual in this wild pot of craziness."

But she was very Canadian in concert. She has a reputation for being overly polite, and she was in "Canadian" form when she thanked the audience after each song and when she told the crowd that they were "awesome" and that they "rocked" (two very Canadian phrases).

At the same time as she was entertaining music fans, Morissette was also being seen by moviegoers at the 17th annual Jerusalem Film Festival, in Kevin Smith's controversial movie, *Dogma*.

In the film, Morissette played the part of God. "I feel like we're all God, that we're manifesting God all the time. So I was just one little piece of God," she said.

But Morissette said she prefers music to acting. "There's nothing that can compare to the process of writing a song, it's definitely the most fulfilling part."

Morissette is now back in California where she lives, working on a new album.

Author believes book was in the cards

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

TORONTO — It was an uncanny brush with fate that set the stage for writing *The Channel*, says author Steven Ehrlich.

In the summer of 1997, Ehrlich was a lawyer at the now defunct EMI label, The Enclave. At that time, Ehrlich recalls meeting a friend in his New York office and being startled by her prediction of his future endeavours.

"I see all these good things happening to you if you write," Colette Baron-Reid told Ehrlich, the not so proud author of countless half-started, incomplete novels.

Just days after Baron-Reid's peek at the future, Ehrlich was given a book called *The Artist's Way*, a 12 step self-help book purported to help develop creativity.

Then, The Enclave shut down and with a year left in his contract, Ehrlich had a year's salary remaining, money he now refers to as a writing advance.

Together, Ehrlich insists, circumstances proved that the "planets aligned for me."

He was off and running, dedicating days and nights to the composition of *The Channel*, a book quite fittingly about clairvoyance, past-life regression and the quest for love.

The main character, Adam Fischer, is a middle-aged Jewish man living in New York, emotionally stoic since the time of his wife's death.

Passing through various points in history, such as the Battle of Gettysburg and the heart of the hippy movement, as well as the near future, Fischer is a cynic, unfazed by the sex and love of the '60s and skeptical of his friend Lucia's clairvoyant perceptions.

Like many first-time authors, Ehrlich admits there are shades of his own persona in Fischer's character.

"I was a card-carrying hippie and I was also a cynical one," the soft-spoken 49-year-old says. "I looked around and saw what I thought was…people having a good time under the guise of peace, love and stop the war.

"When people ask me 'Is Adam Fischer you?'" Ehrlich notes, "I say, 'No Adam Fischer isn't me, however, if we met we would have a lot in common.'"

As an earthquake ravages New York and Fischer finds himself in the midst of chaos, positive memories of his childhood provide some solace.

That family theme pops up throughout the book and reflects the "loving parents" Ehrlich grew up with in Toronto.

His father, Murray, was active in B'nai Brith and his mother, Edythe, was involved in the Jewish community as a member of Hadassah.

But Erhlich has not followed in his parents' footsteps. Although he is proud of his Jewish heritage, he is intrigued by Eastern religious concepts, particularly reincarnation and clairvoyance.

"I just know in my gut that there are other dimensional realities," he says. "I…[have] an intuitive sense that the world and our place in it are far more mysterious than our institutions and recorded history would have us believe."

About 2,000 copies of *The Channel* were printed in Canada and the United Sates and Ehrlich is hopeful the book will be a success.

"I want people to be compelled by the story," he says. "I want them to not be able to put it down. And [maybe] I [will] challenge the way they think along the way."

Erhlich is a little more cynical about the likelihood of his screenplay, *It Ain't Easy* – a tongue in cheek look at the record industry – hitting the big screen. "Screenplays are… well, you might as well buy a lottery ticket."

Busy publicizing the book and the screenplay, Ehrlich also juggles his duties as in-house counsel for EMI music. He and his wife, Trish, live in Mississauga and have two sons, Dylan and Shane.

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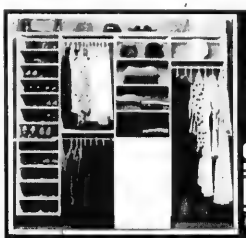
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SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN, PART II

Winnipeg writer-historian **Allan Levine** has the amphibious quality of being fully at home in both fiction and non-fiction. His books include the award-winning non-fiction title *Fugitives of the Forest*, about the partisan struggle during the Holocaust era, and *The Blood Libel*, a novel set in Winnipeg's rough-and-tumble North End that features the hard-boiled Jewish detective Sam Klein.

Earlier this year, *The Blood Libel* won a Best Historical Fiction award from the Manitoba Historical Society. It was also short-listed for the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel award and the Arthur Ellis First Mystery Novel award.

Levine has completed a new Sam Klein mystery, which his publisher, Great Plains, is set to bring out in the fall. In *Sins of the Suffragette*, Klein investigates a murder in Winnipeg in 1914, in the course of which he encounters the historic personage of Nellie McClung and other women's rights activists. Like its predecessor, the book explores the uneasy tension between street life and post-Victorian morality.

"The new book doesn't have quite the Jewish theme that *The Blood Libel* does," Levine says, "but there are still many issues about Jewish life in Canada that arise." Part of the action, incidentally, is set in New York and involves Jewish characters on the Lower East Side.

One hopes the appearance of *The Sins of the Suffragette* so soon after the success of *The Blood Libel* will help Levine to develop a loyal following.

* * *

The Bible and Literature: Unnamed characters, such as Lot's wife, Jephthah's daughter, Pharaoh's baker and the medium of Endor, abound in the Bible. But why dispense with a name?

Adele Reinhartz, currently on sabbatical from her position as professor in the department of religious studies at McMaster University, has studied the question in depth. Her book *Why Ask My Name?: Anonymity and Identity in Biblical Narrative*, was published recently by the Oxford University Press.

Shortly after becoming interested in the Bible's anonymous characters, Reinhartz says, she began discovering them almost wherever she looked in the text – "among the ostracized lepers at the city gates, among the widowed and poor, in the households of Israel's founding families, in the courts and armies of the monarchs, and in the heavens themselves."

Her expectation of finding only a small number of unnamed characters was contradicted by her discovery of more than a hundred unnamed individuals, and many others in groups. And they were not preponderantly women, as she at first had supposed.

"I found abundant men, children and angels, as well as a talking animal or two," she says. "Whereas I had associated anonymity with indistinctness, impersonality, and distance, I was soon absorbed with these characters, whose personalities and stories became vital, vibrant, and vivid to me."

Written in highly accessible, non-technical language, *Why Ask My Name?* is an intriguing study, highly deserving of the Jewish Book Award bestowed upon it two months ago.

* * *

War and Remembrance: Rose Carolyn Johnson was born in Poland on Sept. 3, 1939, the momentous week that saw the beginning of World War II, and as a young child, she and her family were swept up in the horrors of that period. Her father joined the underground freedom fighters; her uncle was conscripted into the Polish army; the Germans wreaked havoc on her village; and she and other family members experienced the hell of a railway car bound for Auschwitz.

A gentile survivor who witnessed many Nazi atrocities, Johnson came to Canada after the war and settled in Alberta. She has written *Next Stop – Germany*, a 93-page historical narrative of her family's wartime experiences. The book is self-published. For further information, contact the author at P.O. Box 51, Abee, Alberta, T0A 0A0.

Polish immigrant's memoirs chronicle Jewish left

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Canada's Jewish immigrants of the early 20th century were among the vanguard of the Canadian left. From organizing labour unions to having leading roles in the Canadian Communist party, Canadian Jews devoted much of their time and labour to their cause – only to see it come crashing down at the start of the Cold War.

Morris Biderman, an immigrant from Poland, was active in the Jewish labour movement's cultural groups early on and joined the Communist party. Now 93, Biderman – head of the United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) for 20 years – has just completed his memoirs, *A Life on the Jewish Left* (Onward Press).

The book is part autobiography, part history of the left-wing movement in Canada, specifically of UJPO.

Biderman was born near Kielce in Poland and immigrated to Canada in 1920.

He describes the early labour movements, including the Workers Unity League, the Fraternal Jewish Order and the Communist party. At the time, the Communists, with their leadership in the Profintern in Moscow, had a stranglehold on organized unions in Canada.

The book's strength is its chronicle of UJPO from its formation as the Labour League (a Communist-led splinter group from the Workmen's Circle) to its bitter quarrel with the Communists in the 1950s.

After its split with the Workmen's Circle, the Labour League continued its program of political action, trade union involvement, culture, education and fraternization. "The only difference was their support of the Soviet Union and the American and Canadian Communist movements," Biderman writes.

Biderman joined the Labour League in 1937 when he was asked to manage *Der Kampf*, the Communist Yiddish weekly. As the newspaper and the league were so closely connected, "I could not have held the position at the paper without belonging to the organization," he writes.

Biderman became president of the Labour League in 1942. Although not a Communist organization, it was Communist-led and a de facto arm of the Communists in Canada.

When the league, which began in Toronto, spread nationally, it changed its name to the United Jewish Peoples Order. Besides continuing its Communist-led political activity, it became involved in Jewish cultural programs like the Jewish Folk Choir and Camp Naivelt.

Biderman describes in detail the struggle UJPO had after World War II. As communism, once an ally in the struggle against fascism, began to lose mainstream support, UJPO felt itself ostracized by the Jewish community. In 1951, the Canadian Jewish Congress expelled UJPO.

The Order's biggest challenge started in 1948 with the formation of Israel. At first the U.S.S.R. favoured this new nation, but shortly thereafter did an abrupt about face and became staunchly anti-Israel.

News of Soviet anti-Semitism began to filter out of the U.S.S.R. At the beginning, Jewish Communists refused to believe the news. First came Solomon Michaels' (the head of Russia's Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee) fatal "accident." Then the Moscow Jewish Theatre was closed, the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee was dissolved and *Emes*, the Soviet Jewish newspaper, ceased publication.

Biderman took advantage of a trip to the Soviet Union in 1955 to ask questions (with official "permission" from the Canadian Communist party). Ask questions he did, but his Soviet hosts were not as willing to provide answers other than the official party line, which was often contradictory.

On his return, Biderman began to harbour some doubts. The final straw came in 1956 when Nikita Khrushchev revealed for the first time the atrocities of the Stalin era. When an article appeared in the Jewish press describing the murder of Jewish artists in Lubianka in 1951, "it was like a bombshell, coming on top of the Khrushchev revelations."

Morris Biderman

Biderman quit the party in 1957 and spent the next three years trying to reform UJPO and rid it of its Communist alliance.

It was a bitter three-year battle that took its toll on Biderman and other anti-Communists. The Communist supporters began to disrupt UJPO meetings and to challenge every item raised until many of the older members, tired of the fight, stopped turning up.

"If there was no issue they [the Communists] would invent one. They began to resort to lies and slander," he writes.

Eventually the Communists won, and in 1960, Biderman and others left UJPO and formed the New Fraternal Jewish Association.

Biderman has few regrets these days. "I am not sorry for being a Communist," he writes. "I was never a leader of the party. For all the 30 year, my activity was in the Jewish left-wing [cultural] organizations."

The Jewish left was also doomed for another reason. It was, as Irving Abella writes in the introduction, "a one-generation phenomenon."

As the Jewish immigrants strove to make a just society, through their hard work they made a better life for their children. As their children became successful businessmen and professionals, they saw little need for social reform. And as they became assimilated, they saw little need for Jewish social clubs.

A Life on the Jewish Left is a great chronicle of this fascinating chapter in Canadian Jewish history. Its legacy remains with us today both nationally (labour reforms) and in the continuation of Jewish cultural activities that UJPO and its sister organizations still perform to this day.

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PLEASE NOTE: Our new phone line and number were installed just after last week's CJN went to press. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Arts & Travel

Divided island only an hour's flight from Israel

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

NICOSIA — In recent years, a number of Israelis and tourists to Israel have discovered the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus as a holiday getaway, be it on a one-hour flight from Tel Aviv or a two to three-day cruise offered from Haifa.

Others were recently introduced to Cyprus when the island played host this May to the Miss Universe Pageant. Glimpses of the exotic country were interspersed between parading international beauty queens, for broadcast around the world.

Cyprus' history is 10,000 years old. The current population of Cyprus is 740,000. The island is 9,251 square kilometres and lies at the crossroads of Europe, Africa and Asia – no wonder it has been a target for invasion for centuries.

For thousands of centuries the Turkish and Greek Cypriots lived together peacefully.

But in 1974, Turkey occupied 37 percent of the land in the north of the island, leaving the capital Nicosia divided.

Almost overnight 200,000 Greek Cypriots were expelled to the south becoming refugees in their own land, while the Turkish Cypriots were ordered to move north to the now occupied territory.

With this forced evacuation, the once thriving north's Greek Cypriot landmarks were destroyed and tourist hot spots deteriorated.

Visitors to the island are able to cross the United Nations buffer zone, but Greek Cypriots are not allowed the same pleasure.

Today, tourism and the economy in what is considered by the world as "free Cyprus" has grown rapidly.

Due to the formation of the Department of Antiquities, a number of archeological discoveries have been unearthed including the Mosaics of Pafos.

Many of the country's priceless treasures have been collected and housed in the Archeological Museum in Nicosia. Unfortunately, many artifacts from the occupied territory no longer exist and reproductions and pictures have to suffice.

Other places to visit on the island include Pafos Aquarium, St. Neophytos Monastery and Pafos' Tombs of the Kings, named for its majestic size although there was no royalty laid to rest there.

There are a number of local excursions one can book from most hotels, including donkey and carriage tours in addition to the more conventional bus or taxi rides.

In Nicosia, visit the Byzantine Museum, Famagusta, one of the three gates of this walled city and Liaiki Yitonia – a pedestrian quarter for great shopping loaded with designer stores and international retail chains.

Not to be missed is Lefkosia, a town known for its silver and lace, and hand woven Irish linen.

Be forewarned, the merchants in this town are aggressive. If you dare venture into a store, you will probably not come out empty handed.

The quaint village of Omodos in the Troodos Mountains has an old wine press. It is no longer in use, but interesting to see just the same. The ancient site of Korion with its amphitheatre offers concerts and theatre year round, including Shakespeare in English, and Greek Tragedy in its original form. Aspiring cantors are free to try out the incredible acoustics when the theatre is not in use.

Greek mythology buffs will gravitate to the Sanctuary of Apollo, Petra tou Romiou – Aphrodite's Rock, the legendary birthplace of the Goddess of Love and the Baths of Aphrodite. A splash of the water from this grotto promises eternal beauty.

The average daytime temperature from June to September is 32C, 16C from December to February and 25C from March to May and October to November. One Cyprus pound equals $2.90 Cdn. Greek and Turkish are the official languages, but English is widely spoken.

Cyprus offers a variety of accommodations to suit every budget from eco-tourist properties to five-star hotels.

Ferries connect Cyprus with the Greek Islands, Greece and Israel. There are 18 Canadian tour operators. However, the most economical way to travel to Cyprus is by taking an air charter to London, then book a British package to either Larnaka or Pafos airports. Cyprus Airways offers daily interline service to Larnaka from London, Amsterdam and Athens.

For more information contact Cyprus Tourism Organisation in New York at 212-683-5280 or e-mail: gocyprus@aol.com. You can also check out http://www.cyprus-tourism.org.

Beautiful stories without the words

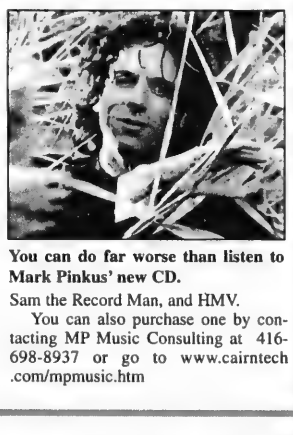
Toronto-based composer/performer Mark Pinkus recently released his fourth CD of piano instrumentals called *Breakthrough*.

Although *Breakthrough* will be classed as "New Age" music, it is far from ambient "elevator music." Pinkus' high-octave melodies swirl and cascade over moody time signatures that hold his songs together.

His songs, which have been described as "beautiful stories without words," evoke images and stories much the same way good paintings do.

You can do far worse after a day at work than put your feet up, close your eyes and dream away your stress while listening to *Breakthrough*.

Breakthrough is available in Toronto at the downtown megastores: Tower, Sam the Record Man, and HMV.



You can do far worse than listen to Mark Pinkus' new CD.

You can also purchase one by contacting MP Music Consulting at 416-698-8937 or go to www.cairntech.com/mpmusic.htm

Top violinist joins Klezmer group

TORONTO — One of the world's leading klezmer violinists will be joining local band Beyond the Pale for two concerts Aug. 5 and 6.

Steven Greenman, a resident of Cleveland, Ohio and a veteran performer at Ashkenaz, is hailed as an authentic European-Jewish klezmer violinist. He has recorded and performed with klezmer bands like Khevrisa, Budowitz, Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, Klezmatics and Alicia Svigls.

Beyond the Pale with Greenman and accordionist Sasha Luminsky will perform Aug. 5 at the Mill Race Festival of Traditional Music in Cambridge, Ont. at 6 and 9 p.m., and at the Free Times Cafe on Aug. 6 at noon and 1:30 p.m.

Call 416-967-1078 for reservations at the Free Times or 416-482-2699 for other information.

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Business Profile

Young couple's speakers' agency thrives

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Canadian personalities from hockey hero Paul Henderson to former astronaut Roberta Bondar may well owe their careers in public speaking to Martin and Farah Perelmuter.

Now both 30, the Perelmuters are proprietors of Speakers' Spotlight, a Toronto-based agency they founded in 1995, the year they were married.

Their company has grown steadily since then. Bookings reached the $1 million mark in 1998, and revenues are significantly higher today.

"Our goal," said Farah, "is to remain the best agency, not necessarily the biggest one."

"Our challenge is to keep our numbers manageable so that we can represent our clients effectively," Martin added.

Speakers' Spotlight represents an eclectic core group of 80 speakers, about a quarter of whom are Jewish. They range from author-journalist Peter Newman to television mogul Moses Znaimer.

Usually, the Perelmuters deal with Canadians. But when the need arises, they recruit speakers from the United States, Europe and Australia.

"We made a conscious decision to work with Canadians," explained Martin, a former corporate/commercial lawyer with the Bay Street firm of Goodman Phillips & Vineberg. "American speakers often don't understand the nuances of Canada, and have sometimes proven to be major disappointments."

Speaker typically earns $5,000

Like their competitors, the Perelmuters represent three kinds of speakers – professional speakers, known for their expertise in this or that field; celebrity speakers, basically riding the crest of their fame; and technical speakers, sought out for their knowledge of certain subjects.

Organizations and companies call on their services to deliver motivational or factual speeches. The topics vary widely, from leadership to future trends.

"There is always a need for such speakers," said Farah, a former advertising executive. "Companies and organizations are constantly changing, as is the world, and people want someone to explain these changes."

In booking a speaker, they look for a person who obviously possesses excellent platform skills, but who also brings a combination of experience and credibility.

If the topic is management and organization, they can call on Harry Rosen, the chief executive officer of the menswear chain of stores, or Barbara Moses, one of North America's leading authorities in career development.

Should the subject be media or broadcasting, they can count on seasoned correspondents like Mike Duffy or Peter Kent.

If politics, current events or social issues are the topics, they can reach out to broadcasters Hana Gartner or Daniel Richler.

And so on and so on.

In Canada, a speaker can typically earn $5,000 for a one-hour speech, but the creme de la creme command a maximum of $15,000. In one instance, Nicolas Negroponte, director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's media lab charged $40,000 (U.S.) for a talk.

By contrast, the fee for high-profile speakers in the United States is seemingly limitless. Christopher Reeves, the disabled actor who portrayed Superman in a series of movies, commands no less than $100,000.

Whatever the fee, the Perelmuters stand to gain a tidy profit. On average, they receive a 25 percent commission for each engagement.

The companies and organizations using their services run the gamut from the Bank of Montreal and IBM to the United Jewish Appeal and Hadassah-Wizo.

When they started Speakers' Spotlight they had no contingency plans for failure. "We went for it," said Martin. "We strongly believed it would work out."

Speakers' Spotlight was Farah's idea. After an uncle asked how he could reinvent himself as a motivational speaker, she did the required research and, much to her surprise, discovered that there were myriad opportunities in this business.

The concept appealed to them because they had dreamed of being self-employed and thus in more control of their lives. "Our objective was to achieve a balanced lifestyle and to enjoy life together," she explained, pointing out that she originally envisaged it as a sideline after starting a family.

Martin and Farah Perelmuter

Convinced that they had a good shot at success, they left their jobs, pouring $25,000 of their savings to launch Speakers' Spotlight. Working punishing hours and scrimping, they broke even in the first year. "No one knew who we were," recalled Martin. "We had no contacts. Our experience was limited."

Their first speaker, the hockey player Paul Henderson, was impressed by their pluck, ambition and trustworthiness. "He was willing to give us a chance," said Martin.

"We discovered that our age was not a hindrance," said Farah. "We were judged on our performance. We were innovative. We gained a reputation for being creative."

In 1996 and 1997, sales increased by some 400 percent. Not having looked back since, the Perelmuters moved to bigger quarters in downtown Toronto, hired more staff, opened an office in Vancouver to serve the West Coast market, established a popular and effective Web site (www.speakers.ca) which gets approximately 50,000 hits a month, and began publishing a spiffy newsletter, *The Spotlight*.

Martin and Farah still put in 60 to 70 hours per week, but they thoroughly enjoy themselves. "It doesn't seem like work," said Farah, who is expecting her first child in September. "We look forward to it."

Thanks in no small measure to planning and foresight, they have avoided the tensions which can befall couples who are in business together.

"We have defined our roles clearly," said Farah. Martin deals with the day-to-day servicing of clients and with follow-up arrangements. Farah is in charge of marketing and preparing catalogues and media releases.

"Together we strategize and brainstorm," she said.

"We're a married couple first and business partners second," Martin observed.

They met at the University of Western Ontario, where they were students, and started dating in 1993.

Born in Winnipeg, the daughter of Irvin and Toby Vinsky, a dentist and an interior decorator respectively, Farah attended a talmud torah school and the University of Winnipeg before enrolling at Western. After graduating, she took a two-year program at the Institute of Canadian Advertising.

Martin, an Osgoode Hall Law School graduate, was born in Toronto. His parents – Jack, a chartered accountant, and Joanna, a real estate agent – immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1959.

Five years after starting Speakers' Spotlight, they feel blessed. "We're lucky we're doing something we love," said Martin.

"And to be doing it with someone you love," Farah chimed in sweetly.

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Fund-raiser for brain tumour research

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — We all like to escape the humdrum, everyday world now and then. It's a plus when we can also help a good cause.

You can do both at Play for A Cure, which will be held Aug. 10 at the Playdium Entertainment Centre in Mississauga. It is the first of what it is hoped will be an annual fund-raiser sponsored by the Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust.

Money raised will go to brain tumour research and patient care at the Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Tumour Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital.

The 11-acre Playdium offers a variety of activities including rock climbing, go-carting on the Andretti Grand Prix Raceway, miniature golf and beach volleyball. There will also be an outdoor barbecue, live entertainment from the Anita Rossi Band, EQ and Mike Benhaim of the Mandell Entertainment Group, a silent auction and contests.

Some of the Olympic, paralympic and world-class athletes taking part are Warren Sawkiw, baseball; Dawn Watson, pentathlon; Nancy Olmsted, kayak; Deirde Laframboise, equestrian; and Dave Dalziel, archery.

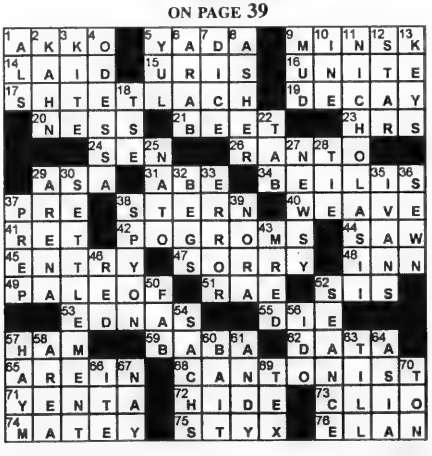
The Cott Corporation, of which the late Gerry Pencer was chair and CEO, is the lead sponsor.

The Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust was established in the summer of 1997. The Pencer Brain Tumour Centre, which opened in November 1998, offers relaxation and art therapy, patient and family support services, a newsletter, a patient information binder, a library and treatment of and research into brain tumours.

Tickets for the event will be $125. After 10 p.m., guests can come and party for $25.

For more information or for tickets, call the Play for a Cure hotline at 416-946-2230.

ANSWERS BELOW FOR THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39



HADASSAH MEMBERS TALK SCIENCE: Members of Hadassah-International met in Jerusalem recently to update their knowledge of current scientific and medical research. Hadassah-International represents men and women in 30 countries who support research in Israel through Hadassah Medical Organization. Hadassah-WIZO Canada donated funds to the Israeli hospital for the umbilical cord bank project and for the artificial heart pump program. Pictured from right to left are Dr. Arnon Nagler, Deborah Goody-Malki and Lily Frank, Hadassah-WIZO Canada Directors, Marion Mayman, President Hadassah WIZO Canada, Bonnie Lipton, National President of Hadassah, Professor Avi Israeli, Director General of Hadassah Medical Organization, and Dr. Amir Elami.

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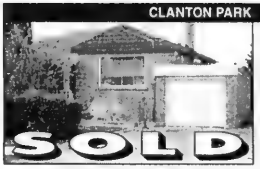

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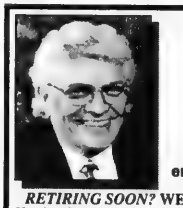

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MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP
Female, 62 yrs but looks 50, European background, owns business, exceptionally attractive, elegant and sophisticated, seeks gentleman, 65-70 yrs, who's also sophisticated in all aspects, professional or businessman, who knows how to treat a lady for a meaningful relationship. **AD#1272**

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Divorced Jewish female, 44 yrs, 5' 9", smoker, seeks male for dining and dancing, and outdoor activities. **AD#1454**

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Widowed female, 66 yrs, young, seeks gentleman mensch, 65-72 yrs, who's young in spirit, clean looking, enjoys movies, watching TV, quiet evenings and appreciates a real nice lady. **AD#1421**

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Divorced Jewish professional female, 5' 4", slim, pretty, shapely, caring, warm, own home, enjoys theatre, movies, dancing, cottages, and winter south, seeking established, sincere male, 60+, nonsmoker ,who loves life, laughter and enjoys all that life has to offer. **AD#1312**

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Single Jewish female, 31 yrs, 5' 8", attractive, fit slim, never married, seeking tall Jewish male, keeping kosher, funny intelligent, articulate, good communication skills, who enjoys outdoors, family events, meeting people, will accept/respect me and value out times together **AD#1248**

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WHAT A CATCH
Single male, Jewish, 34 yrs, 5' 10", 165 lbs, slim fit, handsome, humourous, warm, down to earth, honest, sexy, sincere, financially, secure, romantic, enjoys dining and dancing, romantic evenings, seeks female Jewish, petite romantic, warm loving, for possible long term relationship. **AD#1025**

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Single male, 54 yrs, original fiddler on the roof, nice, kind, traditional values, educated, successful, good sense of humour, handsome athletic, enjoys outdoor activities, travel, dining and dancing, seeks female with similar interests and qualities. **AD#1088**

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Single male, 46 yrs, professional, 5' 8", medium build, down to earth, sincere, easy going, seeks female, 35-45 yrs, intelligent, sincere, honest, good sense of humour, no head games please, for possible long term relationship. **AD#1476**

GREAT RELATIONSHIP
Attractive retired male, 76 yrs, widow for 2 years, seeks non smoking, nice young female, for great relationship. **AD#1047**

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY
Single male, 5' 9½", 150 lbs, small-medium build, blue eyes, in reasonable physical condition, an amateur musician, with stron interest in music, conservation, environment, nature and social sciences, seeking female with small-medium build and similar interests. **AD#1204**

A GREAT CATCH
Single male, 34 yrs, 5' 7", 175 lbs, blonde hair, blue eyes, attactive, fit, workout, educated, multilingual, employed on internet, in Canada and abroad, enjoys studying, writing, reading, travelling, outdoor activities, anything cultural/historical, seeking female 20-30 yrs, attractive, smart, stable, ambitious, enjoys travelling, having fun. **AD#1460**

LET'S TALK
Single Jewish male, educated professional, tall, witty, smart, loves the arts, theatre, movies, music, dining, dancing, and many other thing, seeking Jewish female, children and pet are okay. **AD#1011**

MUST WANT CHILDREN
Divorced male, with no children, working on my first book, speaks English, Yiddish, fairly generous, involved with volunteer work for many years, seeking female, young enough to start a family, and must want to have children, for true happiness. **AD#1071**

LIFE AND LAUGHTER
Single Jewish male, a vegetarian, tall, slim, romantic, sensitive, with a sense of humour, seeking female, 43-55 yrs, who's health conscious, and would like to share life and laughter. **AD#1376**

LET'S TALK
Male, 70 yrs, 5' 10", 190 lbs, in good physical condition, seeks communicative female to develop a relationship with. **AD#1020**

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Single male, seeking female, nonsmoker and non drinker, for serious long term relationship. **AD#1200**

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Single, unattached and unincumbered, seeking female, who's intelligent, with high integrity, pleasant disposition, without sense of ownership or assumed expectations, for open heart to heart communication. **AD#1360**

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Single Jewish male, late 40s, 5' 10", great blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, compassionate, with a great sense of humour, enjoys theatre, long walks in the park, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking single or widowed female, intelligent, 32-45 yrs, with similar personality and interests **AD#1097**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single male, Shoma-Shabbas, professional Jewish educator, warm, caring, handsome, and eclectic, seeking Jewish observant, female, who's spiritual, with joie de vive, for love, marriage and children. **AD#1245**

LET'S TALK
Single male, 34 yrs, not shy, loves exercise and conversations, seeks female with similar qualities. **AD#1334**

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Sports & Leisure

Provincial level athlete

London teen juggles soccer, basketball careers

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Sabine Goldberg is a two-sport athlete who like other top athletes excels at yet a third activity – juggling.

She's very good at soccer and she loves basketball, but it's thanks to her ability to juggle schedules that she can fit in key roles on two soccer teams, and a couple of hoops squads too.

Goldberg, 16, has her irons in so many fires it's a wonder she doesn't show up for a soccer practice on a basketball day or at a basketball tournament on a soccer day.

This summer she'll work out with Ontario's Under -17 Soccer Team at a training camp in Parry Sound as well as practice regularly in Toronto.

A centre/midfielder who hails from London, Ont., she's also a member of Forest United, a top club team that competes in the Ontario Youth Soccer League and which participates in an endless string of summer tournaments.

At "almost five-foot-three," she's a point guard in the girls basketball Junior Development Program, which brings together the top hoops stars from London, Sarnia, Chatham and Windsor. Although she didn't make the provincial team in that sport, she's got her eyes set on a spot on the Maccabi women's basketball team, which will compete in the 16th Maccabiah Games in Israel next summer.

A veteran of the Toronto Junior Girls Maccabi Basketball Team, which won a gold medal in a tight contest against Baltimore last year, Goldberg will join the team at the youth games in Cincinnati later this summer. Her "number one goal is to go to the Maccabiah Games in Israel," she said.

Having a full schedule seems to suit Goldberg fine. Even at age four, she was a tightly wound bundle of joy who needed an outlet for all her energy, she said.

"I was a very energetic child," she conceded. "I always liked to run, so I guess soccer was a good sport for me."

Goldberg admits she was a reluctant participant at first. "I was more of a dandelion picker who occasionally made a sprint."

Eventually she got into the sport in a big way and by the time she was 13, she was good enough to play on boys' teams and earn their admiration.

"When it comes to attitudes and personalities, boys just don't care while girls are more competitive with each other. The girls singled me out. If you're better than them, they don't want to talk to you. I get more respect from the boys," she said.

Goldberg played for her school, Lucas Secondary, and in May and made the provincial Under-17 squad.

She loves her role as centre/midfielder, a position that gives her plenty of leadership duties.

"I dish out the ball and make the plays. I don't score many goals, that's not in my job description," she explained.

From her position in the centre of the action, Goldberg "can see the field and dish it off. I make the easy pass. I don't have amazing moves to get around defenders," she said, but her coaches are working with her to get her to dribble the ball more and carry it upfield.

Forest United is known as a hard working team, she said. Earlier this season, they played in the Ontario Cup provincial club championships and finished with a 1-2 record.

In June, the team won the Scarborough United tournament and at the Robbie tournament in Toronto, they tied last year's Ontario Cup winners in an early round game, but failed to advance to the playoffs.

When she was chosen for the provincial Under-17 team, "I think I started to cry, I was so happy."

Almost 200 girls were invited to tryouts for the Under-16 and Under-17 teams and Goldberg was one of 48 who advanced to a training camp. She was among 22 girls on the Under-17 team who played in a tournament in Quebec and she expects she'll be in the lineup when the team travels to North Carolina in November for another tournament.

Goldberg's basketball career closely mirrors her soccer exploits. She started playing at around six, at first in a co-ed league. During summers, she participated in basketball camps and in Grade 7, she made the Ramblers, a girls team in the city's top competitive league.

In Grade 10 she was chosen to the Midget Development Program, which brings together the best athletes in the Huron region.

Sandwiched in her regional development program was a stint on the Toronto youth Maccabi team, where she played in two summer games in Detroit and Rochester.

"That was probably the best experience I've ever had in my life," she said. "London has [few] Jewish kids and to see all these kids together was so nice."

In the midst of all her soccer activities, Goldberg still finds time to serve as a counselor at the Gold Medal Basketball Camp and she plays every Monday in the Western League.

Looking past next summer's Maccabiah, Goldberg is hoping to continue her soccer or basketball careers in college.

And which would she prefer?

"I don't know. At times, I love basketball more but I'm better at soccer than at basketball," she said.

Sabine Goldberg (in striped maroon uniform) is seen here playing for Forest United in the Henderson Tournament last year. Goldberg scored one goal in a 4-1 United win.

Volleyball player makes national team

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Toronto volleyball star Josh Binstock has been selected to Canada's 2000 Junior National Men's Team, and will train in Montreal this summer.

Binstock, 19, is one of 12 top volleyball players from across Canada to join the team, and the only one selected from Ontario.

Binstock, six-foot-six, 185 lbs., led the Richmond Hill Raiders to a 33-6 season and a third place finish in the provincial championships in November. A member of the *Toronto Star*'s high school volleyball "dream team," Binstock is also a key member of the JCC (Jewish Community Centre) Blues, one of the top club teams in Ontario.

During the summer, the national junior team will prepare for the 2000 NORCECA Junior Men's Championships, August 12-20, in Havana, Cuba. The winner of the event will qualify for next year's 2001 FIVB Junior World Championships.

Chatting about CHAT

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

In an otherwise sleepy summer, the drama (some would say fiasco) over the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's decision to open a northern campus only for students entering grade 9 and who live north of Steeles Avenue, has kept some parents tied up for weeks. In knots.

Some desultory thoughts, in no particular order:

CHAT parents have several concerns, some, in my view, more valid than others. Isolating only grade 9 kids in one building (the newly vacant Richmond Hill High School, north of Major Mackenzie, just west of Yonge Street) will indeed mean that those kids won't get the full high school experience. Parents cite alienation from the rest of the student body, carpool problems, (possibly) greater costs, and lack of extracurricular activities, mainly because the kids will have to be bused to and from school.

That last one carries little weight with me. Everyone in my high school was bused, and many of us happily stayed until six in the evening for sports and clubs. We then either took a late bus or actually boarded public transit. (A lucky few were picked up by parents.) But that was then. Now, kids go home and are then carpooled to piano lessons, soccer practice and karate.

Speaking of which, it is the messing up of carpools that is upsetting many parents. Drivers used to heading south, and perhaps on to work, will now have to rise earlier, go north a fair distance, and then turn around to head south again. Some parents may also face a situation in which a child entering Grade 9 will go to the northern campus, while his or her older sibling will have to attend the one in Downsview. Definitely a wrench in the gears.

But most parents are angry because they feel they were bushwhacked by the news. All this was presented as a fait accompli after kids had gone to camp and parents were becoming accustomed to the idea that come September, their children will be attending the Wilmington campus, along with all the other students.

CHAT has countered that it had to act quickly. School officials say they became aware of the empty high school in mid-June, and made a formal request to lease it two days later.

Now, along comes Howard Shore, vice-chair of the York Region District School Board, who maintains he brought the existence and availability of the Richmond Hill site to the attention of the CHAT board fully 18 months ago, but that the idea was rejected because the school was deemed off the beaten path.

As they say in the British House of Commons, someone is being economical with the truth.

I find two of the parents' arguments distasteful.

One is the notion that CHAT is somehow violating a contract it had with parents. In reality, the school is obliged to educate children; it never specified where. Some parents are actually weighing a legal injunction, at least to freeze plans. What kind of message are we sending our kids when we sue the minute something doesn't go our way?

The other is just offensive: some parents have said, publicly, that there's reason to be concerned because a nearby Baptist church and some Muslim-owned stores will have negative influences on the Richmond Hill students. That's racist, flat out.

All in all, on both sides of the equation, this has not been our finest hour.

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1/2 cup sugar
1 12-oz. carton frozen Cool Whip dessert topping, thawed
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Drain pineapple juice into bowl; set pineapple aside. Add bananas to juice. In large bowl, combine cranberry sauce and sugar. Remove bananas, discarding juice, and add to cranberry mixture. Stir in pineapple, whipped topping, and nuts. Pour into a 13"x9"x2" dish. Freeze until solid. Remove from freezer 15 minutes before cutting into squares. Serves 12-16.

About Seniors

Dr. Mark says...

As a geriatrician, I was initially put off by the idea of a book full of interviews with famous people – just because they had attained "a certain age."

But I was wrong.

Of a Certain Age by Naim Attallah (Quartet Books, 1992) is well worth the read. The 14 mostly elderly people featured all have had fascinating pasts.

Mostly Brits, they represent primarily the English uppercrust – a group once described by a wag as "a bunch of crumbs held together by dough."

And some are crumbs – Claus von Bulow and Lady Diana Mosely are two excellent examples. Many are wealthy. But all are worth listening to.

I am not the kind of Jewish reader who divides up members of humanity depending on their attitudes towards us. It is, however, difficult not to be struck by how these old grandees self-differentiate so clearly into two groups: anti- and philo-Semitic.

At one end of the spectrum stands Diana Mosely, the wife of Oswald Mosely, leader of the wartime British Union of Fascists. Today, she lives a quiet, unrepentant life in southern France. Her interview really is a bit awe-inspiring. In it, Lady Diana speaks in a matter-of-fact manner about her close relations with things Nazi.

In stark contrast stands the Irish politician, writer and editor, Conor Cruise O'Brien. He is so unabashedly on the other side: "[My] degree of sympathy for Israel is based on the realization that Israel is the result of horrendously extreme conditions… it's an emotional issue with me."

A more "balanced" view is offered by many of those interviewed.

On the question of the possibility of an afterlife, one which I am sure becomes more pressing with age, Lord Shawcross (chief British prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials) offers the following delightful response: "It may be that as I get nearer the end [he was 90 at the time of the interview], I become more hopeful that the end will not be final, that there might be something beyond it. But it doesn't absorb much of my thinking even now. All I can say is that I have a little hope that I may meet 'round the corner those who have preceded me."

One of the funniest lines in the book comes from Lord Soper stating that the continued existence of the House of Lords has among other things reaffirmed his belief in life after death. (The question for Canadian readers of course is whether milord's comments are relevant to our own Upper House.)

This book is a lovely read, especially if you are interested in the wisdom (and sometimes cant) of an extraordinary stable of old people who have aged along with this century.

Mark Clarfield is the chief of academic affairs at the Sarah Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem and a staff geriatrician of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Sir Mortimer B. Davis – Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, Montreal.

The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"From Russia With Love"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

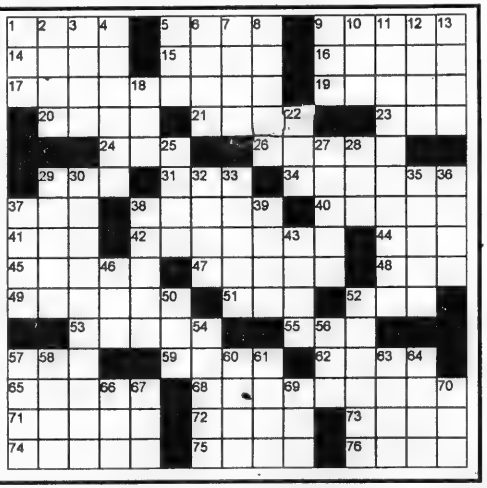
Across

1 City in Galilee
5 When repeated, "and so on"
9 City in the 49-across
14 Put down
15 *Exodus* author
16 "Workers of the world, ___!"
17 Anatevka and others
19 Dental concern
20 Famed Scottish loch
21 Borscht base
23 "48 ___"
24 Specter of Pa., e.g.
26 Sought help from
29 Nutty ___ fruitcake
31 Playwright Burrows
34 Subject of an infamous 1913 trial
37 Not post-
38 Noted violinist
40 Use a loom
41 Like Gen. Powell
42 Anti-Jewish riots
44 Viewed
45 Possible contest winner
47 Regretful
48 Holiday or Days
49 With 30-down, area to which tsars restricted Eastern European Jews
51 One of Cohn's "The Facts of Life" co-stars
52 Bro's sib
53 Ferber and others
55 "Yahtzee" need
57 Noah's second son
59 ___ Wawa (Glida Radner character)
62 Facts
65 "The results ___"
68 Mid-19th century school system set up to convert young Russian Jews
71 Back-fence type
72 Take cover
73 Advertising award
74 Fellow sailor
75 Underworld river
76 Gusto

Down

1 Gore and Roker
2 Yale Art Gallery architect Louis
3 Wind-up toy?
4 Site of the first 42-across
5 Brynner of "The King and I"
6 ___ League
7 Cut up
8 Potok's *My Name Is ___ Lev*
9 Sty stuff
10 Chemical suffix
11 He instigated 34-across's trial
12 Streisand, say
13 They have an open-door policy
18 Mao ___-tung
22 It's picked up in bars
25 USA, Canada, Turkey, etc.
27 Of interest to the Sulzbergers
28 Bind
29 Scene of conflict
30 See 49-across
32 Is a schnorrer
33 Blown grounder, for example
35 Five tsars
36 Stitched
37 Type of school
38 Treat as a Mossad employee might
39 Former SNL cast member Dunn
43 Talking horse
46 Marxist's color
50 Beatles adjective
52 Spooky gathering
54 Goldman partner
56 Words beneath a *chupah*
57 Revolutionary War financier Solomon
58 Length times width
60 Lure
61 Actor Garcia
63 Money holder
64 Uzbekistan setting
66 Ending for Manhattan
67 Not yea
69 Ark. neighbor
70 A hundred score pounds

(Answers are on page 33.)



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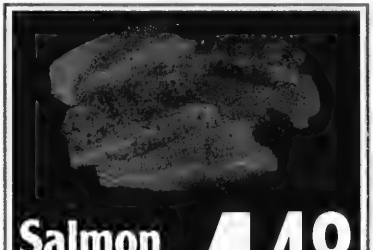

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This Week

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Biluim holds reunion for campers of '61 *Page 4*

Canannite canine Jake sports an ancient lineage. *Page 7*

On Campus

Academic brings Jewish studies to Waterloo. *Page 16*

Arts & Travel

Great Synagogue in Stockholm is a magnet for Jewish tourists. *Page 28*

Book deals with issues related to art collecting. *Page 29*

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Knesset favours early election

By GIDEON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Five bills calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections passed their preliminary readings last Wednesday, dealing yet another blow to Prime Minister Ehud Barak's crumbling coalition. Sixty-one MKs voted in favour of the bills.

David Levy, who had resigned as foreign minister earlier in the day, was among those who supported the dissolution bills, as did his brother, Maxim. All the Knesset factions that stepped down from the coalition in recent weeks – Shas, Yisrael b'Aliyah and the National Religious Party – also voted in favour of the bills, as did United Torah Judaism and One Nation MK Haim Katz.

The first bill up for discussion was submitted by MK Silvan Shalom. It passed with a majority of 61 MKs, with 51 MKs voting against and Shinui's six MKs abstaining. Next were the bills of Yisrael Katz, Abraham Hirchson, Limor Livnat and Avigdor Lieberman, all of which passed with a majority of 61 to 48.

Crumbling coalition

Shalom approached Amnon Rubinstein, chair of the Knesset constitution, law and justice committee, with a request to convene the committee during the Knesset's summer recess, to discuss his bill ahead of its first plenum reading in the winter session. Shalom said he was hopeful that the bill would pass its first reading when the Knesset reconvenes in October. He said that the committee had convened during its 1978 summer recess to discuss and approve a dissolution bill, thus setting a precedent. Rubinstein responded by saying that he would have to discuss the matter with the Knesset's legal adviser, Zvi Inbar.

Continued on page 25

Prime Minister Ehud Barak and David Levy clasp hands and laugh at their Knesset seats, shortly after Levy submitted his resignation as Israel's foreign minister. Barak suffered a further blow when the Knesset voted for early elections. *Further coverage on page 24.*
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Quebec shul seized for back taxes

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The synagogue in the Laurentian village of Val Morin has been seized by the municipality for property taxes owing.

The ruling was made by Quebec Court, despite the fact that the three persons under whose name the synagogue is registered are all long deceased.

The sons of two of these men say they were not aware of any tax problem, although neither of them has been involved with the synagogue for many years.

Congregation Ohel Moishe, whose history goes back to the 1930s, had not been used for services for three or four years, said Sam Waxman, who lives in Val Morin 10 months of the year. He had been voluntarily looking after the property.

Waxman was stunned when he went to synagogue in June and found that its outside sign had been removed and a new lock installed.

In the Laurentians

What he later found inside shocked him even more.

"The place had been turned upside down. The benches were moved, the bimah was taken out. The power had been turned off.

"It hurts more than anything. They did not even have the courtesy to tell me beforehand. I've been a member of the synagogue for over 40 years, and was still going in there by myself to pray. I'm the only one who takes any interest in it today," he said. "Whatever expenses there are I pay out of my own pocket."

Waxman said he did not even realize the synagogue was liable for taxes.

The lawyer for Val Morin, Chantal Desbiens, however, told the CJN that all the required legal steps were taken and "no response at all" was received.

Desbiens said about $5,300 was owed by the congregation for the years from 1996-99.

On May 24, Quebec Court ruled that the municipality of Val Morin could take possession of the property, she said. On June 26, Val Morin took a mortgage on the property to get the taxes owed to it, an action which is permitted under sections 2724 and 2725 of the Quebec Civil Code, as well as 982.1 of the Quebec Municipal Code. The 30-day delay for an appeal has since lapsed, she said.

Continued on page 19

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat Nachamu: Vaetchanan
Candlelighting: 8:09
Havdallah: 9:14

New president wants 'quieter' country— please see page 23

Feature

Giorgio Bassani: In memoriam 1916-2000

By RACHELE LONGO LAVORATO
Special to The CJN

With the death of Giorgio Bassani on April 13, Italy lost one of its greatest literary and cultural figures of the 20th century.

Bassani's multifaceted career as poet, novelist and essayist exemplified the complete assimilation of Italian Jews into the intellectual and political landscape of Italy. A political activist who participated in the Resistance, Bassani was arrested as a Jew and partisan in 1943. He subsequently dedicated his career as a writer to the depiction of exclusion and persecution in his society.

Bassani was a member of the editorial staff at the prestigious Feltrinelli publishing house, past vice-president of RAI TV, screenwriter and a professor of history of the theatre at Rome's Accademia Nazionale di Arte Drammatica. However, he will be best remembered and celebrated as the novelist who brought to life the many and diverse characters who populate his narrative universe – the Jewish community of Ferrara.

Ferrara is a city in the region of Emilia-Romagna in Northern Italy, an industrial and agricultural centre situated in the Po Valley. Since approximately 1100, the history of Ferrara has been linked to its Jewish community. Through the centuries, Jewish migrations from Rome, Spain and Germany settled in Ferrara. Initially the Ferrarese Jews were farmers, doctors, shopkeepers, and later, bankers and merchants.

Through the ages, this community distinguished itself with prominent scientists, doctors, engineers, philologists and scholars who contributed extensively to Italian society.

While much has been written about the Holocaust and particularly about the fate of Eastern European Jews, North Americans generally have little awareness of the plight of Italian Jewry.

The racial laws enacted by Mussolini's regime in 1938, the subsequent persecutions and deportations to Auschwitz and Buchenwald, the horrors of concentration camp victims and survivors are an integral part of Bassani's *Il romanzo di Ferrara*, a collection of novels and short stories first published as a volume in 1974.

If North Americans have a heightened sensitivity today to the Jewish community in Italy, the merit is to be attributed unquestionably to Giorgio Bassani, particularly to his novel, *The Garden of the Finzi-Contini* (adapted for the screen by Vittorio De Sica in 1971).

In 1938, the racial persecution of the Jews began in Italy with the passing of the anti-Semitic laws whose official purpose was the "defence of the Italian race." These laws included the prohibition of mixed marriages, the exclusion of Jews from military service and public schools, limitations on their activities and holdings, and a prohibition on the Jewish employment of Aryan domestics.

Provisions were also passed barring Jews from employment in military and civil administrations. In 1940, Bassani was forced to publish his first collection of short stories *Una città di Pianura* under the pseudonym of Giacomo Marchi because of the racial laws in effect.

It was, however, after Sept. 8, 1943, that the true Nazi influence was felt. The presence of German troops in Northern Italy significantly changed the course of events.

Up to this time, racial persecutions in Italy had generally operated along economic, social and financial restrictions. After Sept. 8, 1943, the horrors of deportations, concentration camps and mass-exterminations began.

In *The Gold-rimmed Spectacles* and *The Garden of the Finzi-Contini*, the narrator's father and his generation are totally bewildered by the anti-Semitic developments of Mussolini's Fascist party, a party which, for the most part, they had supported. Bassani's prose explores and seeks to understand this conflict.

For Giorgio Bassani the novelist, remembrance and invention were tools in the reconstruction of a very specific period in history, experienced by a very specific community. In Bassani's works, the precise geographical and historical reality of Ferrara during the Fascist era is a reproduction of the microcosmic reality he himself witnessed.

What some people have erroneously perceived as a limitedness of scope corresponds, in truth, to the author's need to come to terms with his own background, his attempt to find a key to understanding the present through the past.

Bassani's is an introspective journey backwards in time, not to relive nostalgically a golden era, but to further the understanding of himself and the people and events that comprise his past.

The focal point, the single most important event, of course, was World War II. This tragic turning point in the lives of so many is used by Bassani as a very definite temporal frame of reference.

Ferrara, the city of Bassani's childhood and adolescence, is the setting of a narrative that seeks to evoke the atmosphere, both social and political, of this historical period.

This precise geographical and historical reality receives further definition in the depiction of the experiences of the members of the broader Jewish community of Ferrara, a community to which the author/narrator and his family belong.

With notably few exceptions, the short stories and novels which comprise *Il romanzo di Ferrara* are set within a restricted span of time, between 1900 and 1950, and particularly in the years between the promulgation of the racial laws in Italy, 1938, and the end of World War II.

In *The Gold-rimmed Spectacles*, the story of a noted Venetian otorhinolaryngologist practising in Ferrara is subtly paralleled to the story of the young Jewish narrator. Both intensely feel their exclusion from the rest of society, their apartness, their variance, their own personal scandal – the doctor for his disclosed homosexuality, the young narrator for his Jewishness in a society

Continued on page 18

The News in Brief column will return.

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Davis moves from campus to UIA Federations

Lance Davis

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Informally, so to speak, one might say Lance Davis works in the area of informal Jewish education. But the new director of leadership development at UIA Federations Canada prefers the adjective "non-formal."

"It's serious work. It's just not taking place in a formal setting, with grades," he said in a recent interview, referring to the position he assumed in June, as well as to his five years at Jewish Campus Services (JCS) of Greater Toronto, most recently as director of education.

At UIA Federations, Davis, 29, has taken on some of the work previously handled by Eli Rubenstein, former director of young leadership development. Rubenstein is staying on as a consultant and national director of March of the Living.

Davis works in partnership with lay leaders, dealing mainly with National Young Leadership (a division of UIA Federations for 25- to-40-year-olds involved in their local federations) and UIA's national women's division.

His current national projects include a Young Leadership conference to be held in Ottawa next April, the development of a leadership education initiative and the development of a Ben Gurion Society (an initiative pioneered in Washington, D.C., several years ago for UJA campaign donors under age 40 contributing $1,000 or more).

Recently Davis accompanied a group of young adults on a Yachdav mission to Israel, a project co-sponsored by UIA.

At one time, he thought his career lay in Jewish advocacy or lobbying. But as a student at Brandeis University's Hornstein Graduate Program in Jewish Communal Service, Davis was "turned on to" informal Jewish education. "I saw it as being one of the most powerful tools we can utilize."

His two years at Hornstein were also significant in more personal ways. Davis, a native of Philadelphia, married his fellow student Julie Sandler, a Torontonian who now cares for their two young sons full time.

He also developed an interest in pluralism that solidified into a passion during his time at Jewish Campus Services, where he initiated annual unity missions to foster understanding and respect among students of different Jewish denominations.

Two years ago, he began working on his PhD in Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. He plans to focus on pluralism in his research. "I think it's an exciting topic ∴ I wanted to pick something that would have practical applications."

Davis believes that pluralism is implicit in everything UIA Federations does. "It brings together people from all parts of the community. That's part of what attracted me."

On a personal level, Davis, who became observant as an undergraduate at Tulane University in New Orleans, describes himself as "trans-denominational. Titles or labels don't really interest me so much. I really feel as though I can learn from anyone or any group. I don't think anybody has a monopoly on truth and righteousness."

Davis credits Bernie Reisman, now retired as director of the Hornstein program, for opening his eyes to the vitality and viability of a diverse community, and Zac Kaye, director of Jewish Campus Services, for the way he put pluralism into practice. "The lessons sank in in Toronto... working with Zac."

Davis stressed that he didn't leave JCS out of any sense of disappointment, but rather that he wanted to take on new challenges.

In fact, he would like to maintain a connection to campus, and facilitate continuity for graduate students, by including them in his new constituency.

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Three arrests made in attempted store heist

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Three men have been arrested in connection with a botched robbery attempt in January which claimed the life of a 23-year-old jewelry store employee.

Niv Erez was killed and store owner Mark Lash, 36, was badly wounded when they were surprised by three men who police believe literally fell out of the ceiling tiles to beset them on Jan.16.

Lash and Erez were preparing to relocate the store to a new location in Richmond Hill, when the suspects are believed to have broken in through the ventilation system, before smashing through the store's drop ceiling.

Erez was shot in the chest and Lash, who has since recovered, was shot in the stomach.

Erez was a graduate of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and was known as an outgoing, warm and well-liked young man.

Detective Steve Rowbottom of York Regional Police said recent tips from the public helped solidify evidence that pointed to the three suspects.

Police had been looking for the drivers of a 1995 two-door Mercedes convertible, a 1997 Toyota 4-Runner and a 1987 Chevrolet Caprice Classic.

"Important information came in the last few weeks and tied the investigation together," Rowbottom said.

The suspects are believed to have cased the jewelry store for two weeks prior to the robbery attempt. "It was not a random act; it was not a one-day thing," Rowbottom said.

Arrested in connection with the incident are Shane Zwezdaryk, 29, of Toronto; James Voong, 24, of Toronto; and Giuseppe Marini, 31, of Toronto. They face charges of first degree murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to commit robbery. The suspects are being held in custody pending a bail hearing. The next court date is set for Aug. 24.

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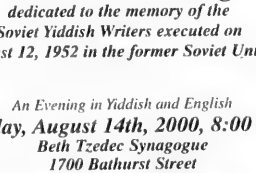

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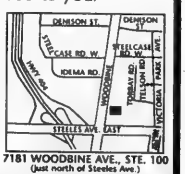

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Greater Toronto Area

Biluim alumni say their goodbyes after their first reunion.

Biluim holds reunion for campers of '61

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Eighty percent of the 52 campers who were at Biluim camp in Sudbury in 1961 recently gathered for their first reunion.

"We wanted to be 15 years old again," said Joel Cadesky, now 54, explaining the excellent turnout.

The 41 at the reunion, 22 women and 19 men, came to a lodge near the small Ontario village of Buckhorn north of Peterborough. They sat around in a circle for six hours, Cadesky said, talking about the impact of the two months spent together at the Young Judaea camp, which is now located in the Laurentians, at Ste. Jovite, Que.

They had an oneg Shabbat dinner Friday night, and over the weekend they discussed what they learned about Judaism at the camp.

"It was my first chance to meet other Jews my own age," said Cadesky, who lived in Owen Sound. "We got very close in the two months, roughing it in tents, with no lighting and no heating. We loved it."

It took a committee of 22 to bring it all together, and they managed to get in touch with 50 of the campers, after sending about 75 e-mail messages. They learned that two former campers were too ill to come, and that 12 live outside of Canada – six in United States and six in Israel.

A Web site, only for 1961 Biluim campers, with a picture of the campers is in operation and will be maintained.

The only person they failed to track down was Sandra Bloomfield of Montreal. The committee is still hoping to hear from someone who knows where she is. Malca Jacobs of Montreal was located after an ad was placed. Two Torontonians worked in the same building for years without knowing they were both at the camp. The same was true of two Montrealers.

Benny Landa, owner of a large business in Israel, attended with his wife, leaving in time to get to work in Israel Monday morning.

Also from Israel came Surra Raber, Gail Packus, Tammy Newman and Mira Swirling.

The next reunion is slated tentatively in Israel in five years.

So close do the '61 campers feel to each other, that when Joel Cadesky's son Eric visited Israel, he was hosted by Raber and Newman.

Jeff Groberman of Vancouver, a TV magnate, produced a live, interactive TV show, *Who wants to be a Biluim millionaire?* on Saturday night, followed by dancing until the wee hours to music of the '60s.

Jeff Dvorkin, originally of Edmonton and now an ombudsman for National Public Radio in the United States, did a three-minute commentary on the reunion on his network.

Among others attending from the United States were Gila Wertheimer (formerly Gail Margolese of Vancouver), owner and editor of the Skokie, Ill., *Jewish News*.

Judy Garfin of Montreal, an internationally known artist, attended along with others who included the owner of a business with 140 stores, civil servants, a physician, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, insurance agents, independent businessmen, retail sales people, lawyers, teachers and a publisher.

From the Editor's Desk will return

SEE JN

MATCHING BONDS: Israel Bonds and George Friedmann, owner of the Windsor Arms Hotel, recently presented Zareinu with a $10,000 Bond. The Bonds funds were raised from a Women's Division financial seminar which was held at the Windsor Arms. Seen (from left) are Frances Goldstein, Israel Bonds; Renette Berman, event chair; Howard Warren, Zareinu; George Friedmann, Windsor Arms Hotel; Corrine Spiegel, Women's Division chair; and Elan Levitan, Israel Bonds.

Holocaust memoirs published on the Web

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — A book by Yiddish writer Elkana K. Charmatz based on diaries he kept during World War II was recently translated into English.

The work was an extension of a project initiated by Concordia University in Montreal four years ago. The mandate was to collect stories previously unpublished in Canada written by Holocaust survivors living in this country. The manuscripts were circulated to major university libraries and Holocaust centres.

The Charmatz book was translated into English by prize-winning Toronto translator, Miriam D. Beckerman, and it has been posted on the Internet at www.concordia.ca/chair and www.migs.org.

Originally published in Yiddish in 1975, the book was translated into Portuguese in 1976 in Brazil, where Charmatz, his wife Sara and their two daughters lived after the war. The family later moved to Toronto. Charmatz died in 1986.

"Now everyone has access to the stories," said Beckerman, adding that the volume on the Web is titled *Nightmares: Memoirs of the Years of Horror under Nazi Rule in Europe, 1939-1945.*

Charmatz was a journalist and scholar. He was born in Ostrowiec, Poland, in 1910 and studied at the Gevardik Yeshiva.

He started to write poems and stories as a youngster and went into the plate glass business in Sosnowiec, Poland.

He was arrested in 1940 by the Gestapo and taken to the German labour camps at Birkenau-Auschwitz and Dachau.

Freed by the American army in 1945, Charmatz went to Paris where he worked at the Yiddish newspaper, *Undzer Vort* (Our Word).

The following year, he settled in Brazil and became the editor of the *Yiddishe Press* (Jewish Press) in Rio de Janeiro and later in Sao Paulo. He was a pioneer of a Jewish television program in Sao Paulo and created a Jewish radio show in 1954 that continued to air until 1967.

Elkana K. Charmantz

Charmatz, who was a friend of Elie Weisel's, contributed to many international publications and magazines. He received medals from the municipality of Sao Paulo in 1969 and 1974.

In 1985, he won the World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims Prize in Tel Aviv.

The translation of his book is the eighth publication in the Concordia project, Memoirs of Holocaust Survivors in Canada. It is a publication of The Concordia University Chair of Canadian Jewish Studies and The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

Charmatz composed his narrative in the postwar years, based partly on the diaries he kept while he was in the ghetto in Poland. He describes in detail the initial response of the Polish Jews to the Nazi invasion and chronicles the establishment of the ghetto in Sosnowiec. He analyses the behaviour of the Germans and the various methods they used to falsify the truth about their plans for the Jews in order to prevent any uprising among the imprisoned Jews.

He tells of his escape from Dachau and the postwar years, his stay in Paris and his travels back to Poland, where he is repelled by local Poles.

The unpublished Holocaust survivor memoirs are co-edited by Prof. Kurt Jonassohn and Prof. Mervin Butovsky.

The foreward of the Charmatz book states: "If you are aware of the existence of such unpublished Holocaust survivor memoirs, please contact Jonassohn or Butovsky."

The book is not for sale and is available only on the Internet or through university libraries and selected Holocaust centres.

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בעקבות האבות ; ספר בראשית תקופת האבות מדגימה את הערכים של חברה דמוקרטית. בעקבות האבות מאפשרת הצצה אל הערכים אשר חיו לפיהם. **מרצה: הרב ס. טסלר** **(10-12)**	היסטוריה- ימי בית שני בקורס זה נלמד עובדות היסטוריות וכן נעסוק בהכשרת מורים בהוראת תנושא ההיסטורי. **מרצה: ש. שפיצר**		תוראת ספר בראשית בקורס זה נתמקד בסוגיות אתיות בספר בראשית. הסיפור, חסבר, פרשנות ומתודיקה של הוראת. **מרצה: ס. אילת**	
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שירת ארץ הצבר יצירות ספרותיות בנות זמננו, מתודות בהוראה, שילוב של משחק, מחקר ויישום. **מרצה: ס. עמר** **(2:00-4:00)**	הוראת המקרא סוגיות בהוראת ספרי יהושע ושופטים. הבנת הארועים והסברתם לתלמידים. **מרצה: הרב י. וויטי**			מתודיקה להוראת המקרא סוגי הספרות וספרי עזר להוראת המקרא. רכישת מיומנויות בהעברת יחידת הוראה וטיפוח החוויה היצירתית שבלימוד. **מרצה: הרב א. ישורון**
תוראת מקצועות היהדות בקורס זה יודגמו שיטות הוראת מקצועות היהדות, כולל שעורים בטכנולוגיה של החינוך. **מרצה: מ. משלי** **(4:00-6:00)**				
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Israel pavilion honoured at Brampton's Carabram

TORONTO — The Israel pavilion was a star attraction at Brampton's multicultural festival, Carabram, held on the first weekend in July.

In fact, the pavilion took first place in the food judging and third place in the cultural category. It has received awards since the inception of the festival.

The pavilion is sponsored by Har Tikvah, a Reform congregation in Brampton, assisted by members of the Mississauga and Oakville Jewish communities, as well as other Brampton Jews.

The Incredible Arye presented a magic show, and there was Israeli and Jewish music, including the Klezmer band Beyond the Pale and the team of Aaron and Eric. People watching the show could sit back and enjoy it while sipping Sabra.

The market place featured Judaica items from bagel slicers to jewelry that visitors could have inscribed with a Hebrew or an English name.

The cultural hall featured an Ashkenazi chupah, Sephardi newlyweds in traditional Yemenite wedding garb, Shabbat and holiday tables, a Megillah, and a ketubah.

There was an archeological dig, where the young and young at heart, could dig for artifacts, some of which they could buy.

Visitors could even put notes in the cracks of a model of the Kotel, the Western Wall. These notes were collected at the end of Carabram and sent to the actual Kotel in Jerusalem.

Some of the organizers said they felt especially proud of their success because there was no specifically Jewish presence at Toronto's Caravan festival.

Children are seen digging for pottery in the archeological display. They could buy the little pots they dug up for 50 cents each.

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Above is a copy of a menorah in Israel that is a replica of the one in Rome.

An Ashkenazi chupah.

A yom tov table was part of the cultural display.

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Greater Toronto Area

Canaanite canine, Jake, sports ancient lineage

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jake doesn't seem too impressed that his lineage stretches back to ancient Israel and in some ways, mirrors the experience of the Jewish people.

Jake is content to chase the odd squirrel, snooze in the sun and greet strangers, including reporters from *The CJN*, by sniffing their faces.

Genny Landis with Jake

Oh, and he likes his hindquarters scratched vigorously.

Jake has also won plenty of first-place awards in shows. But then, that's not too hard, given he was the only one of his kind to compete.

In case you haven't figured it out by now, Jake is a dog – but not just any. He's an extremely rare Canaan dog, the only breed of dog to originate in Israel.

According to the Canadian Kennel Club, Jake is among just five Canaans registered in Canada over the past three years. His official name, the one under which he's registered, is Hadar Ha'Aretz Northern Snow, the Hebrew meaning, roughly, to beautify the land.

Also known as Kelev Cana'ani in Hebrew, Canaan dogs were used as guard and herding dogs by ancient Israelites, according to research done by Jake's owner, Genny Landis of Markham.

These canines go back even further. An American breeder has discovered that drawings found on tombs dating to about 2000 BCE depict dogs with an unmistakable resemblance to Jake. A bas relief found on a second century (CE) sarcophagus in central Sinai shows what looks like a Canaan dog chasing an antelope.

When the Israelites were dispersed by the Romans and other conquerors, the dogs returned to the wild, roaming the Negev desert for centuries and earning the classification of pariah dog, a kind of stock.

Things didn't change until 1934, when a German-Jewish couple, the Menzels, immigrated to Palestine to escape the Nazis. He was a veterinarian and she a scientist who studied dogs. They were asked by the Haganah, the pre-state defence force, to develop a canine corps.

The Menzels settled on the Canaans, then still running wild or living among Bedouins, because they were exceptionally hardy and well suited to their environment, having survived for centuries in harsh conditions by their wits. They proved intelligent and highly trainable, and became reliable border sentries, mine detectors, messengers and helpers for the Magen David Adom, Israel's Red Cross. The early state owed them a big debt.

After the War of Independence, the Menzels trained Canaans to be seeing eye dogs.

"Jake is just 2½ years old, but he has a long history," says Landis, 41. "He's very intelligent and gentle."

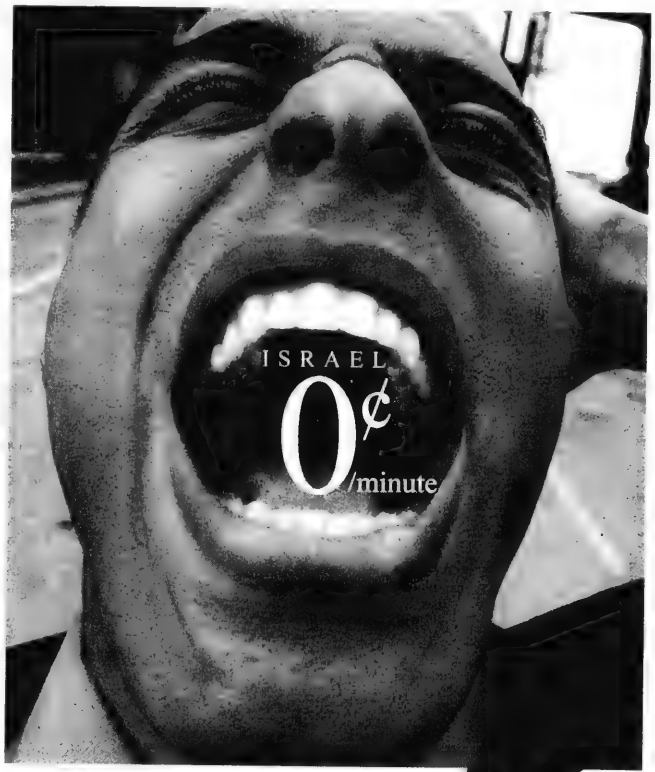
In 1965, four Canaans were imported from Israel to California. The breed wasn't officially recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club until the mid-1990s, and by the American Kennel Club in 1997.

Today, there are two main types of Canaan dog: the kind imported to the United States, and a heavier, more thick-coated type favoured by breeders in Israel.

According to dog experts, Canaans are devoted, inquisitive, loyal, alert and move with a brisk, athletic grace. Jake also makes sure that neighbourhood cats know who's boss.

Earlier this year, Jake flew to Minneapolis to be bred with Tovah, also a Canaan. They hit it off, producing a litter of six multi-hued puppies a month ago.

The pups, the first such litter, were born at a kennel called Mazel Tov Canaan Dogs.



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Passing the buck

It is hard to think of a more devastating indictment of a host than causing the death of his guests. Yet that is precisely what occurred three years ago during the opening ceremonies of the 15th Maccabiah Games in Israel. Four members of the Australian team died as a result of the collapse of a footbridge over the polluted Yarkon River and scores of others were injured, many seriously. What was supposed to have been a time of brotherhood and the fulfilment of a Zionist dream, turned instead into a nightmarish experience of grief, bitterness and disillusionment.

Angry relatives of those killed and injured have not let the issue rest. They have steadfastly – and rightly – criticized the Maccabi World Union (MWU), organizers of the Games, for not taking responsibility for the tragedy. They have demanded that MWU president Ron Bakalarz and chair Uzi Netanel resign.

Since the events of 1997, the MWU has played an unseemly game of pass the buck, blaming everyone except themselves for the tragedy. It was the engineer's fault, the contractor's fault, the builder's fault – everyone's fault but their own.

The lack of resolution of the affair has led to a sad strain in relations between the staunchly Zionist Australian Jewish community and Israel. Things have gotten so bad that, in addition to personal lawsuits that have been filed, Australian Jews had promised a chilly reception for Israeli athletes at the Sydney Olympics. Major Australian Jewish organizations and the World Jewish Congress have criticized the MWU, the Australian ambassador to Israel has raised the issue and Canadian parliamentarian Irwin Cotler has expressed concern over a growing rift between Australian Jewry and Israel.

Now, in the wake of a damning report by a Knesset committee, Netanel has resigned but Bakalarz clings stubbornly to his position.

Bakalarz should step down immediately. Such a move would serve as an indication that the MWU takes moral responsibility for the tragedy, and it may begin to heal the rifts that have developed with Australian Jewry. It would be a move long overdue.

But another question needs to be asked. Where has Maccabi Canada been through all of this? Why hasn't it added its voice to those demanding accountability of the MWU leadership? In the wake of the tragedy, Maccabi Canada President Roy Salomon flew to Australia to try to mend fences, but he has steadfastly rejected calls for the resignations of MWU officials.

It's hard to imagine that the hundreds of Canadians who participated in the 1997 Games believe it should be business as usual at the MWU. After all, it could just as easily have been Canadian athletes killed as a result of MWU negligence as it was Australians.

Maccabi Canada should add its voice to those demanding Bakalarz's resignation. It owes it to the athletes who will attend next year's Games who must have confidence that their stay in Israel will be a happy and safe one, not one tinged by fear and concern. –P.L.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO

On July 1, in the city of Shiraz in Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Court convicted 10 Jews on the false charge of spying for Israel. They were sentenced to between four and 13 years imprisonment. Each one must be remembered. They are: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr.

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Looking for uncle

I am looking for a person named Shmuel Glaser. He was born in 1912 in Poland. He was a survivor of the Holocaust, but his son was killed by the Nazis.

After the war he joined his family (parents, brothers and sister) in Israel. In the early 1950s he went to Canada, probably to Toronto or Montreal.

I am the son of his brother Gedalia (Gustav) and I am looking for a way to contact him. If you have any information about Shmuel Glaser, please contact me. I will appreciate your help.

Shlomo Glazer
9 Feldman Yosef Street
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Phone: 972-8-9409223
e-mail: glazersh@netvision.net.il

* * *

Jerusalem belongs to the Jews

I am outraged at the so-called Middle-East "peace talks" at Camp David and at Prime Minister Ehud Barak's consideration of giving away half of Jerusalem to the Palestinians.

All historical Jewish claims aside, Israel acquired Jerusalem fair and square in a battle that Israel did not start. That Yasser Arafat has the chutzpah to say he will settle for nothing short of half of Jerusalem attests to his insanity and Barak's utter weakness in even entertaining the idea. What right do the Palestinians have to east Jerusalem? What have they done to deserve even an inch of what is for Jews unarguably the most historically significant and holiest place? A place that we acquired through so much blood and suffering? Give it away because Arabs happen to live there?

Jerusalem belongs to the Jews. As does the Golan. As does what remains of the West Bank. And to give in to international pressure at the expense of our national body and soul is suicide. How can intelligent Israeli leaders – with military backgrounds no less – blatantly ignore the historical truth that giving away land has never brought peace to Israel. The Arabs simply want what the Jews have and will never be satisfied until what we have is nothing.

I hope that Israel, her leaders and Jewish people around the world soon wake from their reverie that peace will come from giving the shirt off our back to people who want nothing less than to wipe us off the face of the map.

Atara Weisberger
Clifton, N.J.

Camp David negotiators made progress

The conclusion of the Middle East summit without an agreement should not destroy hopes for an Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty. After all, even Moses had to ascend Mt. Sinai a second time before the Israelites received the Ten Commandments. Despite the disappointing outcome, it's heartening that the negotiators made substantial progress on all the contentious issues, even Jerusalem. Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator, predicted that an agreement was likely before the Palestinians' self-imposed deadline of Sept. 13. But that will only be possible if two things happen. Yasser Arafat must reconsider his all-or-nothing stance on east Jerusalem. At the same time, Ehud Barak must not make the mistake of forming a national unity government with the Likud, which truly would put peace beyond reach.

Sheldon Gordon
Political Director
Canadian Friends of Peace Now
Toronto

* * *

Students praise mentor

We would like to thank Paul Lungen for a wonderful feature article on a most beloved and respected rabbi in our community, Rabbi Nachum Berlat. As former students in his chaplaincy training program, we can attest to all that has been written about Rabbi Berlat. During our two-year course, we were constantly amazed by his wealth of knowledge in all areas. Having had him as our teacher and supervisor was an experience that we will cherish forever.

Frances Klegerman and Leah Aryeh
Toronto

* * *

War veterans also served in navy

In the article entitled "Jewish War Veterans remember D-Day" (*CJN*, June 15), Colonel Goodman should have recalled a third branch of the armed forces, the Royal Canadian Navy, also known as the Senior Service. There were a few of us who wore the navy blue.

Helen E. Fonberg
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Tisha b'Av launches the redemptive process

By RABBI REUVEN P. BULKA

It is quite clear that we do not set the agenda or the dates for Jewish celebrations and commemorations.

The best proof, as if we needed any proof concerning this, is Tisha b'Av, the 25-hour fast that recalls and ostensibly mourns the destruction of the Holy Sanctuary (Bet HaMikdash) twice in our harrowing history.

If we were given the choice, we probably would opt to avoid such a day of dirge. Were we told that we have no choice about observing Tisha b'Av, but we do have a choice regarding the date to fast, we would have likely chosen a cold, short, winter day.

Instead, we have Tisha b'Av on a warm, muggy, uncomfortable and long summer day, which also breaks up the enjoyment focus of the summer.

Tisha b'Av, to be blunt, is not particularly popular. Congregational services on that day are not full to overflowing. Many people are not even aware of Tisha b'Av, when it is, what it is.

On the list of Jewish days to observe, Tisha b'Av is low down for many, and for many more not even on the list. And such days as Simchat Torah trump Tisha b'Av all the time. Why? Because people generally prefer dancing and parties to mourning and melancholy.

But whatever our preferences, Tisha B'Av is with us. There is no escape. And though Simchat Torah trumps Tisha b'Av in the minds of the general population, we should not forget the immortal words of King Solomon — "It is preferable to go to a house of mourning than to a house of partying..." (Ecclesiastes, 7:2).

In this very verse, King Solomon offers an explanation for the observation just cited – "for that is the end of all people, and the living should take it to heart." King Solomon's logic is that since everyone is destined to die, by going to a house of mourning we are reminded of our mortality and will therefore take stock of our lives. Parties divert our attention from these important, critical endeavours.

Living is a serious business. True, we are better off being happy and joyous in our approach to life, and indeed must be, but that very happiness and joy must be serious happiness and joy. Witness the reminder of Tisha b'Av that we experience at all weddings. We shatter a glass to culminate the wedding ceremony. The shattering reminds us, among other things, of the shattering experiences in our history, most notably the destruction of the two Holy Sanctuaries, which occurred on Tisha b'Av.

But why break up the surpassing joy of the wedding with this recollection of destruction and tragedy? Is it because we are unhappy at seeing other people being happy? Banish such thoughts.

This custom is intended to remind the bride and groom, and indeed everyone in attendance, that happiness is not attained via the artificial means of drinking wine, for example. We break the cup which holds the wine. Instead, happiness, personal and communal, is rooted in seriousness, in sober appreciation of the ups and downs of life, of history, and integrating these into our own lifestyles.

The fast of Av by Yehudo Epstein (1870-1945) **from the Sotheby's catalogue.**

If we are happy in marriage merely because we have gained a partner who will bestow joy and laughter, we have married for the wrong reason. If we have married to share and actualize values together, to help each other become better people, to collectively embrace our responsibilities and support each other in meeting the challenge of that embrace, then we have more fully apprehended the meaning of coming together. In other words, we seek not happiness itself, but the proper conditions and fulfilments from which a state of satisfaction and happiness will almost automatically ensue.

Likewise, as reflected in the profound words of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, the mourning associated with Tisha b'Av is a lament not so much that the Holy Sanctuaries were destroyed, but that they had to be destroyed. We lament the conditions which prepared the way for destruction.

We learn from our tradition that the two Sanctuaries "had to be" destroyed because of a breakdown in our value system, a compromised adherence to our responsibilities, and in the case of the second Bet HaMikdash, a societal breakdown, an unacceptable negative attitude to others, love replaced by hate. (Talmud, Yoma 9b) The Talmud is very clear in stating that in the time prior to the second devastation, religious observance was not an issue. The people were observant, but they were not getting along. They were fighting with each other, sniping at each other.

When such unholy conditions prevail, the rationale for having a holy place is severely dented. Holy exercises in the Holy Sanctuary become hypocrisy. Holiness itself is profaned, literally destroyed. The spiritual denuding of the sense of holiness preceded and precipitated the physical destruction of the Holy Place.

We do not run away from this. We do not pretend that matters are acceptable when they are not. We do not gloss or sugarcoat reality in order to look good. One of our great strengths throughout history has been our ability to be honest with ourselves, to acknowledge failing and to embark on a corrective course. We may have engaged in this pattern more than we would like, but at least we have engaged.

So, the focus on Tisha b'Av is less on what others did to us, and more on what we did to ourselves. We focus on how the internecine strife within the community created a glaring vulnerability to attack from external forces. We try to learn the lessons of this, and to not repeat the errors.

Frankly, it would be folly to spend an entire dour day just recounting how an external enemy besieged Jerusalem and eventually brought about its devastation. That is history, important history no doubt, but surely not the stuff to transmute a full 25-hour day into a period of pretty intense mourning.

Mourning is more associated with a present reality. Taking our cue from the aforementioned Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, the mourning of Tisha b'Av, contemporary vintage, is for the conditions we created that allowed the tragedies to unfold. Have things changed? Have we learned from then what we should be doing now?

This year, as we gear up to Tisha b'Av, we cannot help but look east, to our brothers and sisters in Israel. The recently truncated peace talks at Camp David apparently came unglued over the status of Jerusalem. We need to make sure that the glue which holds us together does not unravel over Jerusalem, or over anything else.

We know from previous Tisha b'Av experiences how incendiary the issue of Jerusalem can be. We also know how vulnerable we become when we are not glued together in fundamental togetherness, no matter how different our attitudes to the peace process or other matters may be.

Much like the broken glass at the wedding, Tisha b'Av breaks up the joy of summer. We are reminded every year that joy, contentedness, and relaxation that are removed from our historical reality suffer from this detachment. The allure of relaxation is great, but the fulfilment that derives from sober and serious attention to the important personal and communal matters ultimately trumps relaxation.

There is a less well known but important other side to Tisha b'Av. In the Book of Lamentations (Aykhah), the megillah that is read on this day of communal mourning, Tisha b'Av is referred to as a *mo'ed*, or appointed time (1:15).

Mo'ed has joyous connotations. Biblical references to *mo'ed* are invariably related to the joyous festivals. Admittedly, the term *mo'ed* as used in the Book of Lamentations is not at all employed in a joyous context. Nevertheless, the use of this term is seen as a signal to give Tisha b'Av an additional dimension.

We project this sense of *mo'ed* on Tisha b'Av by removing a special supplication called Tachanun from the prayer inventory of that day. This normally daily entreaty is eliminated on all festive occasions, such as Pesach, Shavuot, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim.

This may seem to be a very small and insignificant gesture, but in so doing Tisha b'Av is placed in pretty happy company – not a small or insignificant gesture at all. And this placement is deliberate. We see Tisha b'Av as the Jewish historical low point. But low points have an upside. If we are at the lowest point, then matters can only improve. We see the redemptive process as being launched on Tisha b'Av.

Tisha b'Av is a *mo'ed*, an appointed time, a time appointed for realizing how we veered off track, and how we now resolve to get back on track. If we do that, we will transmute Tisha b'Av from a day of melancholy into a day of celebration. That time may be a bit far off, but we will only get there if we do the appropriate lamenting now.

Saluting Charles Bronfman

There is no question that Bronfman is Canada's most prominent Jewish name, despite the much-touted sale of Seagram. A recent event in the family's history moves me to pen this article.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

On June 15, Charles, Sam Bronfman's youngest child, was honoured by the University of Toronto with an honorary doctor of laws degree. I had good reason to accept the University's invitation to participate in the ceremony, because I have long harboured a special affection for Dr. Charles.

It goes back to the mid-'70s when we first became acquainted, a relationship that blossomed into friendship. I had always found him especially attractive, in part because he managed to hide his considerable mental acumen behind a veil of modesty. When in 1977 I became president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Charles agreed to be one of the officers — and his participation was highly useful to the organization.

Since those days, Charles has become one of Canada's great assets, a privy councillor and a companion of the Order of Canada.

Quebecers remember him primarily because it was he who brought Major League baseball to Montreal. He acquired the Expos and guided the team for many years with a special passion that made him one of Montreal's best known citizens. When René Lévesque became the province's premier, championing a separatist program, Charles Bronfman was one of his staunchest opponents.

For Jews, Charles will always be remembered for two innovative activities: He, together with his friend the late Ray Wolfe, introduced the first supermarket to Israel and thereby initiated a new era in Israeli marketing. I still remember when the original Supersol store was opened, and Israelis flocked to it in amazement.

More recently, it was Charles who initiated Birthright Israel, a program designed to enable Jewish youngsters to visit Israel and thereby intensify their Jewish identity.

In addition, he has been active in supporting many of Canada's cultural aspirations.

The ceremony at Convocation Hall was moving, and his response displayed his usual modesty.

A few days later, the *Globe and Mail* reported in its business section: "Bronfmans Win in Seagram Deal." The name is never out of the news, for the Seagram empire embraces a great variety of business opportunities in areas like entertainment and music.

On the world scene, Charles' older brother Edgar serves as the president of World Jewish Congress. Together, the two have made their name identical with Jewish activism and concern. Charles, like Edgar, now resides in New York, but their Canadian roots will always be a significant aspect of their identity. It is a special pleasure to salute my friend, Charles Bronfman.

It's time to say goodbye

Here she is. *Canadian Jewish News* column number 27. Two years of submissions. Have I come full circle? Have I deviated from my mandate?

Ideally, a little of each.

Erica Horn on campus in Montreal

I am spending the last of five summers at a sleep-away camp in Green Lane, Penn. I have met amazing people, stored up unforgettable memories, forged many friendships, and learned a lot about myself, my peers and how to take care of others.

This summer I am one of two counsellors in charge of 29 15-year-old girls. While at times the job is challenging, I find that these teenagers possess a certain sensibility towards the world and others' needs. This has rendered my job far more intriguing. Many of these girls were my campers last summer. Seeing them as they disembarked from the buses that brought them to camp this summer, I immediately noticed the physical changes that might have been made over the course of the winter. This one no longer has braces, another is wearing contact lenses instead of glasses, a third has acrylic nails to hide her bitten stubs.

One physical change I instantaneously recognized but dismissed as meaningless was that many of my campers now had extremely long hair. Whereas I went for the shorter look to avoid having to deal with a mane that is not manageable in the humidity and heat or when I'm simply in a rush, it appeared that at least eight of my campers had not cut their hair since the fall.

It was a reunion overflowing with excitement – the excitement of being back at camp and of not having seen each other in 10 months. We made small talk: "How was your winter?"or "How was the ride up to camp?" and we shlepped their bags to our cabin.

That afternoon, I nonchalantly made a comment to one of my campers from New York that her hair had grown very long.

She replied, "I'm growing it until I have seven inches to cut for L for L."

Not entirely sure what L for L stood for, I inquired.

"Locks for Leukemia. They take seven inches of hair to make wigs for females with leukemia."

Wow, I thought. At an age when physical appearances are so important, when long hair doesn't suit everybody, the idea that she was making such a sensitive commitment overwhelmed me. Only one thing could overwhelm me more. Within seconds, three of my Floridian campers and one from New Jersey explained that they had the same goals.

You can learn the most amazing things in most unexpected places. I anticipated learning about 15-year-olds' fashions, makeup habits and boy infatuations, but never about such a meaningful program that seemingly has involved teens across the country. That's when I realized that you should never block your ears or cover your eyes. The world has too much to offer and the people of the world have too much to share.

* * *

I would like to take this final opportunity to thank all my readers for having been loyal. Many of you stopped my grandmother in the supermarket to tell her how much you liked what I wrote (even those pieces that I was less than satisfied with). It's nice to know that people read what you write. I apologize if it wasn't always clear where I was coming from or if it seemed as though I was trying to deal with too many issues in one column. My mother did teach me never to talk with a mouth full.

I am unsure what the future holds, but I hope to provide you with more Erica Horn anecdotes for your reading pleasure. Please keep your eyes open.

Final words of advice: Hold your breath. The future implies uncertainty. Go Expos go. If you build it, he will come. That's all she wrote, folks.

Returning to basics

"Who is a Jew?" my professor asked almost three years ago. He answered his rhetorical question with: "One who does not worship idols." But the matter was promptly forgotten and the next eight months were spent discussing Christian philosophy and the movements that developed from those beliefs.

Jennifer Fox on campus in Halifax

Though ignored in my academic life, "Who is a Jew?" has consumed me ever since. In first year, it was my friends who asked the question and demanded an audience. Many had had little or no contact with Judaism before they met me and they gobbled up every new word and new custom.

I was a cultural/religious ambassador, overwhelmed by the things I could not explain and the realization that life in my Jewish suburb was a sheltered one. I feared giving my audience the wrong answer, or worse, not giving any answer at all.

The year ended, their curiosity satisfied, and I was relieved of my duties. Then came this column. For two years, in 26 articles (including this one), I wrote about being a Jewish student in an un-Jewish town. Every month I answered to you, the reader. It was my job to share my opinions and know there was a possibility that I would be seen as a bad Jew.

I was afraid you would discover that I did not live up to your standards, that I would offend my family, that I would be seen to be more than I was. I recall a day when a fellow Jewish student was afraid he offended me by eating a slice of pepperoni pizza in my presence.

Who am I to judge? How did I become the embodiment of all things Jewish?

In my group of friends in Halifax, I'm referred to as "the Jewish one." There is more to me than my religion, but it defines me in their eyes and some days in my own as well. I fall easily into the role of Jen the Jew. But I'm tired of role. On the flip side, I'm burdened with guilt because I know that I am not the epitome of Judaism.

Way back in column number 1, I referred to the Ancient Greek saying, "Know thyself." That's what I have tried to do. Self-revelation on a monthly deadline. A little more public than normal, but that's what I've tried to do for two years. Write my way to personal discovery; and this is where it ends.

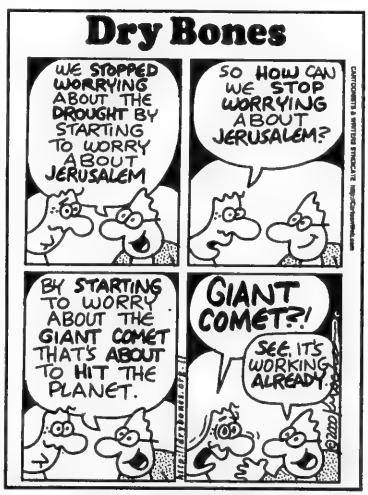
This is my last column. I feel it necessary to return to basics for the subject matter – who is a Jew and what Judaism means to me. Though the topic of my articles was Jewish student life in Halifax, it was seen through my observations, questions and biases.

So what are my last words on the matter? Since I've now rewritten this column five times, it's obvious that I don't have a clue. Chunks of me are tired of the whole subject. Let me be someone else for awhile. Let me be more than "the Jewish one."

In the distance, I see more questions looming. Scary questions about what is a Jew. The answers will either cement my current beliefs or shove me onto an entirely new path and direction. I don't want to face them, I don't want to question myself anymore, but that wouldn't be a very Jewish thing now, would it?

This is where we part. This is where I stop pleasing everyone else and face my guilt and fears.

Know thyself. I'm trying. Oy, I am trying.


Dry Bones
WE STOPPED WORRYING ABOUT THE DROUGHT BY STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT JERUSALEM
SO HOW CAN WE STOP WORRYING ABOUT JERUSALEM?
BY STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT THE GIANT COMET THAT'S ABOUT TO HIT THE PLANET.
GIANT COMET?!
SEE, IT'S WORKING ALREADY.

Looking back at the War of Attrition

Israel was in a euphoric mood when the 1967 Six Day War ended. Although Israel's casualties had been fairly steep – 338 fatalities on the Sinai front, 300 on the West Bank and 141 on the Golan Heights – the country shone with pride and cockiness as it basked in its swift victory. Little could Israelis have known that a new, protracted conflict awaited them. Within weeks, the War of Attrition, as it came to be known, broke out. It raged mainly on two fronts, the Jordan Valley and the Sinai Peninsula. On the West Bank, Israel clashed with the PLO in a fullblown guerrilla war that occasionally pulled in Jordan. In Sinai, Israel fought the Egyptian armed forces on land, air and sea.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The nearly forgotten War of Attrition in the Sinai was a more high-stake confrontation in terms of the forces arrayed, the intensity and duration of the battles, and the geo-political significance. It lasted for three years, from July 1967 until July 1970, and was terminated by an American-brokered ceasefire that Israel and Egypt accepted on Aug. 6 and Aug. 7, respectively.

At the close of the Six Day War, Egypt lay beaten but resolutely unbowed. "What was taken by force must be restored by force," then Egyptian president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, declared defiantly.

On July 1, 1967, the first shots of the War of Attrition rang out when Egyptian commandos ambushed an Israeli patrol on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal. Major Uriel Menuhin, the commander of an armoured company, was hit. He was the first Israeli soldier to fall in the War of Attrition. It was a grinding war of snipers, artillery and tank duels, commando forays and aerial dogfights. On July 11, a further nine Israeli soldiers were killed in another raging battle, a foretaste of the pain Israel would endure, and mete out.

Nasser and his defence minister, Gen. Mohammed Fawzi, were determined to regain the Sinai. They formulated a strategy based on three stages: the "defensive rehabilitation" phase, the "offensive defence" phase, and the "liberation phase." Nasser's strategy, which was contingent on rebuilding the shattered Egyptian army, was dependent on assistance from the Soviet Union, his chief weapons supplier. Israel was backed by the United States. In the context of the Cold War, the War of Attrition was thus a proxy war.

Egypt initiated a new round of hostilities in September when it fired on Israeli ships in the Gulf of Suez. Nasser, at an Arab summit in Khartoum, had signed a declaration laying out Egypt's policy toward the Jewish state: no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel, and no peace with Israel. Egypt's aggressive military posture was precisely designed to drive home that point. As the fighting escalated, Israel shelled Suez and Ismailia. In October, the Egyptians fired a Styx missile from Port Said and sank the *Eilat*, an Israeli destroyer, with the loss of 47 sailors. Once again, Israel pounded refineries and oil depots in Suez and Ismailia, causing immense property damage and triggering the flight of about 700,000 civilians.

The next major flareup occurred in June 1968 when Egyptian gunners bombarded Israeli positions along the length of the canal. In September and October, Egypt unleashed two more massive bombardments. By now, Egypt had positioned 150,000 soldiers in the canal region and had reorganized and re-equipped its army.

In response to these attacks, Israel struck the Nile Valley. Heli-borne commandos destroyed bridges, an electric transformer and a switching station in Qena and Najh Hamadi. Shocked by Israel's audacious moves, Egypt called for a de facto ceasefire.

During this interval, there was a debate on how Israel could best bolster its defences and save the lives of its exposed soldiers. Gen. Ariel Sharon, director of training, believed that the Sinai could be defended by mobile armoured activity. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, the chief of staff, favoured a system of fixed fortifications along the canal, with artillery and armour in the rear. Bar-Lev prevailed. As the Bar-Lev Line – the largest engineering project ever undertaken by Israel, according to Chaim Herzog in *The Arab-Israeli Wars* – was being finished in March 1969, Egypt renewed the war. In a headline incident, Israeli mortars crashed into an Egyptian bunker in the northern sector, killing Gen. Abdul Munim Riad, the Egyptian chief of staff, and several of his aides.

Nevertheless, Egypt pressed ahead with its offensive, prompting Israel to attack targets in the Nile Valley yet again and on the western shore of the Gulf of Suez.

On May 1, Nasser, boasting that 60 percent of the Bar-Lev Line had been demolished, announced that the war had now moved to the "liberation" phase. Nasser was confident that he could wear down Israel in a static war in which manoeuvrability did not count for much. He was also keenly aware that Israel was sensitive to casualties. In May, June and July, Nasser's gunners, snipers and commandos killed 47 Israeli soldiers. During this period, the United States and the Soviet Union tried without success to defuse the situation.

Moshe Dayan

In July 1969, after the arrival of the first batch of F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers from the United States, Israel began using its air force as flying artillery. The Israelis hammered artillery emplacements and SAM-2 surface-to-air missile bases. Swirling dogfights erupted in which Israel usually had the upper hand. Egypt stepped up the pace of its pinprick attacks across the canal.

On Sept. 9, less than two months after Israeli commandos stormed an Egyptian fortress on Green Island in one of their most daring raids, Israel dispatched a tank column across the Gulf of Suez. It drove southward, destroying two army camps, shore batteries and radar stations, and killing hundreds of Egyptian troops, including a general. Retaliating, Egypt launched waves of aircraft to pound Israeli positions. In a matter of hours, Israel shot down 17 MIGs and Sukhoi Su-7s for the loss of one of its own planes.

In December, as Egypt pushed new SAM-2 batteries perilously closer to the canal, Israel countered with an eight-hour bombing campaign, its biggest since the Six Day War, and a series of commando incursions. Its most spectacular raid took place on Dec. 26, when paratroopers landed in Ras Gharib and seized a Soviet-made P-12 radar used to track low-flying aircraft. As a result, Israel was able to improve its electronic countermeasure warfare capabilities.

On Jan. 7, 1970, the Israeli air force mounted a blitz against targets deep inside Egypt. As Benny Morris observes in *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict*, its purpose was to force a ceasefire on Nasser. Israel's defence minister, Moshe Dayan, was sanguine that it would succeed.

Alarmed by Israel's tactic, Nasser flew to Moscow. He asked former Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev for new SAM-3s, improved SAM-2s and additional Soviet military advisors. By June 1970, some 10,000 such advisors, including 150 pilots who flew operational missions, were stationed in Egypt.

Throughout the winter of 1970, Israel carried out deep-penetration raids into Egypt. In two instances, Israel accidentally bombed a school and a machine shop, causing scores of civilian deaths, as well as outrage throughout the Arab world. Shortly afterwards, in April, Israel stopped these raids. Observers concur that they were basically a failure, as they did not curb Egypt's belligerency, and led to direct Soviet intervention.

On May 30, Egyptian commandos ambushed an Israeli patrol, wiping out 18 soldiers in one fell swoop, the worst single day for Israel in the war. Meanwhile, Soviet advisors continued building a more effective air defence screen around the canal. Upping the ante in July, Soviet-piloted jets joined the fray. On July 30, Israeli pilots downed five Egyptian MIGs flown by Soviet pilots.

This incident hastened the end of the war. Joseph Sisco, an American diplomat who had been shuttling through the Middle East since April trying to defuse it, used this dogfight to call a halt to the fighting. Sisco promised Nasser that a ceasefire would be based on U.S. secretary of state William Rogers' plan. It envisaged a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt on the basis of a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai.

Both sides were basically pleased with the truce. Israel had lost 367 soldiers, and Egypt many more. And the cost of prosecuting the war had really been beyond Israel's and Egypt's means.

The ceasefire held up for about three years. It was violated by Egypt (and Syria) on Oct. 6, 1973, the first day of the Yom Kippur War, a war which paved the way for Israel's historic rapprochement with Egypt.

Thirty years after the last shots were fired in anger, the War of Attrition is remembered today as the war that readied the combatants for yet another round of bloodletting.

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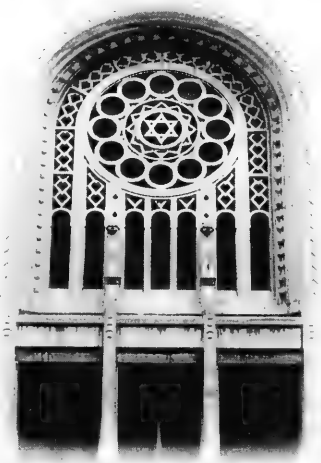

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Jewish Life

A singular person

***Rodinsky's Room* by Rachel Lichtenstein & Iain Sinclair Granta $44.50**

In 1969, David Rodinsky, an Orthodox Jew and reclusive scholar, disappeared. His cluttered garret above a synagogue in the heart of the old Jewish East End of London remained undisturbed for 20 years.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Rachel Lichtenstein, a half-Jewish 29-year-old London sculptor, became fascinated with Rodinsky's strange history when workmen unsealed his room above the dilapidated and unused synagogue. Still in the room were dust-covered notebooks in Hebrew and other languages, annotated maps, kabbalistic charts, religious texts and personal effects.

Who was this mysterious figure? What had happened to him? Where had he come from? How had he become a kind of urban legend?

Her imagination captured, Lichtenstein, whose grandparents had escaped from Poland in the 1930s, begins a decade-long journey that takes her both inward and outward. She finds new meaning in her own Jewish roots and identity and then spirals outward to encompass a cross-section of London's Jewish community, a trip to Israel and a shtetl in Poland. She interviews numerous persons who might contribute information about the elusive Rodinsky.

Increasingly involved in Jewish life she changes her last name from Laurence to the family's original Lichtenstein. In Poland she discovers a long lost aunt who had survived Auschwitz.

Ultimately, she discovers much about Rodinsky: how his family had fled persecution in Poland, his 10 years as a child living with an English foster family and the mental asylum in Surrey where it seems he died of pneumonia and emotional problems.

She tells a Jewish social worker, "I did not think Rodinsky was mad, only greatly misunderstood – the culture he came from was not translatable. He agreed with me: 'The Longrove was the kind of place that was full of kabbalistic geniuses and religious scholars wrapped up in the world of metaphysics. In that period there were many mistakes made. Many of the nurses were Asian, many of the doctors from Middle Europe; there were very serious communication problems.'"

As she discovers more and more about Rodinsky, Lichtenstein's mission turns to finding his grave and telling his story stripped of romantic myth and unwarranted speculation.

When the grave is found, she writes, "It was much as I had expected. There was no headstone, just a shallow gravel plot with a broken concrete border and a small tin plaque that read: 'David Rodinsky, March 5th, 1969.' Finally I opened my prayer book and together we read the Kaddish traditionally read by the son of the deceased, but as there was no son to perform this task, I took it upon myself. Before leaving, we both placed a stone on his grave."

Iain Sinclair, the book's co-author, a British novelist and poet, is a semi-detached observer of Lichtenstein's quest and obsession. His chapters, which are interspersed throughout the work, tend to become turgid and high-flown. They offer an additional dimension of psychological analysis and probing, but tend to detract from the directness of the account.

Part mystery story, part memoir, part travelogue – this is a beautifully written and unusual book about a singular person and a world that has all but vanished.

1948: Into the unknown

By RABBI YECHIEL BEN AYON

Jack had just come home for the evening and his father, Rav Israel, stood at the doorway looking at him. It was a look Jack had never seen before, but one he would not soon forget. This was Morocco, the year was 1948 and the air was heavy with tension. The United Nations had declared Medinat Yisrael. Viewing Israel as an enemy . state, the Arab world responded by declaring war on the Jewish state.

At this time, Israel was in dire need of many things, and leading the list was people. With many more people, the country could survive. Covertly, Israel sent emissaries to Arab lands to promote and to facilitate aliyah. It was an open secret that people were leaving.

Rav Israel, a pious man, had resolved to take his family to Israel. He had gone out into the market place inquiring about the "Zionists," those locals who worked hand in hand with the Israelis. He wished to be put in contact with one.

Wherever he turned he was met with laughter. Only when someone informed him that his own son, Jack, was one of the regional ringleaders did he understand the laughter.

Jack understood the look. It was a strange combination that at once bespoke pride — "that's my boy," fear — "you're in this deep," disbelief — "I had no clue," betrayal — "how could you?" relief — "you're OK," joy — "we will be going" and rebuke — "don't you ever again."

It was a confusing situation for the Jews. They had lived a relatively amicable existence for a thousand years in Morocco. Life was good; loyalty and even love was staunchly with the king.

Suddenly, all was in question. The emergence of the State of Israel brought everything into chaos. Families and communities were unravelling, dreams and aspirations colliding. To leave the magic and majesty of North Africa for the perils of a nascent and violent Mideast; to forgo home and security, financial stability and predictability for instability and the unknown; or to stay in an environment brewing with hostility? Was this the chance of a lifetime, a possible miracle of historic proportion or the mistake of a lifetime?

Egoz, which premiered at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, is the latest production of Elie Cohen (*Summer of Aviya, Under the Donim Tree, Ricochets.*) In it, Cohen tackles the complex issues of this era immediately following Israel's independence. They are presented through the true story of the vessel *Piccs*, which sank along with all 44 passengers while on a clandestine voyage to Israel.

The story is told through a fictional family in Morocco. There are three children. The eldest is enamoured with Israel the homeland, the daughter is simply enamoured with one of the Israeli agents and the youngest is also enamoured, with his father's business and a Muslim girl. The parents are in conflict. The father considers cosmopolitan Paris as a new home, while the mother is torn between whether she should follow her children or stay at her husband's side.

How these life conflicts contributed to the breakup of so many families is a painful reminder of the past. And how the *Piccs* broke up in the storm is difficult to watch.

Cohen has illustrated a page of history that many have chosen to forget. Since the Israeli agent's mandate was to bring in as many people as possible and the local Arab population were seen as innocent (read ignorant), Arab hoodlums and well-intentioned but overzealous Jewish youth were recruited for acts of incitement. Jews and their henchmen torched synagogues and stores and framed Arabs in order to instil artificial panic and quickly fill Jewish immigration quotas.

While some will offer vehement denials of the material Cohen presents, he has opted for the entire story warts and all. For this film, along with his other award winning features, Cohen deserves a big Sephardi Chazak ou Baruch!

Jewish Life

More on Jewish learning

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we began our look at institutions that offer "distance learning courses" on the Internet. Today, a look at some of the free courses offered online – and a peak into some Israeli classrooms.

You won't find a more eclectic mix of subjects than those offered by JUICE, Jewish University in CyberspacE **[http://www.jajz-ed.org.il/juice/index.html]**. Recent courses offered everything from biblical perspectives on child development to the siddur as a window on Jewish theology. JUICE is run by the Department for Jewish Zionist Education. Even if you miss a course, you can browse through the lecture archives and contribute to the discussion forums.

At Jewish Interactive Studies, participants correspond with a Jerusalem-based staff to learn more about a variety of Jewish topics **[http://www.jewishstudies.org]**. These courses last one to two months and start throughout the year. The Jewish Ethics course: Getting Along with People – and Yourself uses material from Maimonides, Rabbi Yonah and the Talmud.

Also worth a look is Project Genesis which offers online, self-directed courses in Jewish law, women in Judaism, Rambam and a daily Halachah **[http://www.torah.org/]**.

Maqom calls itself a Cyber-School for Adult Talmud Study **[http://www.maqom.com]**. The Houston-based institution was founded by Rabbi Judith Abrams. You can find even more links and courses at the Jewish Educators' Toolkit **[http://www.jesna.org/jeet/distance.htm]**.

One of my favourite distance learning courses is for children who are hospitalized at the Soroka Medical Centre in Beersheva. They have access to enriched school programs thanks to the efforts of teachers and classmates in the Negev and in Jerusalem **[http://www.tilda.edu-negev.gov.il/ilay/school/eng lish/english.htm]**. Students from Eshel Ha Nasi Regional School who are hospitalized can continue studying directly with their classes.

The school also produces a weekly radio show devoted to hospitalized children. This program provides a warm connection with friends, school and others, while combining regards and wishes from friends, with songs requested especially for the patient.

But what is it like to participate in a worldwide classroom where you have never met anybody else in your class? Massachusetts-based Hebrew College has posted these comments from one of its students: "When I describe our class to other people I'm sure they think I'm a little crazy to be so entranced by a bunch of people I've never met. I try to visualize all of us typing away at keyboards all over the world, at all times of day, and it's as if I finally understand why spider silk, nearly invisible, is one of the strongest natural fibres. We're spinning line after line on our own, releasing words that are then caught and webbed together in a sticky, translucent net. One edge hooked over Jerusalem, the other stretched over Cambridge… I just wish we could have a huge party where we could guess each other's identity based on one simple hint." **[http://hebrewcollege.edu]**

Finally, isn't it time for you to get to class? You can take a look at over 10 hours of streaming video from The Academic Channel, a joint effort of University of Haifa and Bar-Ilan University in association with the Hebrew University and the Technion **[http://tv.proj.ac.il/ENMENU.HTM]**. There is no charge to watch these Hebrew-language videos but you will need to download the MediaBase software plug-in which works with RealVideo **[http://acvideo.haifa.ac.il/mbase/]**. It's a bit of work to get it going, but when was the last time you had the opportunity to watch lectures on Zionism and post-Zionism, gender and dance, and deciphering the human genome, right on your desktop?

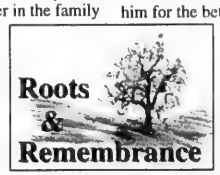
* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@home.com].

Skeletons in family closet

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Regarding a family matter that produces sadness or shame, people sometimes draw a curtain of silence that may persist until they, along with their painful secret, are buried together in the family crypt. But long afterwards, the genealogist may stumble upon an obscure reference to the episode, and endeavour to learn the whole truth.



The skeleton may have been kept in the closet for fifty, seventy, even one hundred years. Then the curious genealogist will one day wonder whatever happened to great-great uncle Harry, the "black sheep" who stole horses and "was never heard from again." (Chances are, he was heard from, but in a connection that would have set a bad example for the children.)

Dead men usually tell no tales, but old newspapers always do. Recently, while poring over microfilmed Toronto newspapers from the 1890s, I encountered numerous sad and spicy stories about people labelled (and often characterized) as Jews, Jewesses, and Hebrews.

"Too Many Wives" was the particular downfall of Morris Haims, formerly of Toronto, and living at Niagara when he was apprehended for bigamy. The Toronto World of December 5, 1894, relates that Haims came to Montreal from England about 1880 with his wife, whom he deserted. She had been seeking him for the better part of 14 years.

"Haims in his wanderings settled at Rochester and did a peddling business. He wooed and won a pretty Jewess named Lena Cline… They were married and came to Toronto to live, but left last spring for Niagara Falls, N.Y., where Haims has been acting as agent for the American Installment Company."

Evidently, the first Mrs. Haims attained satisfaction after placing an advertisement in the Jewish Gazette describing her missing husband. "A Rochester friend recognized the man on reading it, and, knowing the whereabouts of Haims and wife No. 2, brought about the denouement."

"Death Rather Than Prison" was evidently the choice for Jake Barquis, "42 years old, of Teraulay street, a Russian Jew" (June 8, 1895). Fortunately, his wish was thwarted. Detective McGrath of the city police had come to arrest him on a charge of cheque forgery, and a lady of the house had informed the suspect, who lived upstairs with his wife, that a gentleman wished to see him.

"Barquis apparently knew the visitor to be an officer of the law, as a moment later McGrath was startled by the screams of a woman issuing from Barquis' room. He rushed upstairs and found Barquis had made an effort to cut his own throat with a knife…

"McGrath wrested the knife from his grasp and enclosed his wrists in the bracelets. Dr. Todd was summoned and put several stitches into the wound. The prisoner was then removed to Police Headquarters."

Naturally, Jews in the news are not always rogues; they are also victims, witnesses and innocent bystanders. Nov. 22, 1894: "A delivery wagon belonging to Mr. H. Ruben, baker, of 197 Lippincott street" was sent careening down Yonge Street when a horse took fright and bolted, causing a collision.

Also that month, Samuel Barnett, a tailor with a shop at 154 York street, had hired a "mulatto seamstress" named Clara Ford; when she was charged in a sensational murder, Barnett's name and even a sketch of him was splashed across the papers.

Each of these century-old accounts, if put into the right hands, might make an important addition to a family history. The establishment of a universal index listing such "stray" references would undoubtedly prove of value to the genealogical community.

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UJA FEDERATION

New kosher food facility opens doors in Thornhill

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — As the Jewish community expands northward up Bathurst Street, so do kosher food facilities.

At the recent official ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of Bais Burger, a meat restaurant located at 7700 Bathurst St. in the Promenade Village Shops in Thornhill, City of Vaughan's Mayor Lorna Jackson wished the owners, Isaac and Anat Kraus much success in their newest venture.

Bais Burger

"The City of Vaughan," said the mayor, "is the fastest growing municipality in Ontario, not only residentially but commercially and industrially – small businesses are very important and we try to support them."

Bais Burger provided the food for the festivities at the City of Vaughan's Canada Day festivities. The Krauses also provide food for other non-Jewish and Jewish festivals and events throughout the year.

"We are very excited about our new venture at the Promenade," said Isaac. "We provide food for many groups, organizations and schools in this area."

Bais Burger is under the supervision of the Kashruth Council of Toronto (COR).

The menu includes a variety of beef and chicken hot dogs and burgers, chicken wings and fingers, falafel, shawarma and a variety of other dishes.

Their crispy coated French fries come in the traditional deep fried version or baked on request. As well, there are vegetarian hot dogs, burgers and other non-meat dishes.

Bais Burger has table seating indoors and out, with lots of parking.

Isaac and Anat came to Canada 14 year ago from Israel where they lived on a non-religious kibbutz. Working as a limousine driver in Toronto, Isaac had a serious accident. While recovering, he became deeply involved in Judaic studies.

Their company, Kosherland Fast Foods, opened the first-ever kosher food concession at Canada's Wonderland when Anat realized that a person who keeps kosher could not bring food into the park.

They moved in a number of directions including catering for many Jewish organizations, special weekly programs at the Associated Hebrew Day Schools, Bialik Hebrew Day School, United Synagogue Day Schools, and an everyday service at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Susan Kadis, a City of Vaughan councillor, and Joyce Frustaglio, the regional councillor, attended the opening ceremony.

Kadis says she believes Bais Burger will be "a great asset to the community. I know the individuals involved and they are well respected and provide very good products for the community to enjoy at reasonable prices."

Other kosher restaurants in the GTA

Amazing Donuts, 3772 Bathurst St.; Baycrest Cafeterias, 3560 Bathurst St.; Bloor "Y" Cafeteria (JCC), 750 Spadina Ave.; Brooklyn Pizza & Falafel, 3028 Bathurst St.; Cafe Sheli, Promenade Village; Chicken Nest, 3038 Bathurst St.; Colonel Wong Restaurant, 2825 Bathurst St.; Cravings To Go, 3197 Bathurst St.; Dairy Treats European Cafe/Bakery, 3522 Bathurst St.; Fine Touch Catering, 927 Clark Ave. W. (Battle Ctr.); Golden Chopsticks, 7000 Bathurst St.; Grodzinski, 3456 Bathurst St.; Hakerem Restaurant, 3030 Bathurst St.; Isaac's, 221 Wilmington Ave. and 3390 Bathurst St.; King David Pizza, Bourekas, Falafel, 3020 Bathurst St.; King David Pizza, Bourekas, Falafel, Wilmington Plaza; King David Pizza, Bourekas, Falafel, 3774 Bathurst St.; King Solomon's Table, 3705 Chesswood Dr.; Le Chinoix Restaurant, 7117 Bathurst St.; Marky's Restaurant & Deli, 280 Wilson Ave. and 6233 Bathurst St.; Mati's Fallafel & Pizza House, 3430 Bathurst St.; Miami Grill, 441 Clark Ave. W.; Milk 'n Honey Restaurant, 3457 Bathurst St.; Milk Street Cafe & Bakery, 441 Clark Ave. W.; My Zaidy's Pizza, 441 Clark Ave.; Not Just Yogurt, 7117 Bathurst St.; Oasis Cafe & Health Bar, 2 First Canadian Place/Exchange Tower; Orli Cafe, 3464 Bathurst St.; Rachel's Centre Cafe, in Bathurst Jewish Centre; Samy's Toronto Grill, 1045 Steeles Ave. W.; Second Cup (BJC), 4588 Bathurst St., and 3560 Bathurst St. (Baycrest); Tovli Pizza & Falafel, 5982 Bathurst St.; Yehudale's Falafel & Pizza, 7241 Bathurst St.; York University Cafeteria, Winters College.

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32. Yu-Ziang Beef ... 9.95
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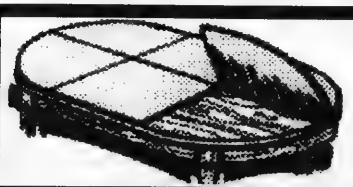
Seen at the official opening of Bais Burger in the City of Vaughan are, from left, Susan Kadis, councillor, Anat Kraus, Mayor Lorna Jackson, Isaac Kraus and regional councillor, Joyce Frustaglio.



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The Blachman family today.

Blachman family reunites on Canadian soil

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Etan Garazi, born May 25, a sixth-generation descendent of Boruch and Leah Blachman, was the youngest participant at the recent Blachman family reunion here, the first held in Canada.

Dr. Arvin Weinstein, 81, of Madison, Wis., was the oldest to attend the reunion, the fifth the family has held – the gatherings have taken place every five years. Family members came from across Canada, the United States and England.

"We now have a directory with more than 400 family members of the Boruch and Leah Blachman family," says Joan Gitelman, one of the reunion organizers.

Boruch and Leah (née Prog) were born in Russia, Leah in Slobodoh and Boruch in Dishneh. They had nine children.

Their daughter Ann Blachman Gitelman and her husband Fred were the first to leave Russia, and in 1923, they settled in Trenton, Ont.

Ann's eight siblings went to the United States, where many of them settled in Madison. Rose Aronin, the last surviving child of Leah and Boruch died this spring.

Joan's husband, Ron Gitelman, and his sister Becky Shulman are the surviving children of Ann and Fred. Four generations of their branch of the family worked for more than a year to organize the recent reunion.

The family's motto is "Alles sheyn und klug" – everyone is beautiful and clever. Its coat of arms is the samovar and the balalaika.

The weekend began with a traditional Shabbat dinner where Becky, the matriarch of the Canadian branch, led the family in the Shabbat candlelighting blessings, joined by her brother Ron who shared the podium.

Other participants at the opening dinner included Barb Newman, Freddi Rakow, Bernie Weinstein, and Merle Aronin. The youngest family member at each table performed the blessings over the challah.

Family members were given name tags with a picture of one of the nine second-generation Blachman siblings. They also received a Blachman 2000 T-shirt and special loot bag, along with some Canadian souvenirs, a directory, the family tree and other memorabilia.

Over the weekend, the family participated in a picnic, a presentation of the Blachman Follies, a Sunday brunch and visits to the Symphony of Fire and Mel Lastman Square.

"Some of our activities were planned so cousins of the same age would be together," Joan says. "We Canadian Blachmans were thrilled to have had the opportunity to have our family come to our great city. They loved it here."

After the reunion, many of the guests stayed on to see more of Toronto and some went to cottage country with cousins.

Joan urges others to organize family reunions, because, she says, they are "such a great experience for everyone.

"In order to maintain ongoing contact with our family, we have a monthly newsletter and a Web site at www.blachmanfamily.com. We are already looking forward to the 2005 family reunion," she adds.

The Blachman family in 1938: Fred, Anne, Percy, Jenny (Nemtin), Becky (Shulman) and baby Ronnie.

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On Campus

Academic brings Jewish studies to U of Waterloo

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Without the tireless efforts of Paul Gerald Socken, the University of Waterloo's Jewish studies program may well have remained little more than a gleam in Brian Hendley's eyes.

Several years ago, Hendley, then the university's dean of arts, saw the film *Schindler's List*. He was so moved by it that he phoned Socken, president of the local synagogue, Beth Jacob, and chair of the department of French studies.

"He told me he thought that we should establish a Jewish studies program," recalled Socken. "When I spoke of the idea to the president and vice-president of the university, they gave me their most enthusiastic support."

Despite their encouraging words, it was left to Socken to flesh out the idea and raise funds for a chair in Jewish studies.

Socken knew it would be a daunting struggle. "Unfortunately, it was at that time that the government of Ontario cut university budgets 15 percent across the board," he explained. "So there was no possibility of funding for new areas of study. It would be up to me to find the necessary funds."

Indefatigable and enterprising, Socken launched a fund-raising drive. Now, several years on, his dedication and hard work have paid off handsomely. Thanks to the generosity of a number of donors, notably Toronto businessman Joe Lebovic and his brother, the university has raised $1.5 million toward a $2 million endowment for a chair in Jewish studies.

The first chairholder, James Diamond, takes up his position in September with the start of the academic year.

Socken is extremely pleased. "When I came to the University of Waterloo 28 years ago, I never dreamed that something like this would happen. It has been very exciting and rewarding."

Socken, who holds a PhD from the University of Toronto, joined the University of Waterloo after a year of teaching at York University's department of French literature. He and his wife Rochelle, a former teacher, have two daughters, Deborah, a 22-year-old U of T graduate, and Suzanne, a 24-year-old teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

Born and raised in Toronto, the son of East European immigrants, Socken, 54, gravitated toward French for personal and professional reasons.

"During the 1960s, when I was in high school and university, bilingualism and biculturalism were strongly promoted," he said. "They were perceived as the wave of the future. Since I already liked literature and languages, having been exposed to Yiddish as a young child, French seemed like a good choice."

Paul Gerald Socken

In 1964, Socken enrolled in a U of T course known as Modern Languages and Literature. He enjoyed it, and graduated with a double major in French and English in 1968.

He decided to do his MA degree at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. "The then-chair of the graduate department of French at the University of Toronto, Eugene Joliat, told me he had spent the best 20 years of his life at the University of Iowa. He said it had an excellent French department, and advised me to apply.

"I was also looking to go away for graduate studies," said Socken.

"I truly enjoyed Iowa," he added. "Joliat was right. Iowa had a first-rate department. But I turned down their offer of a scholarship to do my PhD there. I decided to return to Toronto."

At the U of T, Socken accepted a position as an assistant to the coordinator of a course on Canadian studies. "It was through that experience that I became acquainted with the incredibly rich literature of French Canada. And I was particularly interested in Gabrielle Roy."

Socken has since become one of Canada's foremost authorities on and interpreters of her novels.

Socken's first book, *Concordance de Bonheur d'occasion de Gabrielle Roy*, is a stylistic and thematic analysis of Roy's novel.

His second book, *Myth and Morality in Alexandre Chenevert by Gabrielle Roy*, presents two complementary interpretations of that novel.

Broadening his scope in his third book, *Patrimoines: La Francophonie en Amerique du nord*, Socken and a group of fellow scholars examined the "living tradition" of French culture in Quebec, Acadia, Ontario, western Canada, New England and Louisiana.

In his most recent book, *The Myth of the Lost Paradise in the Novels of Jacques Poulin*, he analyzed the first seven books of this Quebecois writer.

At the University of Waterloo, Socken said French studies are strong. "French majors can go into law, journalism, teaching, translation and business. Like all humanities, French is less popular than it once was. But not everyone can be, or should be, a computer scientist or even an MBA."

Much to his regret, Canada's official bilingual policy, noble dream though it was, has not worked.

"At the moment, only one province is officially bilingual. No, it's not Quebec or Ontario. It's New Brunswick. I think it's right for all federal services to be available in French across the country and for provincial governments to offer French schools and services where numbers warrant it.

"But realistically, English Canada is English and Quebec is French. There is no reason to despair over that. If Belgium and Switzerland can make a system of distinct regions function, so can Canada."

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Waterloo, Bar-Ilan team up in Jewish studies

Launch set for September 19

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

WATERLOO, Ont.— After several years in the works, the University of Waterloo is planning an official launch for its Jewish Studies program Sept. 19.

Six additional Jewish studies courses are now available to Waterloo students, thanks to a recent agreement between the Ontario university and Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel.

The courses, to be offered through the internet and featuring real-time student-professor interaction, were developed by Bar-Ilan's Virtual Jewish University. They are also available for credit to students at other universities, as long as the individual dean approves.

"The arrangement with the University of Waterloo is unique in that they are going to promote the program as part of their distance learning program," said Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University's national executive director, Jerry Tollinsky.

The six courses offered are: War and Peace in the Bible, Jerusalem Throughout the Ages, the Judean Desert Scrolls, Jewish Holidays, Jewish Family Law and Relationships, and Music in Traditional Jewish Culture and Society. Bar-Ilan faculty instructors include Judaic scholar Daniel Sperber and Dead Sea Scroll expert Hanan Eshel.

"What it does for us," said Paul Socken, chair of the dean's advisory committee on Jewish studies and chair of the department of French studies, "is, it extends by the equivalent of another professor, the number of courses that will be available to students. Six courses is the equivalent of hiring another person. It's a major breakthrough for us."

> *Courses to be offered through the Internet*

Another significant breakthrough for the Jewish Studies program, earlier this year, was the naming of lawyer Jim Diamond, a specialist on Maimonides and Jewish biblical interpretation during the medieval period, as its first chair and professor of Jewish Studies.

The program, so far, offers only a minor — not a major — in the field. To minor in Jewish studies, a student needs 10 term courses (half-courses).

Along with approved courses offered at the university itself, such as German Literature of the Holocaust, there is an exchange program with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and three courses are offered through York University's Centre for Jewish Studies, using cassette tapes.

There is also a course called The Quest for Meaning in Modern Judaism, based on the 12-part television series, *Judaism – A Quest for Meaning*, with Elliott Malamet.

The advantage of the Bar-Ilan program, said Socken, is the newer technology.

Students can enrol in the courses, which begin Sept 17, until the fall. They may not know about the courses because the deal was signed after the distance education calendar was printed. Details are available on the Bar-Ilan Web site http://www.bar-ilan.edu, or by calling the University of Waterloo.

Waterloo has over 300 Jewish students listed with its Jewish Students' Association, said Socken. "We know there's a constituency."

He expects the program to attract non-Jewish students as well, as evidenced by a significant number already taking related courses.

"We know this is going to be a big success…We're not just counting on students in the arts faculty. There will also be engineering, mathematics and computer science students who will be looking for electives."

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

נפלאות הדמוקרטיה הישראלית

בשבועות האחרונים קרו שני אירועים שונים בישראל שהגדירו מצב חדש ובלתי מוכר בדמוקרטיה הישראלית. החלטתו של ברק לנסוע לקמפ דיוויד נתמכה על ידי יותר משבעים איש ישראלים על פי משאל עם, אך בכנסת היה רוב נגד ראש הממשלה. הרוב אמנם לא הספיק להפיל את ברק, אך הוא הוכיח בעליל שאין קשר בין הכנסת לבין העם שבחר אותה, ושחברי הכנסת מונחים על ידי שיקולים רגעיים וקטנוניים. ברק עשה, לדעתי צעד נכון: הוא הביט לישראל בעיניים ואמר: אתם, העם, בחרתם אותי בהצבעה ישירה להביא שלום, ולכן אני חייב לעשות זאת. מאחר וממילא אביא כל החלטה למשאל עם, אין לכם מה לדאוג. הימין כמובן דואג שמא יזכה ברק במשאל עם, ולכן מנסים לעצור אותו בכנסת.

המקרה השני הוא בחירת נשיא המדינה. שוב, על פי משאלי העם רצו רוב רובם של הישראלים בפרס כנשיאם. מה עושה הכנסת? בוחרת במשה קצב בגלל שיקולים ואינטרסים רגעיים. מעבר לפער שבין רצון הכנסת והעם, מייצג קצב את ישראל השנייה, את העלייה, את השכבה הבלתי מיוחסת שאין לה קשרים, וזה טוב, אפילו טוב מאוד. ואי אפשר שלא לחשוב על פרס, שהפסיד כל בחירות עד היום. יש לי הרגשה שגם אם יגש לבחירות לועד חורים הוא יפסיד. מעולם לא הבנתי איך אדם מכשר כל כך, שתביא את פריצת הדרך הכי משמעותית לשלום, ושזכה על כך לפרס נובל, אינו מצליח בפוליטיקה המקומית. על האיש חזה המציאו את המשפט "אין נביא בעירו".

קיץ ישראלי

בילתי בישראל שבוע חם ביולי, ולמרות שחששתי מהחום, הלחות, העצבנות, הנהיגה, נהניתי מכל רגע. החברים, ההרגשה של בית, הדברים שאתה קשור להם בפופיק ושאינך אפילו ער כמה שאתה חסר אותם. הנה דוגמה כמעט טפשית: בארץ אתה מקשיב לשירים לועזיים ברדיו ואתה מכיר את רובם. אלה הם השירים הלועזיים ששמעת בילדותך, ושעדיין ממשיכים להשמיע אותם. איפה בקנדה תשמע את "שדות ירוקים" או את "טוֹנְדְרוֹ מטאדור" של שלישיית קינגסטון? אבל שיישאר ביניינו.

SHMOOZIN

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From *The CJN* files

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Giorgio Bassani: In memoriam 1916-2000

Continued from page 2

plagued by laws of racial discrimination.

The novel brilliantly captures the atmosphere of the times – at the seaside resort of Riccione, one of Ferrara's society matrons reflects the prevailing attitude of the Catholic community's devotion to Il Duce, the newspapers are already waging a defamatory campaign against the Jews, and the narrator finds he cannot bridle his own resentment and a relationship with an old friend is strained.

The most important relationship that Bassani explores, however, is between the narrator and his father. The narrator defines his father as a romantic and a patriot, politically naïve and inexperienced, similar to many other Italian Jews of his generation.

Although the narrator's father feared the possibility of anti-Semitism in Italy, he was a card-bearing member of the Fascist party, as were many of his co-religionists. He accepted the assurances of prominent fellow Jews that the racial laws would never be applied in Italy.

The narrator finds, however, that he cannot share his father's hope and enthusiasm; he attributes the elder's trust and faith in the future to a foolish naïveté. The mere thought fills him with desperation and a sense of solitude.

In the prologue of *The Garden of the Finzi-Contini*, we learn that upon returning home in 1957 from the Etruscan necropolis at Cerveteri, outside of Rome, the narrator is moved by the sight of the ancient tombs to recall another monumental tomb in the Jewish cemetery of his native Ferrara.

The imposing family tomb of the Finzi-Contini only houses the remains of the son, Alberto, who died in 1942 of a malignant lymphogranuloma. The other family members, Micol, Prof. Ermanno, his wife Signora Olga, and her mother Signora Regina, were deported to Germany in 1943. It is thus, from the very prologue, we learn the tragic fate of the Finzi-Contini family.

The narrator's recollections of the family date as far back as 1924-25, when as a child he first happened to see the family mausoleum. He remembers catching glimpses of the daughter, Micol, under her father's tallit in the synagogue and later, in 1929, when, leaning on the great wall enclosing the garden, she offers her condolences for his failure in mathematics.

It is not until almost 10 years later, however, in 1938 – a few months after the promulgation of the racial laws – that the narrator finally enters the great garden.

The occasion for his invitation to the Finzi-Contini *magna domus* is bittersweet. The Finzi-Continis, once highly exclusive in their aristocratic seclusion, had opened their home and garden to fellow Jews now excluded from public libraries and tennis clubs.

The bewilderment of the young narrator at the turn of events in Italy is rooted in the conviction that he, his family, their friends and other members of their community, had always been good citizens.

Malnate, a young communist, endeavours to point out to the narrator and Alberto that they are indirectly, partly responsible for the situation because there were so few Jewish anti-Fascists in Italy.

It is this implied Jewish passivity, resignation and suggested complicity with fascism that, at times, have caused violent responses to Bassani's works from fellow members of his community.

Il romanzo di Ferrara is Bassani's journey into the past; a voyage of discovery motivated by a desire to comprehend and to explain. It is a journey, through remembrances and memories – enlightened and illuminated by the gift of hindsight – towards a fundamental awareness of self and others.

Lacking the involuntary aspect of the recollections of Marcel Proust's *À la recherche du temps perdu*, Bassani's remembering is a voluntary act, a conscious recollection of events and people that will live eternally through the faculty of memory.

Bassani has meticulously undertaken this exploration of past events in order to transmit an important personal history to future generations; the "lest we forget" motif compels us to seek to understand one of history's cruelest and most violent episodes, and strives to ensure that similar atrocities are never repeated.

Dr. Rachele Longo Lavorato is a senior lecturer in the department of Italian at the University of Toronto.

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Coast to Coast

Continued from page 1

Laurentian shul seized

She said she does not know what use the municipality will make of the property, but it is not for sale at public auction. She was not aware of what had become of the furnishings and other contents of the synagogue.

The property was registered under the names of William Schecter, Joel Sternthal and M. Maron, all once-active members of the congregation, who have since died.

"Several attempts were made by letter… there was no response at all," Desbiens said. Notices were also published in newspapers. "Anyone could have come forward at any stage, but no one did."

When told the three persons under whose names the property was registered were dead, Desbiens did not comment.

The congregation never had religious status and therefore was not exempt from taxation, she said.

Rabbi Myer Schecter, son of William, was not aware of what had happened to the synagogue, or even that taxes were owing, until he was interviewed by *The CJN*.

"For sure, our family did not get any letter [from Val Morin]," said Rabbi Schecter, who has three brothers who are also rabbis.

"I think they should have done their homework. These letters would have had to have been registered. Who received them? My father's house burned down and that address no longer exists."

Rabbi Schecter said he had not been to the synagogue in about 25 years, but had attended from the time the first synagogue was built in the '30s. His father was president in the 1950s, he added.

Norman Sternthal, son of Joel, said he had not been contacted by Val Morin about any tax problem either, and had only heard a few days earlier second-hand that the synagogue had been seized.

Rabbi Schecter said he would seek a legal opinion about the situation.

"I feel very saddened, very badly, about what has happened, when I think of what a vibrant community Val Morin used to be," he said.

Sternthal, who attended the synagogue as child, was also saddened. "Why did the synagogue have to pay taxes? Why was it not registered the proper way? Who were the notices served upon? It seems this has happened by default."

Neither Rabbi Schecter nor Sternthal appeared aware that the property was still registered in their late fathers' names.

The land the synagogue is on was donated by the Witkoff family, Rabbi Schecter recalled, and the money for construction came primarily from the Sternthals, Millers, Schecters and Marons. (The M. Maron on the tax roll is believed to be the late Moishe Maron, one of the founders.)

The original synagogue was burned by arson during World War II, probably in 1942, said Rabbi Schecter. Its walls were daubed with swastikas.

A new synagogue, the one standing today, was built soon after that on the same site. It looks much like an old-fashioned cottage with its whitewashed walls and peaked roof. It seats about 100.

It appears to be true that the congregation never was tax-exempt, Rabbi Schecter said. He recalls his father paying a bill each year.

Val Morin, 45 minutes north of Montreal, was a popular summer destination for the Jewish community for decades. The synagogue was often used right up to and including the High Holy Days.

In more recent years, the synagogue was primarily used by the Lubavitch community.

מזל טוב Mazel Tov

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Esther Parnes is 85 years young. Congratulations from husband Earl, family and friends. Und schoen!

Sheila & Paul Griffin, Naomi & Arthur Winkler, announce the engagement of Jennifer & Gil. Wedding date is Sept. 17. Mazel tov.

Mazel tov to Stephanie Renée Wiesenthal & Pinchas Halili, who were married June 25.

Mazel tov to Dina Lebowitz on your graduation from dentistry at the University of Buffalo. With love, the Greismans, Cohens and Lebowitzes.

Congratulations to Melanie Craig on receiving your master's degree in social work from Yeshiva University. Love, Mom & Dad.

Mark & Jennifer Schnier welcome Noah's brother Ethan, born Jan. 24. Welcomed by Bubbie Sharon, Zayde Alan, Great-Bubbie Milly and the gantze mishpachah.

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DEADLINE REMINDER
What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Aug. 14, is the deadline for Aug. 24 and Monday, Aug. 21, is the deadline for Aug. 31. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Sunday, Aug. 13

CHARITY GARAGE SALE

Jordana-Yamit chapter of Hadassah-WIZO is holding a garage sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4 Prince Charles Dr. in the Bathurst and Lawrence area.

GIANT BAZAAR SALE

Soleil chapter of Jewish Women International's giant bazaar with odds and ends, nearly new clothes, book, toys, kitchenware and other items. 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 6250 Bathurst Street.

PURIM IN AUGUST

Join your favourite Purim characters, enjoy special crafts, games and exhibits galore at the Jewish Discovery Place, at the BJC, 4588 Bathurst St., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call 636-1880 ext. 456.

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Everyone is welcome to join host **Alec Gelcer** at 7:30 p.m., to listen or tell at the Riverdale Community Centre, 179a Danforth Ave., $4. Information 699-8914.

MUSICAL EVENING

Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood and The Entertainment and Cultural Connection present a night of entertainment starring **Bill Berle, Gordon Lindsay, Rabbi Gedalia Zweig** and **Isaac Klein** in support of Jews for Judaism. **Julius Ciss** will provide an update on the battle against Christian missionaries. 470 Glencairn Ave. 8 p.m. Tickets $10 or 2 for $18. Proceeds to Jews for Judaism. 789-3213.

Wednesday, Aug. 16

LUNCH & GALLERY TOUR

For women 50+ and free during the day. Join Jewish Women International for lunch at 12:30 noon at the Acadian Court followed by a tour of The Thompson Gallery. Tour $3. RSVP required, call **Bettie Raibmon**, 905-881-4213.

Thursday, Aug. 17

LAST 'Y' ROOFTOP DANCE

An evening of nostalgia, music and fun; meet old friends and see the old building at the Bloor JCC. Music from **Jay Jackson** and Take Three Plus One and disc jockey, **Gene Lew**. 750 Spadina Ave., 7:30-11 p.m. Tickets $18 until Aug. 14, $23 at the door. Call 924-6211.

Friday, Aug. 18

SINGLES SHABBAT

A Shabbat festival hosted by Project Tikkun and Chabad of Markham for singles 23-40, regardless of affiliation. The theme is Ally McBeal(owitz): She's not the Only One Looking For Love, an exploration of love, marriage and sexuality with a Jewish twist. Register 784-3525.

What Else Is New

DOWNTOWN SHABBATON

A Shabbat of Jewish storytelling and learning, meditation and Shlomo Carlebach songs. Join Shabbat Throughout the City at Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrew St., Friday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 12 at 9:30 a.m. Melaveh malka with **Ronnie Weisman** and his band Kedusha: Jewish Reggae, Saturday at 10:30 p.m. Registration $40 for Shabbaton. Call 784-3525 or 595-5723.

SHABBATON

Cutting the Puppet Strings, a Shabbaton for singles and marrieds 23-40 at the Mizrachi Bayit Aug. 25-26. Topic for weekend is finding spontaneity within Jewish law. Call **Kinneret** 784-3525.

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Continued on page 21

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FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, warm, loving, 2 small children, seeks male, family oriented, down to earth, good sense of humour, loves children, for friends first relationship. **AD#1056**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, enjoys music the theatre, dining and dancing, long walks, seeks male, elegant, classy, for loving monogamous relationship. **AD#1104**

LET'S TALK
Female, seeks male, emotionally stable, with sense of humour, who enjoys travelling and the theatre. **AD#1213**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish mom, 42 yrs, 5', petite, professional, non smoker, active, caring, sincere, fun loving, humourous, enjoy arts, dancing, dining, outdoor activities, walks, canoeing, hiking, seeking male, 37-48 yrs, fit, intelligent, caring, sincere, stable, good natured, non smoker, similar interests. **AD#1258**

COMMITMENT
Professional Jewish female, 49, passionate, caring, enjoy teaching school and aerobics, movies, dining out, theatre, seeking Jewish male, 49-62 yrs, who's caring, fit and affectionate, for a commited relationship. **AD#1262**

GOOD FRIENDSHIP
Attractive professional female, 50's, young looking, slim, warm hearted, humourous, independent, enjoy theatre, ballet, dining, shopping, quiet evenings, walks, travelling, cooking, playing bridge, scrabble, seeking white Jewish gentleman, tall, slim, independent, established, warm, caring, no head games, for good friendship. **AD#1336**

FRIENDS AND COMPANION
Single Jewish retired professional female, intelligent, honest, kind and loving, with variety of interests, seeks male, 63-75 yrs for friendship and companionship. **AD#1277**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Divorced Jewish female, 35 yrs, with children, intelligent, attractive, fun loving adventurous, financially stable, enjoys walking, travel, dining and dancing, seeks male 35-50 yrs, tradional values loves children for friends 1st relationship. **AD#1134**

PRETTY PETITE
Single female, semi-retired, pretty, petite, independent, good sense of humour, intelligent, seeks male, 65 yrs, for friends first relationship, leading to future possible commitment. **AD#1163**

FRIENDSHIP
Attractive single mom, honest, kind, sweet, works a lot, enjoys all sports, movies, dining out and quiet times, seeking preferably a single dad, employed, honest, kind and fun, for friendship. **AD#1167**

SEEKING SINGLE DAD
Single Jewish mom, 39 yrs, attractive, kind, honest, sincere and hard working, seeking single dad, who's attractive, honest, employed and fun to be with, to enjoys adult times together. **AD#1395**

BE MY SUNSHINE
Attractive single Jewish female, 5' 5", straight brown hair, brown/hazel eyes, fit, non smoker, kind, good natured, emotionally stable, seeking single traditional Jewish gentleman, 45-50 yrs, around 6', established, handsome, exciting, honest, funny, caring, non smoker, children welcome, to share life. **AD#1046**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Divorced Jewish female, 44 yrs, 5' 9", smoker, seeks male for dining and dancing, and outdoor activities. **AD#1454**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, 5' 8", blonde, slim, fit, attractive, vivacious, outgoing, friendly, enjoys dancing, being outside, seeking male, tall, slim, fit, Jewish/family values, attends Sinagogue, friendly, outgoing, down to earth, enjoys relaxing, hanging out, doing fun things, who's respectful and caring. **AD#1257**

MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP
Female, 62 yrs but looks 50, European background, owns business, exceptionally attractive, elegant and sophisticated, seeks gentleman, 55-70 yrs, who's also sophisticated in all aspects, professional or businessman, who knows how to treat a lady for a meaningful relationship. **AD#1272**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Widowed female, 66 yrs, young, seeks gentleman mensch, 65-72 yrs, who's young in spirit, clean looking, enjoys movies, watching TV, quiet evenings and appreciates a real nice lady. **AD#1421**

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Men seeking Women

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COMPANION FOR LIFE
Single male, happy, very fit, caring, successful professional male, enjoy travel, and all the arts, seeking an attractive, 40'ish, female, who has done her homework, emotionally and physically for a life time companion. **AD#1517**

READY AND WAITING
Divorced male, Jewish, Toronto born, no children, generous, speaks 2 languages, writer, seeks female, young with similar interests, and qualities, who is ready to start a family. **AD#1266**

CULTURED SCHOLAR
Single male, 54 yrs, 5' 7", lawyer, aridite, kablist, financial whiz, fit, world traveller, violinist, poet, seeks slender female, gracious compassionate, attractive, intelligent, emotionally, and financially stable, for permanent relationship. **AD#1522**

WHAT A CATCH
Single male, Jewish, 34 yrs, 5' 10", 165 lbs, slim fit, handsome, humourous, warm, down to earth, honest, sexy, sincere, financially, secure, romantic, enjoys dining and dancing, romantic evenings, seeks female Jewish, petite romantic, warm loving, for possible long term relationship. **AD#1025**

BEST IS YET TO COME
Single male, 54 yrs, original fiddler on the roof, nice, kind, traditional values, educated, successful, good sense of humour, handsome athletic, enjoys outdoor activities, travel, dining and dancing, seeks female with similar interests and qualities. **AD#1086**

SERIOUS INTENTIONS
Single male, 46 yrs, professional, 5' 8", medium build, down to earth, sincere, easy going, seeks female, 35-45 yrs, intelligent, sincere, honest, good sense of humour, no head games please, for possible long term relationship. **AD#1476**

GREAT RELATIONSHIP
Attractive retired male, 76 yrs, widow for 2 years, seeks non smoking, nice young female, for great relationship. **AD#1047**

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY
Single male, 5' 9", 150 lbs, small-medium build, blue eyes, in reasonable physical condition, an amateur musician, with stron interest in music, conservation, environment, nature and social sciences, seeking female with small-medium build and similar interests. **AD#1204**

A GREAT CATCH
Single male, 34 yrs, 5' 7", 175 lbs, blonde hair, blue eyes, attactive, fit, workout, educated, multilingual, employed on internet, in Canada and abroad, enjoys studying, writing, reading, travelling, outdoor activities, anything cultural/historical, seeking female 20-30 yrs, attractive, smart, stable, ambitious, enjoys travelling, having fun. **AD#1460**

LET'S TALK
Single Jewish male, educated professional, tall, witty, smart, loves the arts, theatre, movies, music, dining, dancing, and many other thing, seeking Jewish female, children and pet are okay. **AD#1011**

MUST WANT CHILDREN
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What's New

Continued from page 20

talk by **Dr. Alvin Pettle**, gynecologist and creator of the Ruth Wellness Centre. He will discuss his approach to medicine, which combines mind, body and spirit with traditional medicine. Monday, Aug. 21, 6:30 p.m. Cost $28, reserve by Aug. 16 at noon. 630-9313.

WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women classes in Talmud, biblical exegesis, Tanach and Jewish law begin in September. Courses meet weekly and are offered during the day and evening. Text provided in English and Hebrew. Information and registration, **Susan** 398-1510.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH CLASS

The Lodzer Centre is offering year-long Jewish studies program for children 11-14, Monday evenings beginning Sept. 18. No Hebrew school background required. **Esther Bloch** 905-4715.

CPA WHEELCHAIR RELAY

Canadian Paraplegic Association's Wheelchair Relay Challenge will take place Sunday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Yorkdale parking lot. To register a team or to receive sponsorship information, call 422-5644 ext. 221.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Learning Disabilities Association offers programs for children, teens and adults, including social skills programs for 6 to 16-year-olds, workshops and support groups. Beginning in September. 229-1680 or admin@lday.on.ca.

WASHINGTON TRIP

Adath Sholom Sisterhood is planning a trip to Washington, D.C., Oct. 29-Nov. 2. For information, Bunnie Gross 633-9691.

RESOURCE CENTRE

Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. **Bernice Friedman** 905-882-8509.

Limited space for preschool children in Tuesday/Thursday Tic Tac Two, 9:15-11:15 a.m. Judaic programming, music, snack, circles and free play. Parents can exercise while children play. Babysitting available. Ext. 248.

Limited nursery space for September-June program. This enriched program includes Hebrew, Judaica, fun centre and music specialities. Ext 248.

The Jewish Discovery Place Museum has 10 exciting exhibits, and something special each week. Dance to the different sounds of graggers from around the world on Monday, participate in an interactive Megillah reading on Tuesday, make a gragger on Wednesday and play the Noisy Megillah Game on Thursday. For information, ext. 456.

Summer's End (indoor) Picnic Tuesday, Aug. 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-register.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. 638-7800.

PALS: Do Your Kids Have Trouble Making Friends? An interactive social skills group for parents and children to help kids become more comfortable in social situations. Children will learn to express their feelings more appropriately and develop strategies to cope with bullying and teasing. 10-week course begins Oct. 16 and 17. **Teena** ext. 212.

Surviving Separation & Looking Forward. For recently separated/divorced people to deal with being single again. We will discuss loneliness, anger and looking ahead to new beginnings. Begins Oct. 12, **Teena** ext. 212.

Living With Your Teenager: Challenges & Rewards. Learn how to keep talking to that stranger in your house, how to set limits and how to identify the line between independence and freedom. Starts Sept. 27. **Teena** ext. 212

Parenting the ADHD Child, Learn what ADHD is, coping strategies, about medication and other treatments. Series begins Sept. 27. Register early. **Teena** ext. 212.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama Aug. 16, 30; Barbecue party and entertainment Aug. 13, 1-3 p.m.; Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23; Line dancing Tuesday mornings during August. 395-7881.

LZA Seniors luncheon Wednesday, Aug. 16, with entertainment by **Mikhael Kinkis**. Information about Miami trip will be discussed. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Cultural Club meets Tuesdays 10 a.m. in the boardroom. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. Aug. 10, Israeli video; Sunday, Aug. 13, dance party with live music and light supper; Aug. 17, bingo; Aug. 24, dinner out at Bais Burger, 6 p.m.; Aug. 31 sing-along. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Summer's In The Air! with Janet Thorpe, a summer concert. Aug. 13. 3 p.m. members $3, non-members $5.

Healthy Cooking with **Andrea Sturk,** Betel Centre dietitian/nutritionist, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1;15 p.m. Cost $1 fee for materials.

Arthritis Management Clinic meets Thursday Aug. 17, 1-4 p.m. Call ext.131 for appointment.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Aug. 15, picnic in the park; Aug. 22, sing-along; Aug. 29, summer party; Sept. 5, movie. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie Sunday, Aug. 13, 2 p.m. *The Boxer.*

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave., 785-2500.

Computer Lab Tuesdays 10 a.m. to noon. Register at Service Desk in person. For information, **Mara** ext. 2275.

Instructional Beginners Bridge course with **Ed Danziger** Mondays 10 a.m. to noon, beginning mid-September. Register. **Mara** ext 2275.

An afternoon with the Entertainers of the Wagman Centre, Monday, Aug. 21, 2-3:30 p.m. Register in person at Service Desk. For further details, **Laura Bark** ext. 2279.

Lunch & Learn Tuesday, Aug. 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., kosher lunch. Reserve at Service Desk. For information, call **Mara** ext. 2275.

ESTATE PLANNING: Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation recently held an estate planning seminar. Speakers included (from left): Elena Hoffstein, partner at Faskin Martineau DuMoulin LLP; Melvin Gilbert, president of the Creative Planning Financial Group; and Diane Francis, editor-at-large for the *Financial Post* at the *National Post*.

ANNUAL CONCERT: Beit Halochem Canada recently held its annual concert for Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel. Seen, from left, are: Roni Weiss; Alex Eisen; Ilanit, one of the featured Israeli performers; Saul Feldberg; Tobi Feldberg, president of Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel-Beit Halochem Canada; and Daniel Baz, group visit 2000 leader.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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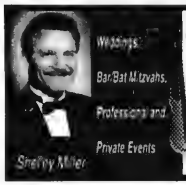

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Coast to Coast

Women make a huge difference

Although it is tempting to tar all politicians with the same brush, intuitively we recognize that there are substantial differences between "types" of politicians.

There is one phenomenon called "women politicians" that has changed the face of parliament. Even a political neophyte, observing question period for the first time, notices that women do politics differently. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Senate.

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien may be criticized for juicing the male-female ratio in the upper chamber by filling it with women nearing the mandatory retirement age of 75. But most Hill watchers will quickly acknowledge that the new women have made a huge, positive difference in the relevance and level of engagement the Senate now has in the development of public policy.

Leaving aside individuals like Sharon Carstairs who, while effective, arrived in the Senate via the partisan route, the ranks of the Senate have been graced by thoughtful and committed Canadian women who truly want to help make a difference.

Raynell Andrechuk is a good example. Her resume is coloured with diplomatic postings to Africa, Europe and Geneva (as ambassador to the UNHCR); and she served as a respected judge in her native Saskatchewan. Although appointed by the Tories (remember them?), she is widely regarded as non-partisan. Her work in the Senate on the issues of development and international relations has been exceedingly well received by all stakeholders.

She is not alone. Senators like Ermine Cohen of New Brunswick, Mira Spivak of Manitoba, Landon Pearson and Lorna Milne of Ontario have brought a dynamism to the Senate that has been absent for a long time.

The most significant impact they have had, however, relates to their colleagues of the male persuasion. Their energy has encouraged (or embarrassed) the male senators to adopt a more energetic approach to the business of the Senate.

It has even led some male senators to question government initiatives in a less-than-partisan way. That in turn has facilitated a general spirit of truly sober second thought in the Red Chamber and that, dear readers, has benefited all Canadians.

Next week: Women in the House of Commons

Winnipeg synagogue goes Hollywood with new cantor

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Shaarey Zedek Synagogue has looked to Hollywood, you might say, to recruit a cantor for yom tov this year.

Gracing the bimah of Winnipeg's largest synagogue this Rosh Hashanah will be Allan Blye, singer, television producer and movie maker.

Originally from Winnipeg, Blye left here in the 1950s to pursue a successful career in show business. But Blye never lost fond feelings for his hometown. He has been back frequently over the years to visit and help in fund-raising events. He even wrote a song about Winnipeg for his St. John's High School 75th anniversary reunion in the mid-1980s.

"We have been trying to hire a full or part-time chazzan for some time," says Jackie Wassermann, the Shaarey Zedek's executive director.

"Allan Blye's name came up several times. Perry Shulman, our vice-president, and Ted Lyons, our president, did some negotiating with him and he agreed to serve as our chazzan for yom tov." Wasserman added that "people are very excited about this."

Wassermann notes that Blye has gained cantorial experience working with Sheila Roitenberg, the synagogue's interim choir director, in Palm Springs where many older members of Winnipeg's Jewish community spend their winters.

It probably helped the Shaarey Zedek's recruitment effort that Blye is moving back to the city of his youth – at least on a part-time basis.

In June, he and his brother and partner, Garry, announced they were creating a new movie production company, with the help of a local investment fund, to make 12 films here over the next three or four years.

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FAMILY BAR/BAT MITZVAH

See Page 30

Israel's president wants 'quieter, calmer' country

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic AGency

JERUSALEM — Israel's new president has vowed to pursue tolerance and national unity.

Moshe Katsav promised he was "locking up" his conservative political views during his single, seven-year term, saying he would instead focus on the internal problems confronting Israeli society, after being elected Israel's eighth president.

In a secret parliamentary vote, Katsav beat the odds-on favourite, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Katsav, 55, is the first Likud candidate to be elected Israel's head of state.

At the swearing-in ceremony, Katsav, who is religiously observant, offered a prayer seeking guidance.

"I ask you, God of Israel, to make me succeed in my role," Katsav said.

"I will do everything to justify your trust in me, and I accept my duty with humility."

The new president also noted his own humble beginnings as a child who immigrated with his family to Israel from Iran.

Katsav spent his first few years in Israel in the transit camps set up for the absorption of Jews who immigrated from mainly Arab countries during the 1950s.

Israel's eigth president, Moshe Katsav, is sworn into office by the speaker of the Knesset Avraham Burg on the podium in the Knesset. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg hailed Katsav's election as proof that anyone, from any means or background, could attain the position of "Israel's No. 1 citizen."

Burg also advised Katsav to rise above the political debate.

Katsav's promise to help nurture a "quieter, calmer" Israel contrasted with the more turbulent dynamic that characterized the presidency of his predecessor, Ezer Weizman.

Weizman stepped down three years before his second five-year term was to end after police investigated his financial affairs. Although the police recommended that he not be charged, the investigation gave him a less-than-blemish-free verdict.

A veteran public figure who held key posts in the military and politics before becoming president, Weizman served as president during a period that spanned both left- and right-wing governments.

The outspoken Weizman – the nephew of Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann – has frequently been a counterbalance to government policy, pushing for progress when the peace process faltered and urging a slowdown during waves of terrorist attacks.

In an emotional speech at Katsav's swearing-in ceremony, Weizman made an appeal to the politically divided Knesset not to abandon the pursuit of peace, "no matter how complicated or difficult it may be."

Peres absent from ceremony

Weizman advised, Katsav, "try not to get into trouble. It's not easy, but perhaps you were elected because your nature is different from mine."

Notably absent from the ceremony was Peres.

Considered the popular favourite for the post, Peres was openly stunned following his defeat.

In an Israel Radio interview on Tuesday, Peres acknowledged disappointment, but said he "blamed no one" for it.

Peres, who remained on as regional development minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Ehud Barak, said he preferred not to dwell in the past, but to look forward to the future.

Peres' defeat was widely seen as a political slap in the face to Barak, who is struggling to hold on to power in the face of an opposition onslaught against his peace policies.

Peres said Barak must spend the next three months, as the Knesset goes into a summer recess, to try to save his government and the peace process.

"Three months is a very short period of time, and if I can contribute even one ounce of support to the peace process, in my eyes it is 1,000 times more important than being bitter or looking for the guilty," said Peres, an architect of the Oslo accords.

"I see this as the moment of truth for the country."

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

The government of Germany recently passed legislation authorizing payments to those who suffered in Nazi slave labour camps. Payment of successful claims will come from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc. in New York.

Specific details concerning criteria of eligibility and application procedures will be forthcoming in the fall. We will inform the community of all the necessary details and how to get help in completing the application forms. Please look for specific announcements in your local community newspaper. For further information, please call 1-888-440-1836.

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Barak remains calm as his problems mount

By DAVID LANDAU
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Prime Minister Ehud Barak exuded his usual confidence in the Knesset last week, but even members of his own party are starting to wonder why.

In rapid succession, the premier saw his nominee for the nation's presidency lose out to a relative unknown, had his foreign minister resign in a public dispute over Barak's handling of the Camp David summit, and the Knesset gave preliminary approval to a bill to dissolve itself and hold early elections.

Analysis

Barak could draw some solace that the Knesset was unable to muster the 61 votes to pass a no-confidence motion against him earlier this week.

But his opponents – and even some members of his coalition – are saying it is only a matter of time until Barak's government falls.

The political clock began ticking for Barak with the start of a Knesset summer recess granting the beleaguered premier three months to try to get his governing coalition in order, and make headway in peace talks with the Palestinians.

It got off to a discouraging start when David Levy resigned as foreign minister – a move that left Barak with only 13 ministers in his cabinet. Two months ago, there were 23.

Just hours after Levy's resignation, the Knesset backed the bill dissolving itself. Given the recess, no further moves on the bill are expected until October or, more likely, November. It must still pass three more votes before it becomes law and new elections are called.

Barak dismissed the vote."I do not yet see the Knesset really dispersing itself and going to elections," he said. "In a few weeks, the dust will settle."

Barak plans to spend that time rebuilding his coalition, which began splintering on the eve of the Camp David summit, when three coalition members – Shas, Yisrael Ba'Aliyah and the National Religious Party – bolted from his government.

But members of his government believe that Barak's options are limited. Even Haim Ramon, who is among the ministers closest to Barak, said the premier is running out of combinations for a workable government.

Earlier in the week, legislators elected Likud Party lawmaker Moshe Katsav president, in a vote that was believed to be as much a stinging rebuke to Barak as it was to Katsav's opponent, former Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Peres did not link the fate handed him during the secret Knesset ballot to the standing of Barak and his government among Israel's legislators.

Nor did he deduce that his own defeat means that Barak would not triumph in a national referendum on a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Peres' old friend and political foe, Ariel Sharon, however, did link the defeat to the peace process.

Sharon, leader of the opposition Likud Party, claimed the majority that put Katsav into the president's residence is, in effect, the same majority in the Knesset that opposes Barak's peace moves.

This majority includes the rightist bloc and the religious bloc. It is the coalition that former Prime Minister Menachem Begin first put together in 1977, when he brought his Likud Party to power for the first time.

His successor, Yitzhak Shamir, inherited the coalition and was able to preserve it for much of the following decade.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin overturned the coalition, briefly but crucially, after the election of 1992, when he wooed the Shas Party into his Labour-Meretz government and went on to sign the Oslo Accords with the Palestinians.

The rightist-religious coalition came together again four years later, to support Benjamin Netanyahu for the premiership.

Barak did succeed in creating Rabin's coalition when he won power last year, but he has not succeeded in holding it together.

The fortunes of Barak's peace initiative, which still hangs in the balance despite the collapse of the Camp David summit, is the stuff of Israel's future.

The ever-confident Barak – and with him the defeated but not silenced Peres – believe there is still room to hope that the Palestinians will accept U.S. bridging proposals on Jerusalem, and that if they do, the people of Israel will do so as well.

Barak has the opinion polls to back him up. A recent Gallup poll indicated that 66 percent of Israelis favour further negotiations with the Palestinians.

On the political right, people point to the huge disparity between the weekend opinion polls regarding the presidency and what in fact transpired in the Knesset presidential vote. The polls showed Peres favoured by three times as many Israelis as Katsav. Yet Katsav won.

Perhaps, some argue, the polls are also way off when it comes to the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Pollsters and left-of-centre pundits, though, maintain that the "inaccuracy"of the polls in terms of who would win the presidential contest proves that the Knesset is way to the right of the public.

In the aftermath of the dramatic presidential vote, Sharon's vaunted national camp majority failed to gel in a no-confidence motion against Barak. Only 50 members supported the motion, which needed 61 of the Knesset's 120 members to bring the premier and his government down.

But Sharon vowed that the summer recess would give Barak no peace.

Political observers say the crunch will come when the Knesset returns from its summer break, just after the High Holidays.

If Barak has gotten an accord with the Palestinians by then, there will be elections.

If he has not, they say, there will still be elections.

The only question is when they will be held. Some politicians suggest the spring of 2001. Others say Barak will be unable to govern until then, that he will be unable to push through the state budget at year's end.

Either way, the present government's days seem numbered. Pundits may long debate whether Peres' defeat was related to this situation, but all are agreed that the same Knesset that denied him the presidency is fast approaching the end of its term.

Renowned chassidic leader dies

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Mourners are remembering the longtime rebbe of the Bobover chassidic group as an exceptional leader – one who rebuilt a community from the ashes of the Holocaust.

Rabbi Shlomo Halberstam died last week at a hospital in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, the heavily Jewish neighborhood where the Bobovers are based and where he had built a world-renowned synagogue and yeshiva.

Rabbi Halberstam, 92, was believed to have been the last remaining chassidic rabbi to have survived the Holocaust. Born in Galicia, Rabbi Halberstam arrived in the United States in 1946, indigent after his group was largely obliterated by the Nazis.

Obituary

During World War II, Rabbi Halberstam dressed as a nun in order to rescue Jews, hiding them in a coal truck. His wife and several children were killed in the Holocaust.

Rabbi Naftali Halberstam, now 70, was the only child to survive the war and he will replace his father as rebbe.

Rabbi Halberstam, who subsequently remarried and had more children, is widely credited with rebuilding the Bobover community in the United States.

When he arrived in New York, there were so few haredi Jews in his Manhattan neighbourhood that his son recalled being sent out into the street to look for a minyan. He was known to greet newly arrived Holocaust survivors as their boats docked on the piers.

Later, he moved his community to Brooklyn.

"People needed a leader, someone who could help them restore their faith and optimism. He did that," said Abraham Biederman, an activist in the Borough Park community and a friend of the rebbe.

"He was energetic and had a regal bearing and extraordinary sense of class, but at the same time extraordinary warmth," added Biederman. "People really loved him."

Yitzhak, a Bobover Jew living in Borough Park who did not want his last name used, said Rabbi Halberstam was "open to everyone – there was no such thing as a closed door."

Yitzhak, who studied for his bar mitzvah under the rebbe's tutelage 40 years ago, described Rabbi Halberstam's death as "a loss for the Jewish people."

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, got to know Rabbi Halberstam in the 1970s, while heading the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New York.

"He eschewed extremism," said Hoenlein. "To be in his presence you sensed not only his charisma but his nobility and his saintliness. He literally knew every single child in his yeshiva, and it has thousands of children."

An estimated 20,000 Bobover Jews live in Borough Park, and there are smaller communities in Monsey, N.Y., Montreal, Toronto, Mexico City, Great Britain and Israel. Most Bobover Jews do not descend from the group's prewar Polish community, but were drawn to the sect through the rebbe's leadership.

Vatican calls for international status for Jerusalem's holy sites

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

ROME — The Vatican's foreign minister has informed visiting U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that an international status for Jerusalem's holy sites is a prerequisite for a "just and lasting" Middle East peace.

A Vatican spokesman said Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran stressed to Albright "the priority of dialogue; respect for international decisions, particularly UN resolutions; and the necessity of a special, internationally guaranteed status for the holy places of the three monotheistic religions."

The Vatican, which sees itself as the protector of Christian interests in Jerusalem and at other Holy Land sites, has long sought to be an active player in Middle East peace negotiations.

Albright stopped off in Rome on her way home from Asia to brief Tauran on last month's failed talks at Camp David between Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

At a news conference following talks with Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, Albright said that at Camp David, Arafat had not shown an interest in the internationalization of Jerusalem and had insisted on full Palestinian sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Vatican Foreign Minister Jean-Louis Tauran met at the Vatican last week to discuss the mideast peace process.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Early elections favoured

Continued from page 1

Livnat said during the plenum discussion that "Barak has been left with a head but without a government, while we have been left without a budget, education, health, agriculture, infrastructure or peace between ourselves, let alone with our neighbours."

Lieberman chose to attack the Arab parties. "All you do is subvert the operations of the State of Israel," he said. "All you want is to destroy and raze the state. You are the Knesset's angels of destruction. If you want to be Palestinians, go to Palestine! I'll pay for your one-way ticket."

This prompted the Arab MKs to respond in a similar manner. Mohammed Barakeh, Issam Makhoul and Ahmed Tibi jumped to their feet and shouted, "Fascist, bully, cheek. Get out of here!"

Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg was forced to expel Barakeh from the plenum because of the fracas that ensued.

Justice Minister Yossi Beilin responded to the bills on behalf of the government. He said the Knesset did not really want to disband because if it did, it could have done so on Monday when a no-confidence motion was discussed. If the opposition had managed to muster 61 MKs on Monday, elections would have to be held within 90 days, Beilin added. He said the opposition did not want new elections.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak commented after the vote that he was not especially moved by the result. He said the country is further from elections than it seems in the Knesset. When the dust settles, there will be a government, the prime minister concluded.

TYPE OF CAR OR SIMILAR		L.S. 30 APR. 2000 28 JULY 2000
MANUAL CARS		
A	FIAT PUNTO 3 DR.	126
B	HYUNDAY ATOS	147
C	RENAULT CLIO	175
C'	PEUGEOT 306	217
C'	MITSUBISHI CARISMA	238
MT	MINIBUS 8 SEATS	490
MT	MINIBUS 10 SEATS	518
AUTOMATIC CARS+A.C		
D	KIA PRIDE DAIHATSU SIRION	210
E	DAEWOO LANOS	245
F	* NISSAN ALMERA	294
G	* MAZDA LANTIS 1.8	315
MT	* GMC SAVANA	798
X	* CITROEN XANTIA	350
XL	* MAZDA 626 / PEUGEOT 406 2.0	385
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The word "dairy/laitier" was inadvertently left off the French panel. This will be corrected with the next printing.

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The Toronto Heschel School, a multi-sensory, arts-based, interdenominational, Jewish elementary and junior high school (280 Students) based on traditional values and the teachings of Abraham Joshua Heschel, invites applications for the position of Principal commencing July 1, 2001. The candidate will have a background in Hebrew and Judaic Studies, strong organizational and communication skills, and the ability to work in a team. The Principal will report to the Director of Education, who serves as Director of General Studies. Salary is commensurate with experience. **Send résumés by October 31, 2000 to: Chair, Search Committee, The Toronto Heschel School, 55 Yeomans Road, Toronto, ON M3H 3J7, Fax: (416) 635-1800 Email: franths@idirect.ca**

Israel & the Jewish World

German university reconstructs shuls on the Web

Manfred Koob (left) and Marc Grellert
[Sheldon Kirshner photo]

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

DARMSTADT, Germany — Synagogues in Germany destroyed by Adolf Hitler's hordes have been brought back to life through the wonders of computer technology.

In a remarkable and unprecedented achievement, architects at the Technical University here have reconstructed "virtual synagogues" sacked and burned by the Nazis between June and November 1938.

"We were the first in Germany to come up with this project," said Marc Grellert, a 36-year-old professor of architecture who initiated it after the 1994 firebombing of a synagogue in the northern German city of Lubeck.

"We went into this not knowing anything about synagogues," acknowledged Manfred Koob, chair of the faculty of architecture. "My generation knew nothing about Jewish culture."

Koob, 51, added: "The idea was to show that it is not foreign to Germany."

Since then, the Technical University has produced a Web site and a documentary film displaying three-dimensional images of the shuls. The Internet address is http://www.cad.architektur.tu-darmstadt.de.

On May 17, an exhibit on the project was launched in Bonn at the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany, Synagogues in Germany: A Virtual Reconstruction. It ran until July 16.

Under the guidance of Koob, the project commenced with the digital rebuilding of three synagogues in Frankfurt erected in 1860, 1881 and 1907 in the Judengasse, the Bornplatz and the Friedberger Anlange. They were razed on Nov. 9 and 10, during Kristallnacht.

The cyber team, composed of seven students as well as Grellert and Koob, is currently reconstructing the Glockengasse synagogue in Cologne (1861), the Senefelderstrasse/Ecke Engelstrasse synagogue in Plauen (1930), the Bergstrasse synagogue in Hannover (1870), the Herzog-Maxstrasse synagogue in Munich (1887), and the Fasanenstrasse synagogue in Berlin (1912).

With the sole exception of the Munich shul, which was pillaged on June 9, these synagogues were set alight on Kristallnacht.

Grellert and Koob are still working on the interiors of the Luisenstrasse synagogue in Kaiserslautern (1886), the Hans Sachs Platz synagogue in Nürnberg (1874), the Gottschedstrasse/Ecke Zentralstrasse synagogue in Leipzig (1855), the Zeughausstrasse synagogue in Dresden (1840), and the Hiltropwall synagogue in Dortmund (1900).

The first two were demolished in August, while those in Leipzig and Dresden were ravaged in November. The temple in Dortmund was smashed in October.

According to Grellert, they were designed in a variety of styles, ranging from Moorish in Kaiserslautern and German Romanesque in Munich to neo-classical in Berlin and Bauhaus in Plauen.

They were grand buildings, reflecting the self-confidence of the Jewish community in the second half of the 19th century and the first third of the 20th century.

Geometrically, the reconstructions are almost completely accurate, true to architectural nuances and colours.

"The objective is to convey an impression of what was lost, not an exact facsimile," explained Grellert. "I was interested not only in creating beautiful images, but in generating an interest in Jewish culture. So it's a political project. I knew very little about Jewish history in Germany when I began."

Koob, who had never met a Jew before coming on board, said that his students were animated by "a special responsibility for German history."

As he put it: "They understand what was destroyed. The point was to recreate a consciousness of what was lost."

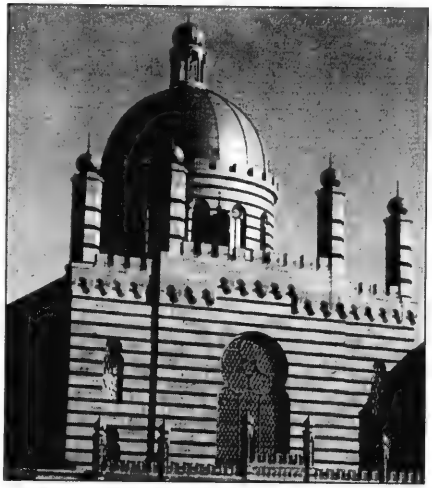
To prepare themselves for the task, Grellert and Koob enlisted the aid of local Jewish communities. They scoured archives for blueprints, photographs and illustrations. They also talked with Jews who had worshipped at these synagogues.

Grellert and Koob are still searching for eyewitnesses who can assist them with the reconstruction of synagogue interiors and colouring in Kaiserslautern, Nurnberg, Leipzig, Dresden and Dortmund.

They received financial assistance from the federal government and municipalities, but banks and companies rejected their overtures.

Out of a feeling of "historical responsibility," they did not solicit funds from the Jewish community.

Grellert, whose late grandfather belonged to the Nazi party, was a graduate student when he approached Koob. "After the firebombing in Lubeck, I wanted to raise a protest against racism and anti-Semitism, and to pay tribute to the architectural importance of the synagogues. I was basically interested in the connections between architecture, society and minorities."



The Glockengasse synagogue in Cologne, as reconstructed by the Technical University.

Grellert, who had digitally reconstructed a Bauhaus building in Germany and a pre-French Revolution church in France, consulted Koob because of his expertise in rebuilding historic structures using the computer.

"When he came to me, anti-Semitism was on the rise in Germany," said Koob. "Jews supported our project wholeheartedly, though I was not sure that this would be the case."

Grellert and Koob have no plans at present to reconstruct more synagogues, but believe that their project may inspire additional schools of architecture in Germany to emulate their example. In the meantime, they hope that Synagogues in Germany will travel to other museums in Germany and abroad, particularly Israel.

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ISRAELI VETERANS WELCOMED: Ten disabled Israeli war veterans recently spent two weeks visiting Canada as part of Beit Halochem Canada's Aid To Disabled Veterans of Israel program. The veterans were housed with Jewish families and taken to visit places of interest in Toronto, Kingston and Niagara Falls. The annual program was co-sponsored by Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto. Seen (from left) are veteran Gidi Ehrenhalt, hostess Danielle Bizouati and veteran David Levi.

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(L TO R) RUTH GARBE, BEVERLEY CRACKOWER, DR. ANNE GOLDEN - GUEST SPEAKER, CAROL LOU SPIEGEL & KATY HESS

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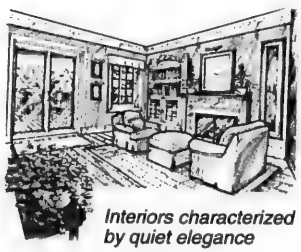
Residences of Dempsey Park are "heritage homes of the future"

Quietly nestled in the abundant greenery just north of Dempsey Park — a stone's throw from Mel Lastman Square and the subway — the exclusive Residences of Dempsey Park offer the best of old and new.

Inspired by North York heritage houses like the Dempsey House — around which the Park unfolds — the Residences unite architectural tradition with innovation and convenience. Built by the finest tradespeople, and using the best materials available, they promise to become the heritage homes of the future.

The builder, Freed Developments, has earned an enviable reputation from a variety of projects ranging from the Summerhill Garden Centre to the refurbishing of Pusateri's Fine Foods.

Uniting architectural tradition with innovation and convenience — and abundant greenery



Interiors characterized by quiet elegance

Builder Peter Freed describes the Residences as "North York's largest luxury in-fill development west of Yonge Street."

The Residences are spacious three-storey freehold condominiums of solid brick, and have two-car parking. Lower-level options of apartment, office or recreation room are available; and upper storey plans can be reversed according to the desired location of the master bedroom.

There are only 49 units in five distinctive models: the Simcoe, Gibson, Cartier, Mackenzie, and Dempsey. Prices range from $379,900 for the 1,800-sq. ft. Simcoe House to $489,900 for the Georgian-inspired Dempsey House, with 3,037 sq. ft.

Variety is integral to the Residences' design. The two blocks facing Dempsey Park have stone facades; the next two are extensively landscaped with privacy fencing; and the deep backyards of the three northernmost blocks are set among mature trees.

Every Residence has central air conditioning, a nine-foot main-floor ceiling, plaster cornice mouldings, gas fireplace, ceramic tiles, upgraded kitchen cabinets, and luxurious master ensuite. Workmanship and materials are guaranteed for one year, utility systems for two. Major structural integrity is guaranteed for a full seven years.

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Sales centre hours are Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Monday to Thursday, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Friday by appointment. Model viewings can be arranged by calling (416) 733-2101.

With its compelling combination of architectural heritage, modern amenities, ultraconvenient urban location and ruralistic greenery, it's not surprising that the Residences of Dempsey Park project is approaching 50% sold out after its first ten weeks on the market.

Stockholm's Great Synagogue is a tourist magnet

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

STOCKHOLM — Stockholm is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, or so I had been told by a high school friend of mine who now lives there.

The city's urban parklands, harbour views and Old City – a colourful cluster of shops, old buildings and narrow alleys known as Gamla Stan – confirmed that opinion for me.

We had lunch with Swedish relatives in Stockholm's Rosendal Gardens – an idyllic park with an upscale cafeteria housed in a large tent – taking our trays to a nearby picnic table.

The city is built on 14 islands, and is easy to navigate on public transit.

Rabbi Philip Spectre

Not far from the Rosendal Gardens, also in a park setting, is the Vasa Museum, a popular attraction featuring a restored 17th-century warship.

Other sites worth visiting include Drottningholm Palace, the residence of Sweden's royal family with its 18th-century theatre; Skansen, an "open-air museum" along the lines of Toronto's Pioneer Village; and Stockholm's 77-year-old City Hall, site of the annual December Nobel banquets. (The actual prize ceremony takes place in Stockholm's downtown concert hall.)

Attention to detail in the design of City Hall is evident: We were told by a guide that before the staircases were constructed, the architect built wooden models for his wife to test, to ensure that women's evening gowns would "sweep" the stairs as they descended.

For Jewish visitors, Stockholm's Great Synagogue, an elegantly imposing structure with a rose-window overlooking its Assyrian-influenced sanctuary, is a magnet. The city's main synagogue, it is located on Wahrendorffsgatan, a 15-minute walk from Gamla Stan. Tours are available by appointment.

A denominational hybrid, the Great Synagogue is designed in traditional Orthodox style with an upstairs balcony for women. Downstairs, however, the seating is split, with men on one side, and mixed seating on the other. Originally a Reform congregation, it is now affiliated with the Conservative movement.

Reflecting the congregation's Reform roots is an organ, played by a non-Jewish musician on Friday nights, Shabbat mornings and major holidays.

The Great Synagogue is one of three congregations in Stockholm. The other two are Orthodox, presided over by Rabbi Meir Hordin, who divides his time between them. Adas Jeshurun, located in the Hillel Day School, is a prewar German synagogue smuggled from Hamburg and rebuilt in Stockholm.

Unlike their counterparts in North America, Stockholm Jews pay membership fees to the Jewish community, which supports the individual synagogues and about 100 Jewish organizations.

This community structure was part of Stockholm's appeal for Rabbi Philip Spectre, the Great Synagogue's spiritual leader since 1998, and his wife Barbara, founder and director of the fledgling Paideia, the European Institute of Jewish Studies and Culture, which will be located in Stockholm.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Rabbi Spectre headed the Masorti (Conservative) movement in Israel for 15 years before his move to Sweden.

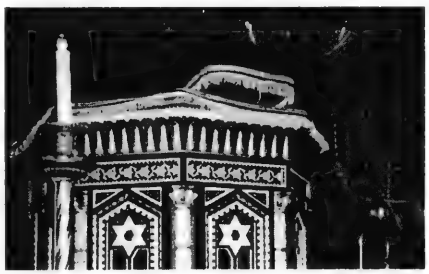
"[In Stockholm,] we work with the Orthodox community hand in hand," he said. "We try to create harmony. This is what I had hoped and prayed would be in Israel."

Outside the Great Synagogue is a menorah – a gift of the Swedish government dedicated by the king – and a two-year-old memorial wall, commemorating 200,000 relatives of Swedes who perished in the Holocaust. The wall, along a narrow alley, was designed to make visitors feel they are in a ghetto.

We also visited one of the city's two Jewish cemeteries still in use (two others are historical sites). Not far from the renowned Karolinska Institute, the cemetery dates back almost a century, housing the graves of well-known German Jewish settlers, among them artists, authors, and businesspeople whose distinctive headstones are shaded by rows of stately lindens and birch trees.

Stockholm is home to roughly half of Sweden's Jewish population of 18,000, we were told by University of Stockholm student Rachel Baran, a guide at Stockholm's Jewish Museum.

The second-floor museum, small and charming, has a permanent exhibit including a Holocaust corner that pays tribute to Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg and outlines Sweden's role is saving Norwegian and Danish Jews during the war.



The bimah at the Great Synagogue. [Frances Kraft photo]

Exciting side-trips from Stockholm

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

STOCKHOLM — With Stockholm as home base, it's possible to take easy side-trips or more ambitious ones.

Only 49 kilometres from Stockholm is Sigtuna with its 11th-century rune stones, 12th-century church ruins and a town hall that was rebuilt in the 1700s. Its name signifies its one-time claim to fame as home of the Viking chief.

Nearby Uppsala is Sweden's oldest university town, which also features a medieval castle. It's easy to see both towns in a day.

If you can afford more time, Helsinki is 14 hours away by boat. We took an overnight cruise there and back, spending a day in Finland's capital.

Leaving Stockholm, we watched the 24,000 islands of its archipelago and saw a magnificent late-night sunset over the Baltic – although in early summer, the night never turns completely dark in those northerly latitudes.

Finland gained independence in 1917 after 108 years as a Russian duchy, a heritage still evident in some of its architecture. Prior to 1809 it was under Swedish rule.

To make the most of our time, we took a morning bus tour, getting a taste of city highlights like the memorial to composer Jean Sibelius in Vinamanen Park and the 30-year-old (Lutheran) Church in the Rock, blasted into granite.

We bypassed the two-year-old Riasma Museum of Modern Art, with its distinctive, angular-looking aluminum and glass exterior, to browse the seaside open-air market under a sunny summer sky and then make our way on foot to the synagogue.

The 1906 synagogue boasts a 569-seat sanctuary, its balcony supported by white and gold painted columns. It also houses an 80-year-old day school (kindergarten to Grade 8) and an old age home. The congregation is served by a part-time rabbi.

Helsinki has a Jewish community of about 1,000 people and dates back 150 years, we were told by Leib Lindholm, the affable gatekeeper who led us through the synagogue, even though we arrived well after its weekday 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. opening hours.

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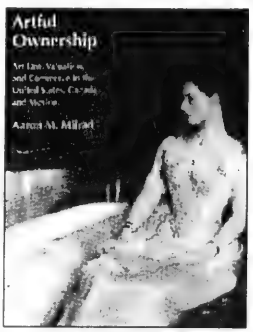
Arts & Travel

Lawyer's book deals with legal issues related to art collecting

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Suppose you find a rare lithograph by an important European artist for sale in a neighbourhood antique shop at a price that seems a steal. If you purchase the work, what legal and moral consequences fall upon you if it is later identified as one that the Nazis plundered from a Jewish family during the war?

This is one of many legal issues related to art collecting that Toronto arts lawyer and art collector Aaron Milrad addresses in *Artful Own-ership*, a new authoritative tome on art law, valuation and commerce in Canada, the United States and Mexico.



A 340-page hardcover book, *Artful Ownership* is the first comprehensive legal guide to the buying, selling, donating and appraisal of art works, antiques and collectibles in North America. It is published by the American Society of Appraisers (ASA), based in Washington, D.C.

Milrad, who has been practising law for nearly 40 years, notes that while the process of appraising machinery, real estate or corporations seems well defined and well understood, art appraisal is generally perceived as a much more arcane process, with fewer guiding principles.

"The subjective nature of art, the variety of styles, conditions, methods and materials, and the rarity and unknown provenance of many collectibles and precious objects often make the appraisal process seem more like an art than a rational business process," he says.

Serious art collectors, he asserts, need a thorough and up-to-date legal guidebook to help them with varied issues related to appraisal, buying at auctions, copyright, forgery, insurance, taxation and war booty, such as Nazi-confiscated art.

Artful Ownership outlines the recent developments that affect such plundered art. The book outlines, for example, the principles reached by a group of 44 nations and 13 non-governmental organizations that met at the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets in 1998. It also outlines the guidelines developed by the Association of Art Museum Directors in regard to the often-thorny issue of restitution.

Artful Ownership also addresses how divorce affects a joint collection, how copyright affects one's right to reproduce artwork, and the correct procedure to donate a collectible to a museum. It contains many intriguing historical stories from the world of lost, stolen, disputed and mislaid treasures, and even delves into underwater sea tombs to discover secrets and rules governing shipwrecks and salvaged hoards.

For decades, many people have sought out Milrad's legal counsel. A member of Fraser Milner, a national law firm headquartered in Toronto, he is also a noted collector of contemporary painting, sculpture and ceramics. He sits or has sat on the boards of many arts institutions, including the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Tel Aviv Museum.

The book is available through the ASA Web site, www.appraiser.org, or call 800-272-8258.

Film guide compiles a list of close to 400 Jewish movies

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Interested in collecting Jewish films but have no idea where to go after *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Yentl*? Larry Anklewicz's *Guide to Jewish Films on Video* (KTAV Publishing House) may be of help.

Anklewicz, an occasional contributor to these pages, has compiled a list of around 400 films – mainly feature length movies, made-for-television films and television mini-series.

But what makes a film Jewish is a contentious issue. The *Guide* includes an essay by Anklewicz on the topic, adding a lot of credibility to the book.

Anklewicz immediately dismisses any film that has Jewish actors, producers or directors, "otherwise most Hollywood films would be Jewish."

Instead, he looks at either the storyline or the characters.

Any film about the Holocaust, Israel or anti-Semitism would be Jewish. But *Jerusalem*, about a group of Swedish Christians moving to Jerusalem in the heat of religious fervor, is not a Jewish film.

Any film with a strong Jewish character is included in this guide. *Independence Day* is included because of Jeff Goldblum's character David Levinson, whose father gives him a Jewish prayer book and yarmulke to take on a dangerous mission.

Sometimes determining whether a film is Jewish or not is "highly sensitive." Anklewicz calls the '80s teen-flick *Dirty Dancing* "very Jewish, but others would never notice the Jewish connotations hidden beneath the surface. Everyone is free to decide."

In the description of *Dirty Dancing*, Anklewicz say, "the film does not make this very explicit, but the fact is that Baby (the female character) is Jewish and Johnny (the male lead) is not." That's why, he believes, Johnny's parents were opposed to his affair with Baby.

Insights like this make this book stand apart from other Jewish film guides.

What is missing, though, is a rating system that most of us have come to expect in video guides.

The book's index classifies the films by actors, alphabetical order, chronologically, by directors, genres, languages and distributors. It is definitely a must for fans of Jewish films.

Anklewicz's essay also examines the history of Jewish cinema and it discusses the effect videos have had on the movie business.

If you can't find it in bookstores, you can order it online from Chapters and Indigo.

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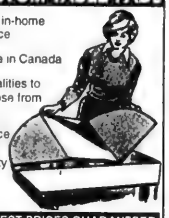
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In the business of making people laugh

By KATHYRN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — By day, Lowell Schrieder, 25, is the publicity co-ordinator at the Comedy Network, but by night he's an up and coming comedian on the alternative comedy circuit.

Schrieder wants to be a success both in front of an audience and behind the scenes. His goal is to produce and perform sketch comedy with an edge, that will transcend alternative stages and be accepted at mainstream clubs.

At the same time, he continues to work at the business of comedy, having spent almost three years at the Comedy Network promoting the careers of such Canadian comedians as Mike Bullard, Colin Mochrie (*Whose Line Is It Anyways?*) and Tom Green, now the comic force for the MTV generation.

"It has been a great experience to work at a speciality channel and help it grow to the point where local comedians through our network have gained a cult following and turned into international personalities," Schrieder says.

"However, I do feel a sort of discrepancy because on one hand I love to do comedy and I'd like to be like all those comedians, who I'm promoting. On the other hand, I love the comedy business. I work in such an exciting atmosphere.

"The bottom line is comedy is a very serious business and we work tremendously hard to promote Canadian comedians. In our office, there is not as much laughter as you would think."

The job of promoting comics can be stressful. One day Schrieder was delegated to escort former wrestler Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon on a media tour. While driving, Schrieder got lost and although he was extremely nervous, he tried not to show it. Until he found his way, 45 minutes later, Schrieder faked composure and entertained his passenger with small talk.

As for his comedy career, Schrieder began performing sketch comedy only a year ago, although he tells us he began entertaining as an infant – performing Muppet imitations for his parents' friends from his crib in North York.

He never formally studied the art of comedy, but gained confidence on the microphone with enthusiastic readings of announcements over the PA system at York Mills Collegiate Institute.

He gained work experience on staff at the B'nai Brith Youth Organization. His position focused on helping and guiding young members.

"I was in charge of all the male chapters of the Aleph Zadik Aleph in the Lake Ontario Region," he states. "This job allowed me to hone my skills at personal communications in a non-threatening environment. It was a place that let me be myself and teach the kids by including humour and fun. That experience helped me get the job at the Comedy Network."

The comedian has dreams of producing and performing on his own Comedy Network show.

He has already appeared on camera. When the folks producing the show *Canadian Comedy Shorts* needed to tape the series introduction, they turned to Schrieder to mime an incompetent usher. The show is slated to run for five years, so Schrieder's one time performance will be aired over and over.

Schrieder is in the process of writing and producing a new sketch comedy show, that he plans to perform in the next few months at downtown Toronto night spots – The Underground Comedy Lab at The Idler Pub and at Spirits.

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Video an account of rescue of Danish Jews during Holocaust

Miracle At Midnight; Liberty Heights now on video

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Two films of great interest to many readers, *Miracle At Midnight* and *Liberty Heights*, recently arrived in video stores. *Miracle At Midnight* is the true story of the rescue of the Danish Jews during World War II. In 1943, the German occupation forces in Denmark planned to round up all the Jews in that country on the eve of Rosh Hashanah.

The Danish underground learned about these planned deportations and mobilized the population to hide the Jews until they could be smuggled out of Denmark by boat.

The film focuses on Karl Koster, a surgeon in Denmark who helped hide many Jews and who worked with the underground to rescue the Jewish population of that country.

Sam Waterston plays Koster, and Mia Farrow and Justin Whalin have supporting roles. The film was produced by John Davis, whose father-in-law lived in Denmark at the time and whose parents hid a Jewish family in their home.

Some 96 percent of the Jewish population of Denmark survived the war because of the actions of the Danish underground, and Davis was determined to make a film of this unusual and exemplary chapter in the history of the Holocaust.

Produced by Disney and originally aired on the weekly *Wonderful World of Disney* television program, the film was at first available on video only by special order directly from Disney

Another recent release is Barry Levinson's *Liberty Heights*. This film tends to meander a bit, but tells the story of a Jewish family in Baltimore in 1954, a period when the times were changing rapidly and the Jewish community in America was forced to change with the times.

The film focuses on the two sons of the Kurtzman family. The oldest son is attending college and becomes obsessed by a rich, upper class, Christian girl. He finally tracks her down and gets to know her, only to discover that her life is not as glamorous as it looks to an outsider.

The younger son is also exploring new territory. He becomes friends with a Black girl who has just started attending his school after desegregation arrives in Baltimore. He is fascinated by her lifestyle and her music.

All of this occurs after the two sons had grown up within a very insular world where they believed that everyone in Baltimore was Jewish and that the entire world was centred around the Jewish community.

Continued on page 31

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

THE LAST "Y" ROOFTOP DANCE

The Bloor JCC invites you to attend its last rooftop dance on its premises, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor Street on Aug. 17, 7:30 to 11 p.m. The dance features **Jay Jackson** with Take 3 Plus 1 and disc jockey **Gene Lew**. Until Aug. 14 pay $18 at the Bloor JCC reception desk; $23 at the door. Refreshments will be served; wine and beer available. 416-924.6211.

* * *

Waxman Waxes Literary: Al Waxman, actor, director and author, discusses his autobiography *That's What I Am*. Israel's Bookstore, 897 Eglinton Ave. W., Aug. 20, 8 p.m. Refreshments; admission free. 416-256-1010.

* * *

Music Hall with Barbershop: Shaarei Shomayim's Brotherhood and Entertainment and Cultural Connection presents a musical evening starring **Bill Berle**, **Gordon Lindsay** and **Rabbi Gedalia Zweig**. As a highlight, event co-ordinator **Jerry Genesove** has cosented to the public shearing of his beard (his wife, Sandra, has never seen him without it).

Proceeds go to Jews for Judaism. Tickets $10 each; two for $18; children under 14 free. 470 Glencairn Ave. Aug. 13, 8 p.m. 416-789-3213.

* * *

Kensington Festival: A series of walking tours of the historic Kensington Market district are offered this weekend as part of the neighbourhood's summer festival. Highlights include the Universal Negro Improvement Association Building (355 College St.), Kiever Synagogue, the Jewish Market and the Labour Lyceum, where the body of anarchist Emma Goldman was laid in state in 1940. Free. 416-515-7740 or www.kensingtonfestival.com for details.

* * *

Music & Drama

• **The Beehive Singers** (**Heather Bambrick**, **Keith Power**, **Kylie Martin**, **Sean Lavery**) sing at the Bamboo Club, Thursday Aug. 10, 9:30 p.m. Also Markham Jazz Festival, Aug. 19, 2:30 p.m.

• Hundreds of talented seniors perform in five shows (each different) as part of the Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee 2000. The roster includes classical pianist **Bobbie Thorp**, who is making her musical debut at the age of 98. $15-$28. Roy Thomson Hall. Aug. 14 thru 18. 416-872-4255.

• Mel Lastman Variety Players present their 7th annual Jerry At Trick Revue, Applause Applause. Directed by **Larry Westlake**. Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Drive, North York. Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2 and 9. $15. Proceeds to charity. 416-665-3934.

* * *

At the Galleries

• New Directions, a retrospective show of sculpture by **Al Green** (of Greenwin Developments) is on display at the Moore Gallery Ltd., 80 Spadina Ave., Suite 404. Until Aug. 26. 416-504-3914. www.mooregallery.com.

• The 2nd-floor gallery of the North York Central Library features a retrospective photographic exhibition of works by **Adrian Szasz**. 5120 Yonge St. Until Aug. 30.

• Gallery One features the works of emerging artists **Jay Isaac**, **Ryszard Litwiniuk**, **Beth McEachen** and **Sakis Mitsoulis**, Aug. 20 thru 30. Opening reception Aug. 10, 6 to 8 p.m. Works of **David Blackwood** and **Alice Teichert** also on view. 121 Scollard St. 416-929-3103.

• Paintings by **Florence Hertzman**, and photographs by **Gordon Hertzman** are on view at Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst St., Aug. 14 to Sept. 14.

* * *

Passages: George Frank, 73, a singer who entertained thousands of Jewish seniors, died recently. He and his wife, Sharon, raised money for ARMDI for ambulances and blood mobiles in Israel. They also volunteered for nine years at the Baycrest Home for the Aged.

A baritone, Frank started to sing professionally with the **Bill Berle** orchestra.

Movie a reflection of U.S. society

Continued from page 30

Some of the scenes are hilarious and specifically directed to a Jewish audience. In fact, this is one film where you do have to be Jewish to appreciate the full meaning of some of the scenes.

At one screening I attended, about 25 percent of the audience left during the first half hour. They probably could not understand all the innuendoes and hidden messages within the text of the film.

This film was inspired by a film reviewer's comments about a previous Levinson production, *Spheres*. For some reason the reviewer ascribed many Jewish characteristics to the role played by Dustin Hoffman in that film.

Levinson was offended by these remarks and immediately began writing a screenplay that revolved around his own experiences as a child growing up in Baltimore.

While Levinson says that not all of the events portrayed in this film actually happened to him, most of them are based on experiences various members of his extended family went through.

I also suppose that a certain amount of literary licence was used in fleshing out some of the various scenes shown in the film.

Still, *Liberty Heights* provides an interesting reflection of American society, and of the Jewish community within that society, some 50 years ago and shows the long distance we have travelled since that time. It is also noteworthy how the film still has a great deal of meaning to today's audience, especially to the Jewish members of that audience.

Miracle At Midnight and *Liberty Heights* were released by major studios and should be readily available everywhere.

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Depression said to be more common in women

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Women are twice as likely as men to be diagnosed with depression says an author and Canadian medical health journalist.

"More often than men, women find themselves in situations that are intolerable," says M. Sara Rosenthal, author of *Women and Sadness: A Sane Approach to Depression* (Macmillan Canada).

The social triggers for depression in women are distinctly different than for men, she says.

In the corporate structure, women have to fit into a male world and then play the woman's role at home. "It is usually the woman who decides how to raise the children. It's a dual role, and it can be very stressful.

"As well, sexism still persists in the workplace, and very few women are promoted to positions of power."

Rosenthal, 37, who has a master's degree in sociology and bioethics from the University of Toronto's Joint Centre for Bioethics, says that Judaism is a patriarchal religion. "Women do not always feel welcomed. If they buy into that concept then they are all right, but it can feel very excluding. The infrastructure of Judaism as a religion is not designed for bodies that breast feed."

The media often attacks women for not being supermoms or superwomen, and no one can live up to the media's standards of beauty, she says.

"Many women never feel thin enough. [Weight issues] become even more difficult during the holidays when food becomes a major concern. Women may feel pressured to put together big meals, and then feel guilty for partaking in them because they don't feel deserving."

Depression may also occur because of lifestyle changes, says Rosenthal. "Women often become depressed when they have children or when their kids grow up and leave home."

Crying or feeling low, she says, is a normal response to grief or an unhappy circumstance. "It is when women feel numb and see no reason to get up in the morning that they are probably depressed."

Prescribing drugs for women who are depressed is called cosmetic psychiatry by some, she says. "Doctors often give drugs when the women really just need to talk. The question is whether the doctor just wants to give out the drug, or deal with the cause of the depression.

"Obviously, if the woman is totally non-functioning, drugs are necessary, but most women are functioning. Antidepressants are very powerful, and there has been a problem with the lack of disclosure about their side effects. People have to be weaned off these drugs and too many women are not told of the risks involved."

A woman's age and marital status are frequently factors in depression. "Single, aging or divorced women are often treated as non-women and feel alienated by society." Validating a woman's position in life can go a long way in fighting depression, Rosenthal says.

A therapist does not have to be a woman to offer patients a woman-centred approach to therapy, says Rosenthal. "It is certainly not the only approach to therapy, but it can help a woman to validate her life.

"Feminist therapy can help women develop a sense of self and see that their feelings of low self-esteem, worthlessness, inadequacy, poor body image or anxiety, are normal responses to the world around them, rather than symptoms of a disease."

It is important for women to realize that emotional pain is not a medical problem but a normal response to one's environment. "In other words, pain in response to a bad situation is normal, not sick."

Women who feel they need help dealing with their life should definitely seek help whether it is in the form of talk therapy or perhaps medication, she says. "It can be a daunting task finding someone to talk to and for this reason, many women do not find proper help."

A primary care doctor can make a referral, and if that is not feasible most communities have women's health clinics, she says. A crisis counsellor can also refer you to people for more long-term counselling.

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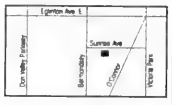

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New prostate treatment

MONTREAL — A new surgical procedure for prostate cancer that greatly reduces recovery time and complications, will soon be performed at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH).

The technique, known as laparoscopic radical prostatectomy, involves introducing a small tube – about the diameter of a pen– into the abdomen. The tube is equipped with a miniature camera and surgical instruments.

Rather than the long incision necessary in traditional open surgery, a laparoscopic prostatectomy involves only four or five very small skin incisions.

"Laparoscopic radical prostatectomy offers several advantages to patients including considerably less post-operative pain and a much quicker recuperation period. Patients can resume complete activity after one week as opposed to a two-month recovery period," said Dr. Jacques Corcos, chief of urology at JGH.

"Since this procedure is more precise, we also expect that it will significantly reduce complications such as impotence and incontinence."

Laparoscopic prostatectomy was developed in Europe over the last few years.

Surgeons there have reported similar results in terms of survival rates to those obtained through conventional surgery, Corcos said.

Corcos noted that "radical prostectomy, which consists of the total removal of the prostate, is the best treatment option in localized prostate cancer – that which is confined to the gland – in patients who are less than 72 years of age."

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. My five-year-old has a very good friend with a peanut allergy. What precautions should I take when this child is playing at my house and how do I know what snacks are safe to offer him? I want him and his parents to feel that he is safe and welcome in our home.

A. I am glad to see that you are concerned and being responsible about this child's peanut allergy. I would start by speaking to his parents and asking if he carries an epi pen, and if so, whether he knows how to use it and where he keeps it.

Next, ask the parents to suggest snacks that they feel comfortable feeding this child and serve those.

Obviously, things like fruit and vegetables are safe snacks, but be sure that there is no chance for cross-contamination of nut products in your kitchen – for example that the knife or cutting board being used to cut an apple for this child was not used to cut a peanut butter sandwich this morning without being thoroughly washed.

Also ensure that other people in the house are not touching or eating nut products while this child is there, and that if peanuts were consumed by anyone in the house prior to this little boy's arrival, hands and kitchen utensils used were thoroughly washed. People with peanut allergies can have a reaction from a mere touch to the skin.

If you want to serve a snack beyond fruit or vegetables, look for sealed items with listed ingredients on the package that clearly do not say that they do or may contain bits or traces of nuts. Avoid buying items from open bins like those in bulk food stores; and avoid bakeries, unless the bakery is nut free. Non-nut-containing items can easily come in contact with items that do contain nuts, and the same applies for ice cream in open bins.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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580 WORKSHOPS

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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RESULTS
RESULTS
RESULTS
483-4337

FINE PROPERTIES

UPPER MADISON - $218,000.
Prime 2 bdrm. condo suite w/fabulous city views. Updated kitchen. CAC. Parking. Very well-maintained building. Direct subway access from building. *Marni Lokash/*Shawnee Slan.

• • •

UPPER VILLAGE BUNGALOW – $339,900.
Charming 3 bdrm. home w/finished lower level. Fireplace. Central air conditioning. Private drive & garage. Great starter home. Walk to TTC & Eglinton. *Leslie Dennis.

• • •

FOREST HILL – $379,000.
Stone front Tudor bungalow on 40 ft. front. 3 bdrms. Reno'd kitchen. Fireplace. CAC. Private drive, attached garage. Perfect for move-in, top-up or build new. **Don Wagman.

• • •

CHAPLIN ESTATES – $589,000.
Charming 3 bdrm. Tudor style home backs onto green belt. Main fl. family rm/solarium o/looks private garden & inground pool. Finished lower level with bath. *Marlene Federman/*Betty Cohen.

• • •

BAYVIEW/BETH TIKVAH – $595,000.
Outstanding family home. Luscious landscaped country setting. 4+ bdrms. Main floor family rm. + sun. rm. + powder rm. Finished lower level. 2 car garage. *Linda Rose.

• • •

YONGE/YORK MILLS CONDO – $609,000.
Corner garden suite w/wrap-around balcony. 2 bdrms. + den/3rd bdrm. Powder rm. + 2 baths. Sunny, eat-in kitchen. 3 parking spots. Large locker. *Elaine Goldenberg-Pike/*Bernard Pike.

• • •

FOREST HILL TUDOR – $840,000.
Lovely 5 bdrm. Large kitchen & brkfst rm. Main floor family rm. & powder rm. Multi fireplaces. Skylight. CAC. Private drive & garage. *Donna Taylor.

• • •

LOWER VILLAGE – $998,000.
Updated 4 bdrm. home. Centre hall Georgian. Main fl. family rm. plus solarium, Powder rm. Central A/C. Finished lower level. Private drive & garage. **Don Wagman.

• • •

BRIDLE PATH – $1,350,000.
Bayview bungalow with 4+ bdrms. plus den. Master suite w/dressing rm.; Inground pool & cabana. Circular drive. For details & viewing, call *Edie Winberg.

• • •

FOREST HILL – $2,950,000.
Tudor mansion on 90x184 ft. grounds boasts main flr. library & family rm. Master suite w/sitting rm. & ensuite bathroom. 5 children bdrms. + separate nanny's quarters. Fabulous 3rd floor. *Edith Weiss.

• • •

UPPER VILLAGE – $528,000.
Lovely 4 bdrm. family home. [SOLD] breakfast area w/walk-out to deep lot. Main floor powder rm. Finished lower level. Central air. Double attached garage. *Linda Rose.

• • •

HEATH/SPADINA CONDO – $335,000.
Exquisite 2 bdrm. corner s[SOLD]ony. Central air. South-east exposure. Parking. Outdoor pool. 24-hour conc. *Edith Weiss.

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LOWER VILLAGE - 3 STOREY, 5 BEDROOMS
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$1,395,000. Unique custom built 5 bedroom. Outstanding quality and design. Dale Noble* 226-1987

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Elegant 3,100', 4 bedroom custom on 45 ft. lot. Incredible finished gourmet kitchen & fin. basement. Carolyn Feldman** 488-2875

1ST AD! BLUE FOREST DRIVE
Grand 4 bdrms., 3 baths, sunken living room with fireplace, pan. family room with w/o to inground pool. Gayle Mitchell* 488-2875

BRIGHT & SPACIOUS 2 STOREY
3 bdrm. home on south 45 x 107 ft. lot! Main floor family room & 2 pce., plus w/o private drive & garage. Lynne Elkind* 488-2875

2 STOREY FIN. BASEMENT, IDEAL FAMILY HOME
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1ST AD! 60 HOUNSLOW AVE.! $239,900!
Prime Yonge S./Finch! 32 x 132' lot! Live in/add on/build new! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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GLENCAIRN W. SUBWAY — 155 Marlee, 3 bdrm., Shabbat elev., shows like a model, parking. From $199,000 to $218,000.
BATHURST/FINCH—$214,000, Lux. 3 bdrm., 2 parking spaces, Shabbat elevator.

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED

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75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

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75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

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Toxicologist to study herbal products

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Dr. Mark Goldberg of Guelph, a toxicologist, has been named by Health Canada to an advisory committee of 15 that will study the medicinal properties of plants.

Fifty-six percent of Canadians are using herbal products as complementary medicine, according to a report compiled in 1997 by Canadian Health Food Association, which represents manufacturers of health food products.

Among the items to be studied are St. John's wort, ginko biloba, echinacea and ginseng.

An associate professor at Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph for 10 years, Goldberg is a principal of Global Tox International Consultants, which he founded eight years ago with two other professors from University of Guelph.

He said the committee is just starting its work, but one recommendation it will certainly propose is that regulations be established requiring manufacturers to label their products accurately.

One of the committee's concerns, he said, is that the plants' roots must be used in the formulation of a product, because the roots contain the medicinal properties.

"These products should be in the stores, but they should be properly labelled and they are not now," Goldberg said.

The 1997 report presented to the federal government by the CHFA said $115.6 million in business was done by retailers, distributors and manufacturers of these products, he said.

"It's a big business which is unregulated now."

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DJM, 49, humble, kind, honest, European background, 5'10", 165 lbs., wishes to meet a similar lady for a serious relationship. CJN Box # 7295.

Early 40's widow w/ 19 yr. old son, slightly physically challenged would like to find male companionship, 43-50, Young Israel, Modern Orthodox background. CJN Box # 7299.

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330 OBITUARIES

DaSILVA, Rachel - on July 18, 2000.
TEITELBAUM, Sarah Shirley - on July 18, 2000, late of 4103 Bathurst St.
SMITH, Harold - on July 19, 2000, late of 422 Willowdale Ave.
WALLACH, Sarah - on July 19, 2000, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
YAMPOLSKY, Abraham - on July 19, 2000, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
BAIZER, Luba - on July 20, 2000, late of 3600 Bathurst St.
FREIREICH, Livia - on July 20, 2000, late of 77 Thornbury Cir.
NOVOSELOV, Leonid - on July 21, 2000, late of 343 Clark Ave. W.
PHILLIPSON, Minnie W. - on July 22, 2000, late of 69 Mossgrove Trail.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

BERMAN, Ben - on July 23, 2000.
ISENBERG, Saul - on July 23, 2000, late of 36 Hetherington Cres.
OFER, Ed - on July 23, 2000, late of 4979 Bathurst St.
ENGEL, Ina - on July 25, 2000, late of 35 Cedarcroft Blvd.
TAYLOR, Dean Jordan - on July 25, 2000.
PORGESZ, Laszlo - on July 26, 2000, late of 7 Townsgate Dr.
WADOWSKI, Fajgle - on July 26, 2000, late of 222 Goulding Ave.
DANZIGER, Meir - on July 27, 2000.
LOEWENSTAMM, Hans - on July 27, 2000.
SUSSMAN, Lola - on July 27, 2000, late of 33 Clifton Ave.
KANTOR, Rita Sarah - on July 28, 2000, late of 4000 Don Mills Rd.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

CHAPNIK, Jay - on July 3, 2000, late of 4302 Reka Dr.
BROWN, Lena - on July 6, 2000, late of 55 Ellerslie Ave. W., #504.
BURSTYN, Alexander - on July 7, 2000, late of 47 St. Clair Ave. W., #1100.
MARCELLI, Bernice - on July 7, 2000, late of 15 Findlay Ave.
ROSE, Eva - on July 7, 2000, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
ROSEN, Bella - on July 7, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BOLTER, Albert - on July 9, 2000, late of 2515 Bathurst St., #405.
JAKOBSON, Pearl - on July 10, 2000, late of 509 Clinton St.
RODDA, Elizabeth - on July 10, 2000, late of 4 Mallingham Crt.
GREENBERG, Fanny - on July 11, 2000, late of 10 Alexis Rd.
ZWEIG, Helen - on July 12, 2000, late of 14 Flanders Rd.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

ROTHSCHILD, Fritz - on July 13, 2000, late of 240 Heath St. W., #603.
BELL, Judith - on July 14, 2000, late of 152 Glen Cedar Rd.
RUBINOFF, Sheila - on July 14, 2000, late of 58 Thorncliffe Pk. Dr., #403.
SALAMON, George - on July 14, 2000, late of 18 Lower Village Gate, #710.
SMITH, Sam - on July 15, 2000, late of 1 Royal Orchard, #711.
KERSHNER, Abe - on July 17, 2000, late of 55 Carscadden Dr., #202.
POLEVOY, Ruth - on July 19, 2000, late of 555 Finch Ave. W.
SNIDERMAN, Harold - on July 19, 2000, late of 1 Benvenuto Pl., #624.
GRIESMAN, Nathan - on July 20, 2000, late of 535 Douglas Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN SCOTT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 13th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
B'nai Brith Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BELLA ROSEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 20th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Strashiver Young Men Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

331 IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of
RAY SHER ז"ל
Who passed away August 16, 1998. Sadly missed by her grieving husband, Nat Sher and her children Carolyn, Valerie, Bryan and Joanne, son-in-law Joseph Katz and daughter-in-law Jacquie, and grandchildren Warren and Megan Katz.
Never to be Forgotten

336 CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late
EDYTHE BADER ז"ל
gratefully acknowledges and deeply appreciates your kind donations and support from family and friends during the recent loss of our beautiful and loved mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother.
The Appel, Simon, Himelfarb, Strasser & Cohen families.

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TRAGER, Jack - on July 7, 2000, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
FREEDMAN, Sam - on July 12, 2000, late of 143 Clifton Ave.
MEYER, Julius - on July 19, 2000, late of 4001 Bayview Ave., #320.

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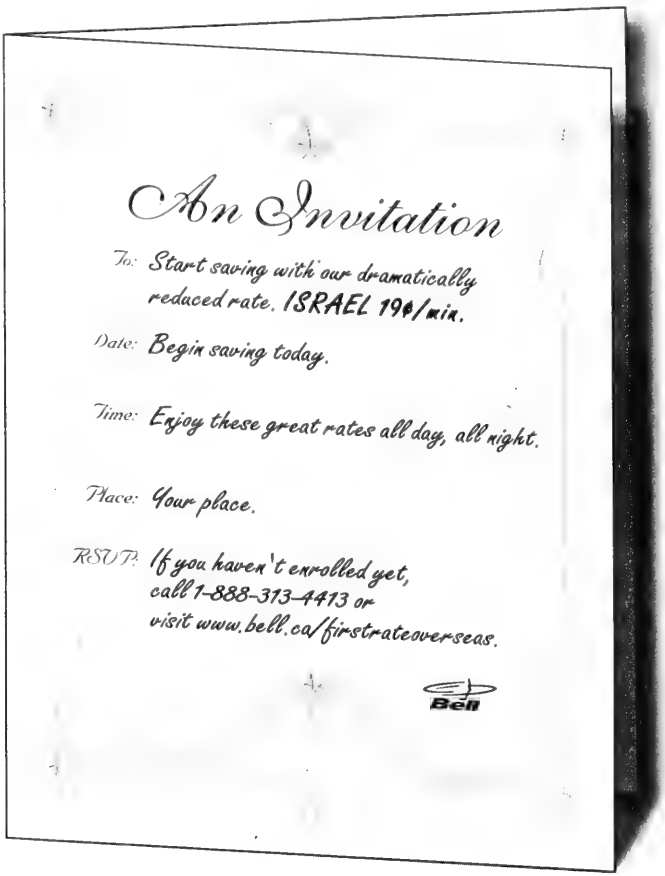
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'Excuse me? I made the bridge collapse?'

CJN News Services

Yoram Eyal was chair of the organizing committee at the 1997 Maccabiah Games. Eyal, who hired the contractor responsible for building the bridge, received a one-year suspended sentence and six months community service for causing death by negligence. Here is an edited report about his trial, including transcripts, as reported by Sara Leibovich-Dar of Ha'aretz.

The contractor, Irgunit, obtained the contract for the bridge at a cost of 85,000 shekels. The Israeli army, which for years had built the bridge at no cost, in 1996 had asked for 288,000 shekels to complete the job.

Examination of Irgunit's engineering capability was desultory.

Eyal: "I asked Adam Mishori, 'Adam, can you put up a bridge?' The answer was yes."

"Did he tell you he had experience in building bridges?" asked prosecutor Hadas Forrer-Gafni.

Eyal: "He didn't say that he had experience in constructing bridges. He said explicitly: 'I can construct that bridge.' I did not check with Adam Mishori if he had constructed such a bridge in the past."

Forrer-Gafni: "Why didn't you, as a public body, check whether Irgunit was a company registered in the Contractor's Registry in a category that would qualify it to build bridges?"

Eyal: "Those are the facts. I did not check. I did not check because – and I'll say it again – I think that if Irgunit, from my knowledge of the company, from the experience we had, from our assurances about the company, I am convinced that if Irgunit had not been able to build the bridge, couldn't have done it, or thought they were not allowed to, they would have told us."

Irgunit hired a subcontractor, the Ben-Ezra Karagola company, since it had no experience building bridges. But neither did the sub-contractor.

Even though Eyal was responsible for the organization, he told police he did not know Irgunit had subcontracted the bridge construction job until after the bridge collapsed.

After the bridge was built, Eyal went to the site to check it. He told the court he jumped up and down on it and shook the handrails.

Forrer-Gafni: "I put it to you that the only reason you jumped on the bridge and shook the handrail was because you had a bad feeling about it."

Eyal: "I saw wooden boards, I jumped on them. I saw a handrail, I shook it. All in all just because I wanted to see what was there. That was all."

Forrer-Gafni: "We have not seen any certification of the ramp that was connected to the bridge on the day of the [opening] ceremony. Didn't that bother you?"

Eyal: "No."

Forrer-Gafni: "Why not?"

Eyal: "It didn't need an engineer's certification. In that area I certainly rely on Moshe Yanni, the producer who has run the stadium show for three consecutive Maccabiah Games. He knows the whole business thoroughly."

Forrer-Gafni: "What training does Yanni have in the field of safety?"

Eyal: "He has no training."

* * *

Eyal doesn't know where he will serve his sentence.

"I've heard you can read books to the blind in the library for the blind in Netanya. I love microphones. That sounds nice."

"So you want to enjoy yourself for the next six months?" *Ha'aretz* asked.

"Do you have any idea what a punishment community service is for me? It's an insulting punishment. I was a member of a prisoners' aid association – I used to bring shampoo for prisoners in the Neve Tirtza women's jail. Now let's see who will bring me gifts."

"It's a bit difficult to feel sorry for you and your shampoo when one recalls that four people were killed and 70 were injured in that tragedy."

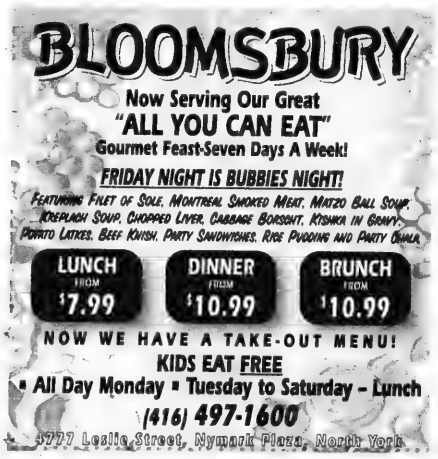
"Excuse me? I made the bridge collapse?"

"No, but you were responsible for everything that happened there."

"The person chiefly responsible for the collapse of the bridge was the engineer – and I am someone who pushes the blame onto junior staff. I believed that my position was an honorary one, but it turned out that it also involved responsibility. When you are responsible, you are liable to make mistakes and to make people unhappy, and then you have to stand boldly behind the mistakes you make."

* * *

The tragedy, the trial and the sentence have affected Eyal's life only slightly. He resigned as chair of the organizing committee of the Maccabiah games – "I loved the sports people – welcoming them at the airport, organizing them, transporting them, I won't be doing that any more" – and from his other positions in World Maccabi. He was a director, a member of the secretariat and of the international committee of the organization. However, he remains manager of the Maccabi Village Hotel which belongs to the Maccabi World Union (MWU). No one has asked him to resign, and Eyal is not about to offer himself up as a sacrifice.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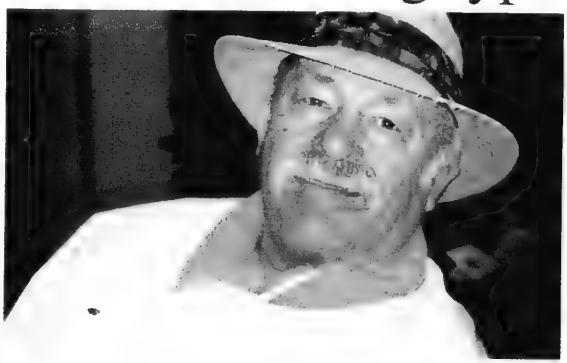

Max Bidner

BUFFALO — Max Bidner came to horse racing in a round about way – with roots all the way back to Russia.

"My grandfather came over to get away from the pogroms," said Bidner, one of the few Jewish race horse trainers at Fort Erie.

"In Russia he was a tavern-keeper; in Alberta he was a coal miner. Then the government gave people land to farm on and and he stayed at it. When I was three, my parents were struggling to make a living, so they left me with my grandparents."

Bidner began to ride on the farm and soon could handle horses so well, he was asked to join the Canadian Olympic team.

"I rode all over, in Dublin, across Europe and in Madison Square Garden," he recalled. "The best horses I rode [while] on the team were Black Hawk and the Tramp, on which I was second in the $10,000 'big jump' in Harrisburg.

"I trained my own horses and sold some of the best ones. I sold Toy Soldier to the U.S. Olympic team for $25,000 – big money back them. Now, a world class jumper like that would sell for a million dollars."

He also sold Pistol Pete to Torchy Millar of the Canadian team and helped Ian Millar when "Captain Canada" was just starting his show ring career.

Bidner, who says he's "Jack Benny's age – 39 and counting," turned to training thoroughbreds for racing because at the time, the purses paid more. But times have been tough and he's usually raced in the winters to keep busy. Lately, however, he's been able to "retire" when the Fort Erie season ends and spend the winter in more temperate locations.

Still, he always was able to save enough to pay the college and medical school tuitions for his son Sheldon (Sandy), now a successful surgeon in Dallas, and "the only one of my children who was talented as a rider."

Another son, Nathan, is a stock broker in Arizona, while the rest of his children are all in the Ottawa area: Cheryl, who is married; Shawn, who owns a beauty salon; Brady, an artist and musician who lived in Israel for a time; and Kevin, a computer specialist.

"I really was happy that none of my children caught 'the horse bug,'" Bidner admitted. "It would have interfered with their educations. And maybe I should have stayed in the clothing chain that I was a partner in for a time."

Bidner now has a comparatively small stable at Fort Erie, and he sells many horses that are too slow for racing to friends from his show jumping days.

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

ישעיה ברלין - ביוגרפיה

לו הייתי מתבקשת להגדיר את הייחודי בדמותו של ישעיה ברלין הייתי בוחרת לציין בפליאה את מידת האושר האישי שברלין ידע בחייו. בפליאה מפני שברלין היה עד לזוועות ואומללות איומה, אך הוא, כבני ישראל העוברים ביבשה ובצידם עמודי מים אדירים, ספג, חקר והביע את הזוועות אך הוא אישית לא נפגע. בוודאי היו בחייו רגעי שפל אך עקרונית אפשר לסכם בוודאות שסיפור חייו של אחד מגדולי המאה העשרים הוא סיפור מאושר. הוא לא היה אדיש, חס וחלילה לסבל ולהרס שידעה האנושות במאה מרושעת זו; להפך, הוא הפך לדוברה המתוחכם ביותר אך עלה בידו לנווט את מסכת חייו האישית בשלווה ואושר. יתכן שסודו טמון בעובדה שהוא לא מיהר להתבגר; בשלותו האינטלקטואלית (והמינית) באה לידי מימוש בגיל מתקדם יחסית. יתכן שחידתו שורשה בילדותו המאושרת ובהיותו ילד כה אהוב שלמד לאהוב אחרים ולאהוב את עצמו. כך או כך, הגורמים האנליטיים בעיצוב אישיותו חשובים הרבה פחות מהשגיו שאין שני להם.

ישעיה (אייזיה) ברלין נולד בריגה שבלטביה. בזמן המהפכה התגורר בסנט פיטסברג. פן רוסי זה נשמר אצלו גם לאחר שהמשפחה היגרה ללונדון בהיותו בן אחת עשרה. הוא אהב את הרגשנות הרוסית וכל חייו נמשך בחבלי קסם לתרבות הרוסית. מכל מעריציו ידועי השם, כוויזרגיניה וולף, פרויד, צ'רצ'יל וחיים וויצמן, יותר מכל העריך את דעתה של המשוררת הדגולה אנה אחמטובה שכתבה בשפת אמו ונגעה ישר ללִיבו.

ישעיה ברלין היה ציוני נלהב אף שבחר לא לחיות בארץ. בשנות מלחמת העולם נשלח לוושינגטון בשירות משרד החוץ הבריטי. עד מהרה תפס ברלין תפקיד מרכזי בחיי הדרמה הדיפלומטית והפך לאחד הגורמים המכריעים בעיצוב הקשרים בין בריטניה ואמריקה בזמן המלחמה ולאחריה.

בחדרו שבאוקספורד נועדו מגדולי הפילוסופים. מכל פינות העולם נהרו המונים לשמוע אותו. כוחו לא היה בכתיבה אלא בהגות שבעל-פה. אבי, שזכה להיות מידיד עמו, סיפר לי שכל הרצאה של ברלין הייתה מעוררת סערה. מאות היו מצטופפים באולם ההרצאות והוא היה סוחף את המאזינים מפילוסופיה לספרות, להיסטוריה, לאומנות וחזרה והם היו מתענגים מהשפע, משטף המליצה, מפניני הלשון, מההומור ומחדות ההשיבה שאין לה שיעור.

שנים רבות סרב לכתוב את זכרונותיו אך לבסוף בחר במייקל אינגטייף כאיש שיכתוב את עדותו הביוגרפית. כל מי שמבקש להכיר את ההוגה ההומני ביותר מקרב מעצבי הפילוסופיה בת-זמננו, מי שנחשב ליהודי החכם בדורו, חייב בקריאת ביוגרפיה מאלפת זו.

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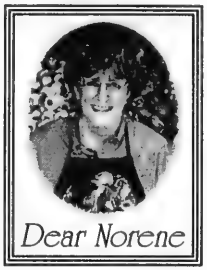
- 2 sticks margarine, melted
- 1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 2-3 tsps. cinnamon

Trim crusts from bread. Combine cream cheese, egg yolks, and sugar. Thickly spread mixture on each slice of bread and roll up. Mix together margarine, brown sugar, and cinnamon and quickly roll bread rolls in mixture. Bake seam side down on greased baking sheet, 350°F for 15-20 minutes. Serves: 12-16.

About Food



By NORENE GILLETZ

Summertime is a great time to enjoy vegetables and fruits. They are refreshing, taste terrific and are considered key players in the fight against heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Are you getting enough? Set your goal at five to 10 a day. Here are 10 great tips adapted from www.5to10aday.com. Also check out www.cancer.ca or call 1-888-939-3333.

• **Top it off:** Choose whole grain cereal with lowfat milk and fresh berries (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries) for a nutritious breakfast choice.

• **Shake it up:** For breakfast on the run or a delicious snack, blend 1 cup lowfat milk, ½ cup fresh fruit (e.g., peaches, bananas, strawberries) and five or six ice cubes. Add a scoop of lowfat frozen yogurt for the ultimate shake.

• **Dashboard dining:** Pack fresh fruit (apricots, pears, plums) and some napkins or moist towelettes in your purse, briefcase or knapsack.

• **Melon out:** Watermelon, cantaloupe or honeydew are refreshing favourites. Choose fresh fruit instead of something gooey for dessert!

• **Weekend fun:** Looking for an inexpensive, fun family outing? Visit a farm and pick your own produce. Vegetables and fruit don't get any cheaper, fresher or more delicious than this!

• **Sensational strawberries:** Mix fresh strawberries with a dash of balsamic vinegar and a touch of sugar. For a decadent dessert, dip strawberries into either chocolate sauce or light sour cream and then brown sugar.

• **Get green:** Salads are a great summertime food. Use darker, more nutritious greens like romaine and spinach. Add cherry tomatoes and sliced carrots for extra flavour and nutrition. For an easy and delicious fruit salad, mix cut-up fresh fruit with fruit-flavoured yogurt.

• **Get grilling:** Fire up the barbecue! Use firm, ripe produce like eggplant, leeks, peppers, mushrooms, squash or corn on the cob. To prevent sticking, lightly baste with vegetable oil or a non-stick spray. Sprinkle with fresh herbs. Don't forget about grilled fruit. Pineapple rings, grilled just until golden brown, are so tasty.

• **Veg out:** Dinnertime is a great time to load up on veggies like fresh asparagus, carrots, broccoli and mini-potatoes. Drizzle with olive oil, lemon juice and a shake of Parmesan cheese.

• **Simply the best:** One of the best things about vegetables and fruit in season is their taste. Choose a variety daily – enjoy in good health!

Norene Gilletz, a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at* gourmana@total.net

The Canadian Jewish news — Crossword Puzzle

"BACK IN THE USSR"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

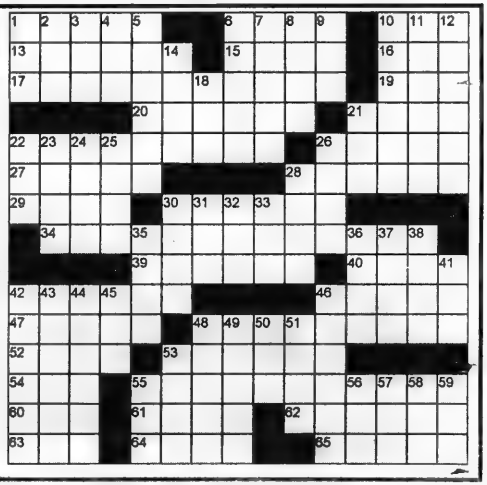
Across

1 Brass instruments
6 Showed up
10 Syllable of reproach
13 The Marx Brothers' "___ at the Opera"
15 ***Magen David*** **___**
16 Not vert.
17 Infamous Stalin episode of 1953
19 Adolf's mistress
20 Less slanted
21 Sign up
22 First Israeli ambassador to the USSR
26 Impressionist Edouard
27 Phrase in jeans prices
28 "Bontsha the Silent" writer
29 Make kugel
30 Judah Loeb Gordon, notably
34 Raisa Palatnik book
39 Welcome words to a soldier
40 Noble lady
42 Like Auschwitz and Treblinka
46 "It's ___!" (maternity ward cry)
47 "If I Were ___ Man"
48 Anatoly Sharansky, for example
52 Go for the gold?
53 Jewish Magazine
54 Tenth letter
55 Like the policies of the USSR
60 Brew
61 Some Jews won't wear it with linen
62 Ivan Boesky, for instance
63 Commandments number
64 Nimble
65 Stolid

Down

1 Tiny bit
2 Popular card game
3 Pen brand
4 Mossad employee: abbr.
5 Rosh Hashana instrument
6 Island off the coast of Italy
7 Freud contemporary
8 Othello was one
9 Ambulance worker's inits.
10 Elton John hit
11 Part of USSR
12 Novelist Judith
14 Streetcar
18 ***Sprechen*** **___ Deutsch?**
21 Shock
22 Yak
23 October birthstone
24 The Dead Sea, essentially
25 ***Kashrut*** **concern**
26 "Momma" cartoonist Lazarus
28 Sherlock Holmes accessory
30 That Jews sacrifice Christian babies, e.g.
31 Lummox
32 Black or Red
33 Floors in the ring
35 Larry Gelbart show
36 Slight advantage
37 Put on, as pounds
38 King from Kings
41 Finnish entree
42 Noted Russian anitsemitic group
43 Baltimore bird
44 Barney Miller star Hal
45 Commit a hockey infraction
46 Wealthy fur trading family
48 Engine part
49 Post of manners
50 Moroccan city or hat
51 Army group
53 L followers
55 Sorry-for sounds
56 Columnist Hentoff
57 Wedding phrase
58 Boxer of Calif., for instance
59 Bring before the judge

(Answers are on page 32.)



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This Week

National

Fundraising campaigns pay tribute to Matti Baranovski. *Page 3*

U of T physicist wins top science award. *Page 4*

On Campus

Scholarship winner plans to work with terminally ill and AIDS patients. *Page 18*

Arts

Young actress gets to meet her idols during commercial shoot. *Page 29*

Sports

Israeli tennis player shines at Toronto international tournament. *Page 38*

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A Jewish VP? No problem

By PETER EPHROSS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

When Al Smith campaigned for U.S. president – and lost – in 1928, his Roman Catholicism was used against him.

When John F. Kennedy successfully ran for president in 1960, he felt the need to make speeches that distanced himself from the Pope.

Analysis

But Senator Joseph Lieberman's Orthodox Judaism is not likely to be a burden for him as the Democratic senator from Connecticut goes on the stump as Al Gore's running mate.

In fact, analysts say, Lieberman's beliefs may even help him and Gore. Americans apparently have come a long way when it comes to the acceptance of public officials from minority religions – even if they might have a little way to go, as indicated by this comment about Lieberman from Senator John Breaux (D-La.).

Attitudes have changed since Kennedy

"I think people don't care so much about where he goes to church on Sunday, but just that he has the moral values and principles to lead the country," Breaux said.

Despite misunderstandings about when and where Jews worship, a poll that has tracked American views on religion and the presidency supports the view that religion is less of a factor for voters than it used to be.

In 1937, the Gallup organization found that 46 percent of Americans would vote for a Jewish person for president. By 1999, that number had climbed to 92 percent.

Smith, the son of Irish immigrants, was the Democratic governor of New York when he ran for president in 1928 against Republican Herbert Hoover.

Smith had other things that hurt him in that election. He was against the prohibition on alcohol then in effect in the United States, and he was running against the incumbent party during a period of economic prosperity that lasted until the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression.

But his religion was certainly a factor. One rumour circulated that Smith was in favour of building a tunnel underneath the Atlantic Ocean to connect Washington to the Vatican, and a leaflet published in New York read: "When the Catholics rule the United States, And the Jew grows a Christian nose on his face, When the Pope is the head of the Ku Klux Klan, In the land of the Uncle Sam, Then Al Smith will be our President, And the country not worth a damn."

Smith lost the election to Hoover, earning 41 percent of the vote.

By 1960, when Kennedy ran against Republican Richard Nixon, anti-Catholicism had waned, but it had not dissipated entirely.

Continued on page 26

Joseph Lieberman reacts to supporters at an announcement ceremony in Nashville after Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore formally introduced Lieberman as his vice-presidential running mate.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Rabbi shocks Jewish world

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's remarks about the sins of Holocaust victims shocked much of the Jewish world recently, but a prominent Canadian rabbi believes his comments have been misunderstood by those not attuned to the intricacies of kabbalistic theology.

In radio remarks broadcast in Israel, Rabbi Yosef, spiritual leader of the Shas party, said victims of Nazi murderers were "reincarnated souls of Jews who sinned in the past." The rabbi also stated Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak lacked "brains" and that by courting Palestinians in peace talks, he was "bringing snakes next to us."

Continued on page 27

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Barak names new cabinet — please see page 25

The News in Brief

CANADA

Burying Tombstones

WINNIPEG — Beth Israel Synagogue will hold an unusual service at its cemetery next month when it buries 86 tombstones that have been broken beyond repair.

Messianic Blitz

TORONTO — Volunteers for Jews for Judaism were out on the streets of Toronto last week to counter a propaganda blitz by Jews for Jesus, whose members were handing out leaflets. Meanwhile, Jewish residents of the suburb of Thornhill, north of the city, complained after receiving copies of *The Messianic Times*, a newspaper that has been delivered to Toronto Jewish homes for months.

ISRAEL

Cache Seized

NABLUS — Palestinian security forces uncovered a Hamas storehouse containing close to four tons of chemical materials used for making explosives in this West Bank town. The discovery was made some three weeks ago, but was publicized last week.

Journalist Shot

JERUSALEM — A 25-year-old Canadian freelance journalist was hit in the abdomen by three bullet fragments during a confrontation near the Israel-Lebanon border. Katia Jarjoura, who is of Lebanese descent, was wounded after a Lebanese protester threw a Molotov cocktail at an Israeli army post and Israeli soldiers retaliated with gunfire.

Post Reporter Dies

JERUSALEM — Charles Hoffman, whose reporting for the *Jerusalem Post* pioneered critical coverage of major Jewish organizations, died earlier this month after a battle with cancer. He was 54. Hoffman was known for aiming a critical eye at Jewish philanthropy – most notably the Jewish Agency, the massive body run jointly by Israeli political parties and Diaspora organizations.

Lebanese Curriculum

JERUSALEM — Children of former South Lebanon Army soldiers who found refuge in Israel following Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon will continue to study the Lebanese school curriculum next year. Some 1,700 children of former SLA soldiers are currently in Israel.

WORLD

Kosher Law

NEW YORK — Declaring that New York State's kosher laws excessively entangle government with religion, a Brooklyn federal judge has struck down the 118-year-old statutes as unconstitutional. Orthodox kosher law advocates immediately said they would appeal the decision, in which the judge ruled in favour of a Long Island butcher whose 1996 lawsuit claimed that the state's kosher laws violated church-state separation.

Shopping at Auschwitz

WARSAW — Poland will allow a controversial shopping centre to be built across the street from the site of the Auschwitz death camp. The president of the company developing the project in the Polish city of Oswiecim was quoted as saying the centre will serve hundreds of thousands of people who visit the museum and memorial at Auschwitz each year.

HUC Ordination

CINCINNATI — Erin Polansky was recently ordained a rabbi by the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Polansky, who was born in Montreal and raised in Toronto, is continuing her education pursuing a PhD in Jewish Law and Ethics. She is the daughter of Sharon and Sheldon Polansky of Toronto.

Family Sues Syria

WASHINGTON — The family of an Israeli American killed in a 1996 Hamas bus bombing in Jerusalem is suing Syria under a law that allows American victims to sue states responsible for terrorist acts. Ira Weinstein's family, which claims Syria provided support to Hamas at the time of the attack, is seeking $330 million (US) in damages.

Wiesenthal Honoured

WASHINGTON — Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal was among 15 people who received the highest U.S. civilian honor last week. President Bill Clinton awarded the Presidential Medals of Freedom at a White House ceremony last Wednesday.

N.Z. Man Jailed

WELLINGTON — A man has received a three-year prison sentence after police and customs officials found a list of Jewish congregations throughout New Zealand as well as a cache of weapons, explosives and ammunition in his home.

Apology Issued

AMSTERDAM — The Amsterdam Stock Exchange has issued an apology for looting Jewish assets during World War II. In June, the exchange and the Dutch Banking Association agreed to pay $130.2 million to the local Jewish community.

JCC Shooting Still Before Courts

LOS ANGELES — It's been a year since Buford Furrow Jr. allegedly burst into the North Valley Jewish Community Centre here and started shooting, but the case against him is still slowly winding its way through the legal system.

Furrow, 38, is accused of wounding three young boys, a teenage counsellor and a receptionist at the Jewish centre last Aug. 10 with 70 bullets from a semi-automatic assault weapon. He is also accused of killing a U.S. mail carrier on the same day.

The decision to seek the death penalty, approved by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, brought into play numerous legal moves by the prosecution and defence, which automatically delayed the beginning of the trial.

Originally set to start on Nov. 14, the trial date was postponed to Feb. 6 of next year to give Furrow's lawyer additional time to prepare. The judge noted that 5,000 pages of documents had already been turned over to the defence – and there could be more.

Furrow, a white supremacist and member of the Aryan Nations, turned himself in to the FBI office in Las Vegas the day after the shooting rampage and allegedly told agents that his attack on the Jewish centre was "a wake-up call to Americans to kill Jews."

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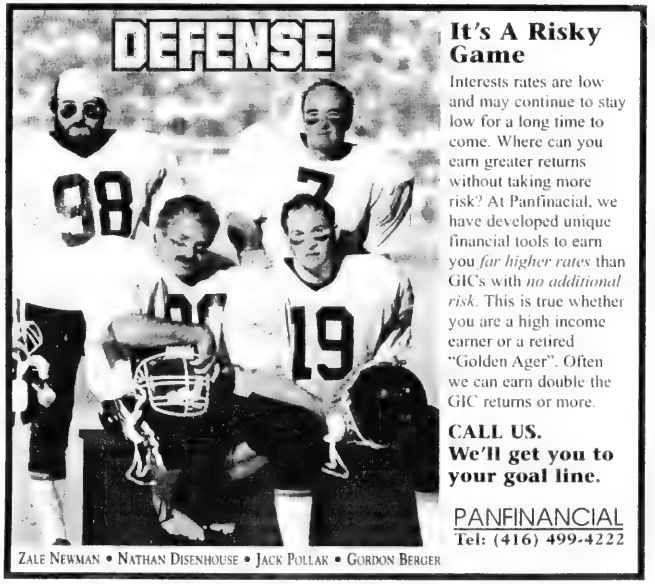
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Fund-raising campaigns in memory of Matti

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Officials in the Russian-Jewish community hope the Matti Baranovski Drop-in Centre will blunt the influences that led to the violent and tragic death of its namesake.

A fund in Matti's memory was launched recently by his mother Olga and the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC).

Money raised will go toward opening a centre that will offer teens after-school and weekend activities, computer training, anger management counselling, recreational events and instruction in Jewish heritage – all designed to keep them out of trouble.

Baranovski, a Grade 11 student, was beaten to death at G. Ross Lord park last November after an argument with a gang of young toughs over cigarettes and money.

One suspect in the case is still fighting extradition from Israel, where he fled soon after the murder.

The incident shone a light on youth violence, particularly among Jewish-Russian and other immigrant teenagers.

JRCC officials say that many young people whose families immigrate here from the former Soviet Union were raised in a climate of oppression, fear and sometimes, brutalization.

"They brought their anger with them," says a JRCC statement. "We want to change the direction some of them are taking."

Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, executive director of the JRCC, says at least $200,000 is needed to open the centre and get it up and running.

The JRCC is scouting a site. Rabbi Zaltzman says a centre will be located where ex-Soviet Jews are most concentrated in Toronto.

Igor Korenzvit, chair of the JRCC's board of governors, says current programs offered in the ex-Soviet community have not kept up with needs.

"We have not addressed problems to the level we should have," he conceded.

He said fund-raising will be conducted in both the Jewish and general communities.

"This is not just a Russian issue."

In separate initiatives, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Toronto is co-ordinating a three-year project that aims to increase both the quality and quantity of outreach programs to immigrant youth in the Bathurst Street corridor, between Finch and Steeles. The project is being funded by a $250,000 gift to UJA FEDERATION from a private donor following the Baranovski murder.

In late June, the Jewish-Russian Initiative, started by 35 mothers, held a concert that raised $10,000 for immigrant youth programs.

And at the same time as public fund-raising goes on for the Baranovski centre, students at Northview Heights Secondary School, where Matti had been a promising pupil, have raised over $6,000 through the sale of memorial backpack patches.

The money will be split between Kids Help Phone, a bilingual helpline for children and teens, and CAVEAT, which promotes violence prevention programs and advocates for victims' rights.

Area merchants, community groups, parents and other schools within the Toronto District School Board, as well as private and Catholic schools, have agreed to sell 6,000 patches at $5 each.

The patches may be purchased at Northview Heights when classes resume next month. The school may be reached at 416-395-3290.

(From left), Igor Korenzvit, Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman and Olga Baranovski, with a picture of Matti, are spearheading the drive to build the Matti Baranovski Drop-in Centre.

The backpack patch in memory of Matti.

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Greater Toronto Area

U of T chemical physicist wins Canada's highest scientific award

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Paul Brumer, a University of Toronto chemical physicist, is one of the winners of this year's Killam Prize, Canada's highest scientific award.

The prize, worth $75,000, honours eminent Canadian scholars and scientists actively engaged in research in universities, industry or government agencies.

It is awarded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Brumer, 55, holds the Roel Buck chair in chemical physics at the U of T, with which he has been associated since 1975.

He has made major contributions to theoretical chemical physics, an area of research dedicated to using physics, mathematics and computer modelling to understand the nature of chemical processes.

Brumer has been in the forefront of studies on statistical theories of chemical reactions, on the relationship between classical and quantum laws of motion, on the study of quantum chaos, and on the utility of semi-classical mechanics in chemistry.

In 1986, he and his colleague, Weizmann Institute of Science professor Moshe Shapiro, introduced a field of research now known as coherent control of molecular processes.

It is dedicated to using the quantum laws of molecules to control their motion and alter chemical reactions.

It has no military applications, Brumer said in an interview. But it does have practical applications in pharmaceutical chemistry and in opto-electronic devices.

Paul Brumer

Over the past 14 years, he and Shapiro have shown how lasers can be used to encode quantum mechanical information into molecules.

Their research has opened up an entirely new branch of science.

"In addition, from a purely scientific point of view, I am pleased that my other work has established a connection between classical mechanics, the mechanics which describes the behaviour of macroscopic objects with which we are familiar, and quantum mechanics, the general theory of motion of objects whose characteristics are most readily discerned in the world of atoms and molecules," he explained.

Brumer is also project leader at Photonics Research Ontario, established by the provincial government to fund research with potential applications to enhance Ontario's economic viability.

Born in New York City, and educated at Brooklyn College and Harvard University, Brumer began his academic career at Harvard.

"I came to the U of T because it had an outstanding chemistry department with great strengths in theoretical chemical physics and in the study of chemical reactions," said Brumer.

He is the son of Abraham and Barbara Brumer, who were born in Poland and Romania, respectively.

"My father was a hard-working, honest businessman," he said, " and my mother was a homemaker until later in life, when she worked in my uncle's business."

Canada, he said, is highly advanced in chemical physics. "At the U of T alone, there are over 10 faculty members at the forefront of this field. Two of Canada's winners of Nobel Prizes – Gerhard Herzberg of the National Research Council and John Polanyi of the U of T – helped found this area of research."

Brumer and his wife, Abbey, have four children – Debbie, an occupational therapist; Jeremy, an IBM programmer; Yisroel, a graduate student in chemical physics at Harvard; and Bracha, a U of T student.

His brother, Rabbi Pinchas Brumer, is a Hebrew principal at the Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto's junior high school, while his sister-in-law, Matty Brumer, is co-ordinator of Kosher Meals on Wheels.

The Brumers are members of Bnai Torah Congregation.

From the editor's desk will return

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SEE JN

SHADOWING JEWS FOR JESUS: Itamar Danziger (right), a volunteer with Jews for Judaism, hands out leaflets alongside a member of Jews for Jesus, which staged a propaganda blitz on the streets of Toronto last week. Volunteers from Jews for Judaism shadowed the Jews for Jesus group and matched them for every brochure distributed.

New chair urges women to donate independently

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Dodi Weill has a larger portfolio — and executive — than any of her predecessors.

Dodi Weill

In June, the first chair of UJA FEDERATION's newly merged entity, Women's Campaign and Advocacy, succeeded Janice Langer, president of Jewish Women's Federation, and Carole Sterling, who led last year's Women's Campaign.

As chair of the new entity, Weill deals with myriad projects, addressing issues including abuse, poverty and agunot. Although several endeavours are close to her heart, she will – when pressed – single one out, albeit reluctantly.

Her "baby," if any of the projects can be described that way, is the quest to have women donate to the campaign in their own names. Although Toronto has at least 50,000 potential donors who are women, only 6,000 gave independent gifts last year, Weill said in a recent interview at her home.

At her installation in June, she noted that women have an obligation to transmit their values to the next generation. "No one can perform a mitzvah for another person," she noted. "We are role models for our families... [Giving a gift in one's own name] connects us in a very personal way to our community...it speaks to our identity as Jewish women who care about the needs and are willing to stand up and be counted."

On a practical level, more names could indicate greater strength in a lobbying situation, she noted.

Weill, an English teacher who now tutors privately, would like to educate women about the reasons for becoming involved, and was instrumental in creating a new pamphlet, *Why A Woman's Gift?*

A strong believer in education – and in programs that aren't "fluffy" – Weill completed her BA in Sociology at York University as an adult, one course at a time over 15 years, and has begun working toward an Honours degree.

The mother of four and new grandmother is also pulled toward Women's Campaign and Advocacy outreach programs, especially a recent one for women from the former Soviet Union.

Having immigrated here herself at age 14, Weill feels "very connected" to the project. "I feel we made such an effort to bring [Jews from the former Soviet Union] out, and then not to do the next step, to integrate them, is wrong."

A native of St. Annes, a seaside town on England's west coast, Weill developed a strong Jewish identity both through family involvement in the Jewish community of 300, and interaction with her non-Jewish peers. "You could never forget you were Jewish," she said. "You were always made to feel different."

Her community involvement as an adult has included stints as sisterhood president at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, where her husband of 30 years, Bob, is now vice-president; as Toronto chair for State of Israel Bonds, as North American vice-chair of Israel Bonds and national chair for Canada.

The sense of commitment she felt as a youth group member was heightened by her first trip to Israel in 1967. "I was completely hooked," she said.

On a more recent trip, she saw "the big eyes of those Ethiopian kids [who benefit from some of the campaign dollars]. You know you're doing good stuff." Campaign funds assist projects overseas and locally.

To help women in Toronto know where UJA dollars go, Women's Campaign and Advocacy is planning three local "bus missions" this fall (Sept. 14, Oct. 30 and Nov. 15). Some of the destinations (three per mission) are the Bernard Betel Centre, Jews for Judaism, Jewish Family & Child Service and Zareinu Educational Centre.

Last year, Women's Campaign raised $4.4 million, approximately 10 percent of the total for Toronto.

The new organization is much more streamlined, Weill said. It was felt the two parent organizations were reaching out to the same women, she explained.

"Now we represent one of the strongest groups in North America." By merging the two groups, Toronto is following a trend that began in the United States; in Canada, Women's Campaign and Advocacy is a pioneer.

NEW USCJ AWARD: The Canadian region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism presented its first annual Ateret Kavod (Crown of Honour) awards to Cantor Louis Danto and Marvin Miller (past president of the former Ontario region), both of Toronto, and to Rabbi Lionel Moses of Montreal. Top row, from left, are Stephen Wolnek, USCJ international president; Gabriel Grushcow, president, USCJ, Canadian region; and Morris Adams, chair, Ateret Kavod evening. Bottom, from left, are honorees Miller, Cantor Danto and Rabbi Moses.

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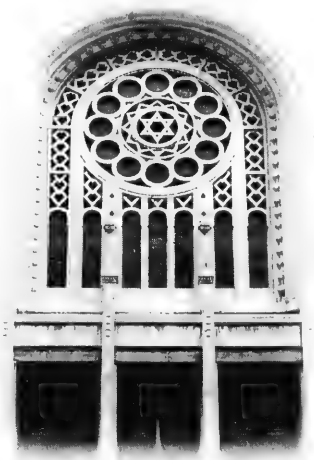
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Greater Toronto Area

Canada continuing to accept 'refugees' from Israel

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canada continues to grant refugee status to claimants from Israel – most of them former Soviet Jews – believing their tales of persecution in the Jewish state.

According to the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), Canada last year accepted 29 refugees from Israel and rejected 305 others, based on 422 claims finalized. The rest were either abandoned or withdrawn.

A further 261 cases were pending.

The acceptance rate of refugees from Israel last year was seven percent, the highest in three years.

In 1998, Canada granted refugee status to 24 asylum seekers from Israel, based on 997 cases. The acceptance rate that year was 2.4 percent.

Fewer referrals wound up before IRB panels in 1999 than the year before, but about as many claimants were accepted.

The whole issue of Canada's acceptance of refugees from Israel continues to be a sore point between the two countries.

Since 1989, when the first wave of Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union, Israel has been trying to persuade Canada that ex-Soviets are taking advantage of the Law of Return to springboard to this country.

Israel has always denied that it produces refugees, saying the claimants' stories of persecution are spurious.

Typically, former Soviet Jews, who come here as Israeli citizens, claim that while in the Jewish state, they were harassed, denied jobs and housing, and even beaten because of mixed marriages or questionable Jewish status.

To qualify as refugees here, they must prove they have a well-founded fear of persecution should they be returned to Israel.

Canada's acceptance rate of Israeli refugees peaked in 1991 at 69 percent of all claims. The rate in 1998 was the lowest ever.

In the first three months of this year, Canada accepted three Israeli refugee claims, out of 81 finalized.

In a statement, Israel's embassy in Ottawa said that while it is pleased the number of refugee claimants has dropped dramatically during the past year, "we are disappointed that the acceptance rate has increased during this period.

"As a democratic state with a legal system that is internationally recognized for its judicial fairness and independence, it is inconceivable that Israel should be a source of refugees. Thus, there is no reason that Canada should be accepting refugee claimants from the State of Israel."

BGU, Sunnybrook to honour surgeon

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — As a cardiovascular surgeon, Bernard Goldman finds his work "exciting, rewarding, challenging and demanding."

Among his recent patients was an 88-year-old who underwent heart valve surgery. When Goldman's father, Philip, died in 1980 of heart disease at age 69, however, his age seemed "advanced." At that time, recalled Goldman – himself a youthful 64 – bypass surgery was less than a decade old, and complications were more common.

"It's a complete revolution," he said in a recent interview at his comfortably appointed office at the Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, where he is currently surgeon-in-chief and where he was involved, in an administrative capacity, in the development of the hospital's Schulich Heart Centre.

Goldman will be honoured Oct. 26 at the Sheraton Centre by his hospital and the Toronto chapter of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, an organization co-founded by his late father.

The tribute event will inaugurate the Dr. Bernard S. Goldman Endowment Fund for Cardiovascular Research, with funding to be split 50-50 between the two institutions.

Although the specific area of research has yet to be decided, Goldman's interest lies in innovative valve reconstruction and valve replacement, as well as coronary bypass surgery.

Goldman moved to Sunnybrook almost 11 years ago to head its new cardiac surgical centre, after two decades at Toronto General Hospital.

He has long had a "soft spot" for BGU, both through his professional affiliation – having lectured there and trained some BGU heart surgeons here – and through the involvement of his father, who was the Toronto chapter's second president.

Like his father, Goldman has visited Israel over a dozen times. He has also been a visiting professor at Hadassah Hospital and was involved in setting up the heart unit at Shaare Zedek Medical Centre.

Goldman and his sister, Ellie Tesher, along with their father's partners at Shoppers Drug Mart, undertook a BGU lectureship in Philip Goldman's memory for several years after his death.

Bernie Goldman, like his father, is sensitive to the "underdog," he said. Because Ben-Gurion University and Sunnybrook Hospital both lacked the "cachet" of (respectively) the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Toronto General Hospital, "like Avis, it just meant [they] had to work harder," he said. "In both instances, it has paid off."

Dr. Bernard Goldman

Sunnybrook, at one time, was "sort of an outpost" compared to downtown teaching hospitals. Now, Goldman noted, it's "in the geographic centre of the city. There has been a growth of academic excellence here, and community recognition."

And BGU, with 15,000 students, is now "the in place to go," said Goldman, citing a lower cost of living, an architecturally beautiful campus, and unique programs (such as its medical outreach program to Bedouins and immigrants).

Its 950-bed Soroka hospital holds almost twice as many in-patients as Sunnybrook (if you exclude the latter's long-term care and mental health beds).

Although Goldman stepped down in January as head of cardiovascular surgery, he intends to continue operating for at least a couple of years after he turns 65. His decade at Sunnybrook has been "a great adventure," he says. "It's been so satisfying. This has been such a source of pride."

He plans to maintain his academic involvement as incoming editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Cardiac Surgery*, effective January 2001.

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Joseph Lieberman

It was a bold, courageous, historic decision. By selecting Senator Joseph Lieberman, a Jew, as his vice-presidential running mate, Al Gore, the vice-president and Democratic party presidential hopeful, shattered a hoary barrier whose passing may yet benefit all minorities in the United States.

Until last week, the conventional wisdom had been that America was not ready for a Jew on a major national political ticket, despite the fact that Jews already have filled important and prestigious positions in the federal government. Arthur Goldberg served as ambassador to the United Nations. Henry Kissinger was secretary of state and Harold Brown was secretary of defence. Edward Levi and Robert Rubin were secretary of justice and secretary of the treasury, respectively. John Deutsch directed the Central Intelligence Agency. Currently, Alan Greenspan is chair of the Federal Reserve, Samuel Berger is President Bill Clinton's national security advisor, and Leon Fuerth is Gore's foreign affairs advisor.

And yet the consensus was that, because of anti-Semitic sentiment, a Jewish American could not aspire to be vice-president, much less president. The precedent had been established. In 1976, Milton Shapp, the Jewish governor of Pennsylvania, tried but failed to secure the Democratic party's nomination for president. In 1984, Walter Mondale, the Democratic standard-bearer, chose Geraldine Ferraro rather than Diane Feinstein for the number 2 spot. In 1996, Arlen Specter, the sole Jewish Republican U.S. senator, toyed with the idea of throwing his hat into the ring, but abandoned the quest even before the primaries.

Gore – a canny politician of substance who stands head and shoulders above his Republican rival George Bush in terms of experience, knowledge and sheer savvy – was acutely cognizant of this iron rule of American politics. But in an inspired masterstroke, which appears to have revitalized his campaign, Gore broke with tradition, He chose Lieberman, an observant Jew from Connecticut whose reputation for integrity and rectitude stems in part from a 1998 speech in which he deplored Clinton's sexual dalliance with Monica Lewinsky, a White House intern half his age.

It remains to be seen whether Gore's calculated gamble ultimately will be a liability or an asset. Although the United States is a great democracy, it is, lamentably, a society riddled with ethnocentrism and prejudice. Online chat rooms and Internet message boards were flooded with anti-Jewish slurs immediately after Gore's announcement, and an African-American civil rights leader cast aspersions on Jews. On the other hand, a *USA Today* poll found that Lieberman's inclusion on the ticket had turned the presidential race into a dead heat. In the post-Lieberman environment, the United States has come of age as a pluralistic nation. But it's clear that the Lieberman factor will also be a crucial acid test of religious tolerance in America. – *S.K.*

LET OUR PEOPLE GO

On July 1, in the city of Shiraz in Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Court convicted 10 Jews on the false charge of spying for Israel. They were sentenced to between four and 13 years imprisonment. Each one must be remembered. They are: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr.

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It's only Rock 'n' Roll

I found Elliott Malamet's column on music and adolescence "Music Plays to an Audience of One" (*CJN*, June 27), almost as amusing as I did frustrating. As a high school teacher like him, I have to wonder when the last time was that Malamet actually engaged one of his students in a discussion about the music they listen to and that inspires them. My guess from the tone of his article is never.

First off, opening with a quote from *The Merchant of Venice*, writing of Gershwin or Brahms and quoting Harold Bloom on classical music immediately betrayed that Malamet is sorely out of touch with his own student audience. He condescendingly assumes – and rather incorrectly, I believe – that "rock music has always provided a shallow yet convenient outlet for teen frustration."

I'm not sure what he listened to as a teenager, but perhaps he should take a few moments out of his class to listen to the Walkmans he believes "disguise" people as human beings.

He selectively cites angry Smashing Pumpkins lyrics "God is empty, just like me," and makes the sweeping generalization that this characterizes all adolescents; the truth is, it may reflect an emptiness today's adolescents feel – something their teachers, especially their Jewish studies teachers – should be attuned to.

Perhaps if Malamet listened to one of his students' Walkmans he might find them listening to Jerry Garcia reminding them to "Wake up to find that you are the eyes of the world," or "May God bless and keep you always… May you grow up to be righteous, may you grow up to be true. May you always know the truth and see the lights surrounding you."

Of course it may be Bob Marley urging them to "emancipate yourselves from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our mind," or perhaps Ben Harper singing: "So long as someone else controls your history, the truth shall remain just a mystery; for you can lead a horse to the water, but you cannot make him drink. You can put a man through school but you cannot make him think."

Music is not meant to "replace the difficult and demanding task of learning to build a spiritual self," but it is a healing balm that often inspires adolescents to persevere in their task of building a spiritual self when they feel misunderstood by those who stand behind the desk and preach as though they understand them. Especially in a Jewish school that seeks to inspire their Jewish selves, maybe we need to ask why they are turning to music, and not to their teachers.

(Name withheld)
Toronto

* * *

Kadosh is real

Re: Letter to the editor, "*Kadosh* is not kadosh" (*CJN*, July 27). *Kadosh* is real. I also found the movie repulsive and an insult, but I also think it is very real.

Yes, women are considered as second-class citizens in Judaism, as per Genesis 3:16 (woman shall be ruled by man); Numbers, chapters 1 and 4 (women not mentioned in the census); Numbers 5:14 (law in favour of suspecting husband); Numbers, chapter 26 (another women-ignoring census); Numbers, chapters 27 and 36 (restricting women's rights as land owners); Numbers, chapter 30 (woman's hierarchical position in the family); Leviticus 10:15 (women can never be the kohen); Leviticus 21:9 (daughter of a kohen to be burned if she commits prostitution); Deuteronomy 22:24 (women's credibility as a rape victim).

Yes, it is disgusting to see the old truck driving around the streets of Mea Shearim shouting profanities at the goyim over a loudspeaker. Yes, it is unfair to automatically and unilaterally blame the wife for not being able to bear children – to the point of divorce. And yes, the general attitude towards women (and seculars) in the movie is of a medieval mentality.

If the movie is guilty of honesty, maybe it is time to expose and reject these "holy" concepts.

Isaac Sachs
Montreal

* * *

Welsh Jews

I am one of the Welsh Jews from the valleys, the region portrayed in the film by Paul Morrison which Sheldon Kirshner wrote about (*CJN*, June 8). I was born in Abertysswg, not far from New Tredegar and Tredegar, and lived there from 1921 until we moved to London in 1939. I was pleased to hear that someone made a film about Jewish life in the valleys of South Wales.

My father, Baruch Crabbe (Krapivnik – a Litvak), was the chazzan for our small Jewish community in the Welsh valleys. He also worked underground in the coal mine (then called the pit) at Abertysswg, and later on the surface at the mine after he was injured in a pit explosion. The community rented a hall in the back of the Baptist church in Abertysswg for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur before the shul was built in Tredegar.

Names I remember from the community, with their city, town or village (as well as I can recollect) are: the Jacobs, New Tredegar and Cardiff; the Mazins, Rhymney; the Cohens, Rhymney; the Apters, Rhymney; and the Fines, Pontlottyn. There were others that I have forgotten. The father of Dr. Reuben Bellan (professor emeritus at the University of Manitoba) was in Abertysswg for some period of time, although I do not remember him.

My mother (née Weinbaum) had moved to Britain from Warsaw and later lost many family members in Europe during the Holocaust, as did my father. Also I had an aunt who lived on a farm just outside Cardiff. We often got produce from the farm, which helped us through the lean years.

Esther B. Hall
Winnipeg, Man.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Hezbollah's growing prominence in Lebanon

By LISA ARMONY
Special to The CJN

Following Israel's May 24 redeployment from the security zone in south Lebanon, Hezbollah quickly consolidated its hold on the area, filling the power vacuum created by the collapse of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and the absence of Lebanese army troops.

With Syria preoccupied with the succession of Bashar al-Assad as president and the Lebanese government unable to take any major political or military steps without a Syrian directive, Hezbollah's hegemony in the south will likely remain unchallenged in the foreseeable future.

In light of these developments, two important questions are: What are Hezbollah's intentions? and What role will it seek to play now that one of its principal aims – the expulsion of Israeli forces from Lebanon – has been met?

Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has ordered his followers not to fire at Israeli targets until directed otherwise. Still, Nasrallah threatens to resume hostilities should Israel refuse to meet certain demands, including for the release of Lebanese detainees from Israeli jails, the cessation of alleged border violations and withdrawal from the disputed Sheba'a Farms in the eastern section of the former security zone (there has been some question about whether this area is Lebanese territory).

Nasrallah, it seems, is keeping the group's options open.

With Lebanese parliamentary elections scheduled to begin in late summer, he could lean towards the political option, keeping his forces at bay for now in his quest to gain a stronger foothold in Lebanese domestic politics. Prime Minister Ehud Barak has promised harsh reprisals in response to cross-border attacks. Such reprisals would harm Hezbollah's constituents in the south, and Hezbollah is sensitive to the possible backlash. The political scenario is therefore attractive in the short term.

Hezbollah holds seven seats in Lebanon's 128-member parliament. Nasrallah hopes to increase that number by capitalizing on the group's newly found prestige as the "liberator of national territory." He has stated that the group will now give greater attention to internal issues, and in a June 26 meeting with Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, discussed joint efforts to rehabilitate south Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.

In the meantime, seeking to enhance its support in the predominantly Shi'a Muslim south, and in the absence of a $60-million (US) investment in the region promised by the Lebanese government, Hezbollah is taking other steps. Through its extensive network of hospitals, schools and social institutions, it continues to offer valuable services in this neglected region. It is also establishing mobile clinics, widening roads, renovating mosques and providing development loans and reconstruction aid.

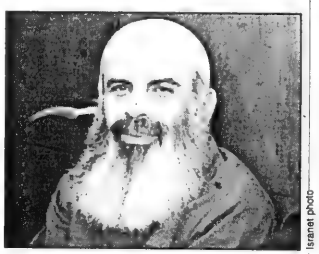
Although these efforts are exclusively in the south, Hezbollah is increasingly seeking to portray itself as a Lebanese nationalist organization rather than a Shi'a sectarian group. Some of its leaders are tempering, at least publicly, the group's radical Islamic rhetoric, speaking instead in terms that embrace the entire Lebanese polity. For example, they have dubbed the IDF withdrawal a victory for "all Lebanese."

This new image can also be seen on the group's Web site, where the front page recently read: "The Sheba'a region is a part of Lebanon and will be liberated by Hezbollah; every inch of Lebanon needs to be free from occupation."

For the time being, no one in the Lebanese power structure appears willing or able to challenge Hezbollah, whether because Syria, the real power broker in Lebanon, has prevented such interference, or out of fear of Hezbollah reprisals. Hezbollah's growing political prominence is reflected not only in Nasrallah's talks with Lahoud – where the former was presented with a presidential medal in recognition of "the glory of [Hezbollah's] role" in liberating south Lebanon – but also in his unprecedented meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The symbolic importance cannot be understated, for this unusual meeting between the head of the world's major peacekeeping institution and the leader of what is generally considered a terrorist organization gave Hezbollah tremendous credibility in the Arab world.

RNS/Reuters photo

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah



Israel photo

Amal leader Mustafa Dirani

Hezbollah's other option is continued violence against Israel. Although its stated goal had been Israel's expulsion from the security zone, the organization in fact rejects Israel's existence and is committed to its destruction. Its political platform still reads: "The conflict with Israel is viewed as a central concern. This is not only limited to the IDF presence in Lebanon. Rather, the complete destruction of the State of Israel and the establishment of Islamic rule over Jerusalem is an expressed goal."

Even prior to the redeployment, Hezbollah leaders had claimed that an Israeli withdrawal would not yield an end to terrorist activity against "northern Palestine." Such statements have been reiterated in recent days: On Lebanon's Al-Manar TV, Nasrallah said: "Any Islamic movement or national Arab movement has to face up to the Zionist plan and work to liberate all territory and Palestine from the sea to the river."

And in rejection of Israeli peace initiatives, Hezbollah spiritual leader Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah proclaimed in his Friday sermon of June 9: "To preserve the victory, we ought to ensure that the enemy will not be able to achieve his goals through the negotiation of the peace process, that aim to control the country politically having failed to achieve this by its army." (Translation taken from Fadlallah's Web site.)

Clearly Hezbollah has no intention – nor did it ever have any intention – of disarming in the wake of the IDF departure. On the contrary, Israeli sources confirm that Hezbollah's military wing, Islamic Resistance, is continuing to receive highly sophisticated arms from Iran. There are also reports that Hezbollah terrorists have entered Israel several times to study the new IDF deployment along the border and the soldiers' daily routine. Israeli security sources believe that this action may be intended to facilitate the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers to be ransomed for the release of Hezbollah's Sheikh Karim Obeid and Amal leader Mustafa Dirani from Israeli administrative detention.

Avihu Shapira photo

Israeli soldiers leaving Lebanon.

Opinions differ over what effect Hezbollah's use of violence would have on its pursuit of political power. Some argue that the effect would be detrimental. Renewed conflict could again drive the recently returned residents of south Lebanon out of their homes, causing them to withdraw their support for the militants. Moreover, even the threat of renewed warfare could diminish the limited support Hezbollah has in the country's Sunni, Druze and Christian communities. Others contend that anti-Israel violence could buttress Hezbollah's claim to be a national liberation movement. Images of Hezbollah fighters, and martyrs, confronting the "Zionist enemy" might engender sympathy and support among a population not yet resigned to living in peace with Israel. Hezbollah must weigh these possibilities carefully as it seeks to balance its desire for political power with its goal of destroying Israel.

Even if Hezbollah decides that domestic considerations demand that it temporarily rein in its own forces, it may continue its struggle against Israel by proxy through Palestinian Islamist forces in Lebanon. Hezbollah has already begun to strengthen its ties with groups such as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. This has given it greater influence among residents of the Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon, many of whom reportedly oppose the agreements PA Chairman Yasser Arafat has reached with Israel, considering them a betrayal of their desire for the "right of return" to pre-1948 Israel.

This perception, combined with Lebanon's discriminatory treatment of the refugees, make these camps fertile ground for the cultivation of militant forces. Intelligence reports indicate that Hezbollah is now providing arms and military training to Palestinian guerrillas, and Hezbollah officials are openly calling on Palestinians to wage jihad (religious war) to force Israel to capitulate to their demands.

In the end, Hezbollah's fate may rest neither with the Lebanese electorate nor with its own leadership, but rather with its benefactors, Iran and Syria. Iran was instrumental in founding Hezbollah, which it sees as a spearhead in its battle against Israel. Hezbollah is deeply committed to Khomeinism and to transforming Lebanon into an Iranian-style Islamic republic. It is also fully subservient to the Iranian leadership, which provides it with ideological guidance, political and operational instructions, and military and financial aid. Iran's continued support for the export of radical Islam and its implacable opposition to Israel suggest that there will be no immediate change in its relationship with Hezbollah.

Syria, like Iran, has found it expedient to exploit Hezbollah to advance its objectives vis-a-vis Israel, particularly Israel's withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights. Damascus had used the group to continuously pressure Israel by encouraging Hezbollah to maintain its war against the IDF and SLA in the security zone, and by dictating to the group when to intensify or relax hostilities.

This was the reason that the late Syrian president Hafez al-Assad facilitated the provision of Hezbollah's military infrastructure, despite his apprehensions over the group's "Islamic project" in Lebanon and its close ties to Iran. Assad believed Hezbollah should be dismantled only within the framework of an agreement with Jerusalem in which Israel would return all of the Golan. He thus historically rejected the implementation of UN Resolution 425, which would imply the elimination of Hezbollah's military capabilities and an end to its terrorist activities in Lebanon.

With the death in June of Hafez al-Assad and the UN's acknowledgement of Israeli adherence to Resolution 425, it may be too soon to determine whether and how Syria's Hezbollah strategy will change. Thus while Israel hopes for continued calm on its northern frontier, it is preparing for the possibility of renewed hostilities.

Lisa Armony is the press officer of the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto.

Opinions

Our most precious commodity

On my initial visit to Eretz Yisrael 65 years ago, I learned an important lesson on the very first night I spent there. I wanted to take a bath in my aunt's apartment, but was instructed to put no more than a few inches of water into the tub. I discovered at once that water was one of the country's most precious commodities – and it has remained so ever since.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

No wonder therefore that Syrian access to the Sea of Galilee is something the Israeli government does not want to concede – and not only for reasons of military security. The lake remains essential for Israel's physical survival – even as every human being is dependent on an adequate water supply.

Seventy percent of our physical structure consists of water, and most of us can survive no more than three days without it. Yet – so the *Utne Reader* informs me – the average household, with dishwasher, washing machine and a sprinkler system, uses 1,000 litres of water each day, while hundreds of millions of humans who belong to the poorest segment of their societies spend more for water than for anything else.

No wonder Israel has, for many decades, searched for ways and means not only of saving water but also of producing drinkable water from the sea. Some progress has been made, but not enough to be cost effective.

It is no accident that Jewish tradition places the very word *mayim* in a special category. Its life sustaining capacity is important, not only for our physical, but also for our spiritual survival, for in our tradition we use the words *mayim chayim*, living waters, as a synonym for Torah.

I therefore support the efforts of various Canadian organizations and individuals to remind ourselves that, while we are blessed with the largest sweet water resources on earth, they are not inexhaustible. The time to think about this is now. A booming economy produces some excesses, and waste seems to be an inevitable by-product. That may be all right in some areas, but it is not when it comes to water.

This not only makes good sense; it has a religious implication as well. We are put on earth, not to waste our resources, but to guard them as stewards and to make them available to future generations. Not only humans, but all existence depends on it. Scientific surveys show us that there has been a warming trend around the earth and that all water levels are diminishing by and by.

The Jews have been in the forefront of many activist programs designed to better our society. We can render a most significant service by making water conservation a societal priority on a private as well as public level. This is a truly Jewish thing to do.

What's in a president?

Amnon Danker, one of Israel's most acerbic political commentators, perhaps put it best: "No," he said, "They didn't steal the state away from us. Moshe Katsav's election as president was the symbolic expression of a lengthy process of social and political change that has been underway for years."

The commentary on Katsav's election to the largely ceremonial post has ranged from dismay to elation at the two ends of the Israeli political spectrum. The juxtaposition of Shimon Peres, part of Israel's founding aristocracy, statesman par excellence and Nobel laureate, with Katsav, a populist, observant politician of humble, immigrant origins, spawned strong reactions on the secular left and traditionalist right.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Katsav's victory, or rather Peres' defeat, were the result of political machinations that had more to do with current political developments than the merits of the two men. This is not unusual in presidential elections that are conducted in the Knesset by secret ballot. In this case, it was apparently the Shas vote that swung the result in Katsav's favour. Shas Knesset members voted against Peres and against Barak, with whom they are negotiating their re-entry into the government. This was yet another message to Barak that they cannot be taken for granted (although at this point Barak probably needs no such reminder).

Some would argue that Peres lost because he always does. One of the greatest visionaries in Israel has never been able to win an election. His team of campaign advisers was the same team that led him to the crushing defeat of 1996, and some of them had been at his side in earlier elections – and defeats. Only someone as seasoned as Peres in the art of elegant defeats could have the internal fortitude to bounce right back and say that he never looks back.

Peres' defeat certainly deprived Israel of a unique voice on the international stage in the highest office the country can offer. Of past presidents, only Chaim Herzog enjoyed similar international stature. As Israel's president, Peres would undoubtedly have been welcomed by every world leader, many of whom he already knows well. He would have been a forceful, clarion voice for peace. Domestically, he – like no other – would have called on Israelis to rise to the challenge that peace brings to their identity and history.

But Danker was probably closer to the truth – and he was not alone. A few commentators provided a sober, more balanced perspective. Katsav does, indeed, represent the "new Israel," which carries historic grievances against the founding generation, and is looking for symbolic and real manifestations of its rightful place in the blazing Israeli sun. In turn, the "old elites," who feel overpowered by the traditional, Mizrachi (Sephardi) immigrants and Orthodox communities, have repeatedly reacted extremely and vehemently against what they see as a takeover of their natural turf. As a result, they could not even acknowledge the pride that overflowed in the development town of Kiryat Malachi at the success of its native son. They also could not appreciate the significance of the statement by Knesset speaker Avraham Burg that this election erased the glass wall that had existed between "one of ours" and "one of them."

The position of president is ceremonial and strictly apolitical, especially in the new electoral system that elects the prime minister directly. But each president has made his mark, for better or worse. Most importantly, the president can provide moral leadership in a barren landscape in this respect.

Ezer Weizman, who endeared himself to many with his devotion to bereaved families, and angered many with his "shoot from the hip" style, resigned under a cloud that marred the moral stature of the office.

Moshe Katsav will have the challenge of proving that he is indeed a president for all of Israel's citizens. He may also be better poised than anyone else to take on the monumental task of creating bridges and dialogue in a country that is more divided and fragmented than ever before. In Israel, the "new multiculturalism" has become a poor excuse for polarization, hatred of the "other," and narrow political interests. President Katsav may not be up to the challenge, but I pray that he does not flinch from taking it on.

Hillary, Stock and anti-Semitism

In recent weeks, Jews in the United States and Canada have been wrestling with the possibility that a major political leader might, in some way, be an anti-Semite.

In the United States, the politician was none other than Hillary Clinton. According to a recent tell-all book, in 1974 she called her husband's Arkansas campaign manager a "f…ing Jew bastard." Bill had just lost an election, tempers were very short, and she allegedly snapped. The fact that the campaign manager in fact had only very distant Jewish relatives and was raised as a Baptist, is an amusing sidebar.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

All sorts of FoBs and FoHs (friends of Bill and Hillary) as well as Jewish leaders rallied to her defence. There was a concerted effort to impugn the integrity of the campaign manager and other witnesses. Certainly that kind of ethnic slur is not expected from the hyper-politically correct Hillary.

But for a minute, let us suppose that she said it. We all say things in the heat of the moment. So what? How important is an ethnic slur as an indicator of anti-Semitism? Jews use ethnic slurs about non-Jews all the time. During heated arguments Jews have uttered the term "f…ing goy," I am sure.

Hugo Black was a youthful member of the Ku Klux Klan before he became a liberal Supreme Court justice. Richard Nixon was a consistent verbal anti-Semite, as revealed on the Nixon tapes. But he also was the patron of Henry Kissinger, and had other Jewish advisers. Actions – and recent actions – always speak louder than words. A single epithet blurted in anger does not, in my book, make one a serious anti-Semite. Anti-Semites are people who actually harm Jews or deliberately hurt Jewish interests. Hillary may have many character flaws, but anti-Semitism is not one of them.

Well how about Stockwell Day? At the time of his victory over Preston Manning, newspapers were full of accounts linking him to the phrase, "Jews were the children of the devil," or some version thereof. Well, it turns out he did not actually say that. But parts of an evangelical Christian curriculum used in Alberta schools he directed included, apparently, some sentiments along those lines.

Does that make him an anti-Semite? In a sense, any fundamentalist or evangelical Christian might be considered an anti-Semite. For some of these types of devout Christians, the *only* route to salvation is accepting Jesus Christ. A Nazi war criminal who does so goes to heaven; a Jew, no matter how nice a person, goes to hell – where they hang around with the devil.

People are entitled to their private religious views. What matters in the Day case would be any spillover from those private views into the realm of governance or policy. Certainly there are some who move in rural Alberta evangelical circles whose views on all manner of social issues – à la Keegstra – are unacceptable, and would be harmful if ever turned into law. Day has had very little contact with Jews or other minorities over the past few years. Urban Canada is not rural Alberta.

So Day will be watched closely, and rightly so. But politics makes strange bedfellows. Day supports government funding for religious schools, and a few ultra-Orthodox Jews in Ontario might be prepared to ignore the allegations of anti-Semitism and support the Alliance, to help get funding for Jewish day schools.

The gratifying thing is that there is almost no constituency for political anti-Semitism in Canada or the United States. While polls show that some Canadians – usually in single digits – say they would not vote for Jews, the reality has been different. Jewish politicians like Herb Gray from Windsor or Dave Barrett in British Columbia built successful careers with very few Jewish votes. On the issue of political anti-Semitism, North America is not the Old Country, it is the New World.

Right-wing extremists torn by disunity

Right-wing extremism, with its intimations of xenophobia and racism, is always a cause for concern. But when it asserts itself in a country like Germany, where the Holocaust was conceived and planned, the angst is all the more pronounced.

According to official figures, there are 134 radical right-wing organizations – including 49 neo-Nazi groups – in Germany, with a combined membership is 53,600. However, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, a federal intelligence agency which tracks extremists, believes that 514,000 Germans are sympathetic to extreme far-right causes. Interior Minister Otto Schily said recently that these groups "continue to fight the fundamental values and institutions of our democracy and hence endanger public security in Germany."

Sheldon Kirshner in Germany

The total number of criminal offences inspired by right-wing extremism, including the distribution of anti-Semitic material and the display of Nazi symbols, reached 10,037 in 1999, a decline of nine percent since 1998. Soldiers, mainly recruits, have been among the perpetrators.

Incidents of right-wing extremist violence, which have claimed the lives of more than 100 people since 1990, are usually aimed at visible minorities, primarily asylum seekers and new immigrants. Late last month, nine immigrants, among them six Soviet Jews, were injured when a bomb, believed to have been planted by racists, went off in Dusseldorf. The police are investigating the incident.

This kind of violence, which peaked eight years ago, has fallen considerably since then. In 1992, the ministry of interior recorded 2,277 such incidents, compared to 708 in 1998 and 746 last year. Schily has warned that right-wing extremists are increasingly ready to use violence, but points out that there are no terrorist structures.

Those most likely to resort to violence are the estimated 2,000 neo-Nazis and the 9,000 skinheads. The majority of them are under the age of 20 and live in eastern Germany, wracked by high levels of unemployment, said Cordula Pingel-Kiessling, an official in the Berlin headquarters of the ministry of interior.

Extreme right-wing attitudes are, in part, shaped or reinforced by skinhead rock bands, of which there were 93 in 1999. Yet the Internet is increasingly important in drawing recruits. Extremists currently run 330 home pages on the Net. Heinz Fromm, the president of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, has said that Internet sites have made it easier for racists to disseminate their message.

Neo-Nazis have grown more brazen of late. In January, hundreds marched through Berlin's Brandenburg Gate – a symbol of the new, democratic Germany – in a protest against a plan to build a national Holocaust memorial in the centre of the city. In February, hundreds assembled in Magdeburg's cathedral square chanting "Glory and honour to the Waffen SS."

Pingel-Kiessling distinguishes between neo-Nazis, who wish to build a state modelled on Adolf Hitler's Third Reich, and members of three legal extreme right-wing political parties which contest elections and currently hold seats in four of Germany's 16 states, but none in the federal parliament.

The most successful of them, the Munich-based German People's party (DVU), has a membership of about 17,000 and is led by publisher Gerhard Frey, who has ties with Toronto propagandist Ernst Zundel. Frey's newspaper, the *Deutsche Nationale Zeitung*, has a supposed circulation of 120,000. In April 1998, the DVU captured a seat in Saxony-Anhalt, and in June and September 1999, it won re-election in Bremen and broke through in Brandenburg.

The Republicans, with Rolf Schlierer at the helm, have a seat in Baden-Wurttemburg. The Republicans rose to prominence in 1989, gaining representation in Berlin's city senate and a seat in the European Parliament for its founder, Franz Schonhuber. In 1993, the Republicans won a seat in the state of Hesse. Schlierer, who succeeded Schonhuber in 1994, is a lawyer and a doctor. He denies that he is an extremist. At present, the Republicans have 14,000 members.

Cordula Pingel-Kiessling

The National Democratic party (NDP), with 6,000 members, is under the leadership of Udo Voigt, and is most closely identified with neo-Nazis, observed Pingel-Kiessling. The NDP has organized demonstrations in which neo-Nazis and skinheads accounted for the bulk of the participants. It has yet to win parliamentary representation.

All three of these parties are anti-Semitic, she claimed. The NDP, though, promotes Holocaust denial, a criminal offence in Germany, and wishes to resurrect Germany's pre-1939 borders.

Torn by personal and ideological rivalries, the extreme right is dogged by disunity and lacks a charismatic leader. "Germany has no Le Pen," said Pingel-Kiessling, referring to French right-wing leader Jean-Marie Le Pen. If the DVU, Republicans and NDP unite, they could win more seats in state parliaments, she said.

Since 1992, Germany has banned 12 neo-Nazi organizations, writes Jan Herman Brinks in his newly-published book, *Children of a New Fatherland: Germany's Post-War Right-Wing Politics* (I.B. Tauris). And now there is speculation that the NDP will be banned as well. The government has taken steps to combat extreme right-wingers, but last week Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder promised to adopt further measures.

Hans Mommsen, a retired historian whose speciality is the Nazi period, believes that extreme rightists are "weaker in Germany than in France or Britain. It's not a very significant movement here, and they have no chance to elect representatives to the Bundestag" (the national parliament).

Still, as Berlin Jewish community leader Moishe Waks said, "We have to take these people seriously and punish them very hard."

Anti-Semitism in Germany

Although anti-Semitism is rarely a factor in the daily lives of Jews in Germany, its effects are still devastating. When a synagogue is attacked or a Jewish cemetery is pillaged, horrific images of the Third Reich naturally come to mind. Yet, judging by scientific surveys, Germans are no more anti-Semitic than other Europeans, said Juliane Wetzel, a researcher at the Centre for Research on Anti-Semitism at the Technical University in Berlin.

Juliane Wetzel

The data she has studied suggests that 12 to 14 percent of Germans are anti-Semitic. In a 1999 poll, *Die Woche*, a weekly magazine, claimed that one in five Germans harbour anti-Jewish attitudes.

In the past two years, a series of anti-Semitic incidents have awakened Germans to this perennial problem.

In December 1998, a bomb destroyed the gravestone of Heinz Galinski, the former president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. In April and October 1999, two major Jewish cemeteries in Berlin and Nuremberg were desecrated. Last year, 47 Jewish cemeteries were desecrated, as compared to 40 in 1995. (During the first five years of German reunification from1990 onward, more Jewish cemeteries were vandalized than during the entire Weimar Republic). Last April, in the first incident of its kind in Germany since 1994, a synagogue in the Thuringian city of Erfurt was damaged by a Molotov cocktail.

Four major waves of anti-Semitism have swept over western Germany since the end of World War II, noted Wetzel. The most recent one took place in the wake of reunification; the others in 1959, 1965 and 1983.

Wetzel, 43, claims that older Germans are not more anti-Semitic than younger Germans. But age-old stereotypes about Jews persist, even though most Germans will never meet a Jew, said Annette Haller, managing director of Cologne's Germanica-Judaica, the largest library of its kind in Europe.

"Germans are xenophobic," said Susan Stern, a 56-year-old British writer who has lived in Germany for three decades.

"Jews are still an enigma for Germans," observed Salomon Korn, 56, the president of Frankfurt's Jewish community. "But I have never personally felt anti-Semitism," said Korn, who has just written a book about German-Jewish relations.

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Jewish Life

The Orthodox Jew

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Recently, I have found the news reports from the United States to be somewhat disturbing. Vice-President Al Gore has selected his running-mate for the upcoming presidential election and he selected a Jewish senator.

It was not Gore's choice that disturbed me, it was the way in which I repeatedly heard it announced. Apparently, according to several U.S. radio and television networks, Gore had selected an Orthodox Jew. Upon hearing the news, I was overcome with two distinct emotions: anger and sadness.

My response was not directed at Al Gore, nor at the media, but at the Jewish world of which I find myself a part. I realized that it was not enough to designate Senator Lieberman as a Jew, but that it was important to designate him as an Orthodox Jew.

Somehow the implication was that being Orthodox would have a greater influence on Lieberman's political objectivity than if he were "merely" a Jew. The innuendo was clear that if he were a Conservative or a Reform Jew, the average person might not be as bothered by it; an Orthodox Jew was another matter.

In fact, I wondered if the media would have ascribed a label to him such as "Conservative" or "Reform" or would they merely have mentioned him as a Jew? I found it interesting that none of the reports found it necessary to define what an "Orthodox Jew" was, but immediately commented on its significance.

One commentator went so far as to advise Lieberman that he quickly set aside his Orthodoxy and pronounce a disclaimer – as did John F. Kennedy – and separate his religion from his politics. I took it all in and I became angry.

Then I began to wonder at how much the media take for granted. The media feel that categories of Jews don't need definitions – it is assumed that the average American would understand. There seems to be an accepted notion that being an Orthodox Jew is different than simply being a Jew.

Where did these assumptions come from? How did they become so widespread? These ideas could only come from the Jewish community itself. In that instant, the news media held a mirror up to world Jewry and the reflection was shocking. We have taught the world well. We have told them through our behaviour that there is no longer such a thing as a Jew – now there are categories. We have built internal walls and it is clear that they have become high enough for all to see.

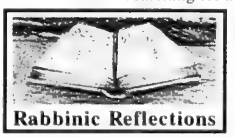
I took it all in and sadness swept over me.

Throughout our literature the rabbis have told us time and again that we are all Jews and if there is a distinction to be made, it must be one based on piety.

Perhaps one day we should change our language and think of people as being righteous or not, regardless of community affiliation. Perhaps it should be today. In the midrashic text, *Sifre*, this thought thunders in its simplicity: "Do not be of many groupings, be of one."

'No name' Judaism

By RABBI ELYSE GOLDSTEIN



I remember when "no name" products began to proliferate in Toronto. I was thrilled. Finally, a challenge to brand-name loyalty! I found it a relief to buy a product based on the content itself, rather than on the company logo. Sometimes I wonder what Judaism would be like if our denominational "brand-name" labels like Reform, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Conservative, came second to the product itself, our Judaism.

It is fashionable to toss around the word "pluralism," to claim that this institution or that one in our community is truly "pluralistic."

True pluralism is not another label; rather, it is the deeply held belief that each of the movements, with all its strengths and weaknesses, plays a valuable role in the ongoing continuity, survival and ultimate creativity of the Jewish people. It is the practice of participating in and learning from the spectrum of ways to be Jewish. It is the stretching of personal comfort zones and communal boundaries to compromise on *all* sides, so that everyone fits under one umbrella while still carrying his or her own umbrella. True pluralism is not easy; it makes you rethink your rules, hold fast to your principles, while searching for a way of being together that honours each individually held ideology.

The most beautiful example I can offer is a U.S. conference I was invited to as a keynote speaker. The theme was "Jewish unity" and a Reform, Orthodox and Conservative rabbi shared the podium for the opening panel. It took place on Shabbat evening, preceded by a Kabalat Shabbat service. Divided by denomination, of course. In a conference on Jewish unity!

The three rabbis held a meeting, and struggled over what it would take to create one joint service. We entered the discussion with a desire to worship together in a way that respected the needs of both the traditional and the liberal participants. For example, we would have to find a balance between separate seating and mixed seating. We agreed upon a service with mixed seating in the middle, separate seating on the two sides, women leading the non-halachic parts of the service and men leading the halachic parts. A compromise for both sides? Yes indeed. A growing, learning experience? Yes indeed.Comfortable for everyone? Of course not.

Nothing that makes you grow, makes you stretch, makes you reach beyond where you are now is ever totally comfortable. But surely Jewish pluralism is *not* a code word for "everyone is invited to come and share in *our* one, right way of doing things."

This is not to say that adherence to a denomination is wrong, or narrow.

Quite the opposite. We need *some* labels or we will be groundless. As Lionel Trilling once wrote, "Some people are so open-minded that their brains fall out." There is a value to having boundaries, ideologies, principles, shared communal expectations. But pluralism is, like no-name products, a challenge to brand-name loyalty, and as such, it forces us to re-evaluate the content of our Judaism, not just its form.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein is the rabbinic director/rosh yeshiva of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto and president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis.

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Jewish Life

Yishar koach

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, another in my occasional salutes to Jewish Web sites that are just a little bit different and don't fall into neat categories. To the people behind them, I wish you a Yishar koach!

Many rabbis share their wisdom at their Web sites. But how many share software? That's what Rabbi Moshe ben Asher has done at the GatherThePeople Web site **[http://www.gatherthepeople.org]**. The rabbi's database is a complete set of database templates for PCs and compatible computers. The rabbi developed them for record-keeping of contacts with congregants, including their births, conversions, b'nai mitzvah, weddings, counselling, sick visits, divorces, funerals, and Yizkor memorial dates. The templates work with Lotus Smartsuite software which must be purchased separately **[http://www.lotus.com/home.nsf/welcome/smartsuite]**. There is a great deal at the Web site including divrei Torah and articles on community building.

There are many fine Web sites that deal with various aspects of life for survivors of the Holocaust and their families. One of the best is If Not Now produced by the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto **[http://baycrest.org/ifnotnow.html]**. Some of the thought-provoking articles include A Holistic Approach in Working with Holocaust Survivors and As Our Parents Age: Thoughts of a Daughter of Survivors. But what I also like about the site is that there is also a place for poetry. In Remembering Sophie, a granddaughter reflects on the memory of a grandmother she last saw 60 years ago – and on what will happen when she is no longer around to carry those memories.

Who needs Sam Spade when you could have Rabbi David Small by your side? Small is the star of the series of detective novels which include *Friday the Rabbi Slept Late* and *Saturday the Rabbi Went Hungry*. He's also one of the heroes of Daphne Schor, creator of the Jewish whodunit Web site **[http://www.jwhodunit.com/]**.

Daphne loves a good murder novel but she loves it even more when the detective is Jewish and the story touches on Jewish food, dress and themes. As she points out in her Web site, "Readers of an Agatha Christie novel ponder the meaning of roast beef and a pot of mustard on the murdered Lady Worthington's breakfast tray. Readers of a Jewish mystery ponder the post-mortem finding of a cheese-steak sandwich in the stomach of a man believed to be an Orthodox rabbi. They're an excellent way to learn about a different world view or to explore one's own culture more deeply."

One of the great things about the Internet is the ability for people with very specific needs and backgrounds to seek each other out and form a community. HUCKids is an e-mail list for "rabbis', cantors' and educators' kids [ages 12 and up] to get to know each other and discuss the needs and issues of being a child of a leader in a Reform congregation." If you are a HUCKid (which I assume stands for Hebrew Union College Kid) then they're waiting to hear from you at the Shamash e-mail list page **[http://shamash.org/listform.html]**.

Tired of chicken? Sick of salmon? Well, there is an alternative according to the folks at KosherBison.com **[http://kosherbison.com/]**.

KosherBison.com is located in South Dakota and is using the Internet to spread the word about its low cholesterol, glatt kosher product. And what to do with your kosher bison once you get it through the door? No problem. The Web site has recipes for Bison Chili, Bison Shoulder Roast and, of course, Bison Cholent. Yishar koach!

***

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway @home.com].

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Understanding God's rationale

In his weekly sermon on Aug. 5, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of Israel's Orthodox Shas party, said that the Jews murdered in the Holocaust were the reincarnated souls of sinners. Following is a response by Rabbi Mikhael Dahan of Montreal to Rabbi Yosef's comments.

Guest Voice

By RABBI MIKHAEL DAHAN

Member of Knesset Tommy Lapid was right in stating that Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's interpretation of the Holocaust in his weekly nationwide radio broadcast "has given support to Hitler's view that the Jews were sinful." I must agree, for once, with Prime Minister Ehud Barak's assertion that these remarks "are liable to harm the memory of those who died."

Many great men have attempted to clarify the mystery of the Holocaust, and after all the answers offered, it remains clear that none of our great Torah sages can stand up and declare: "I know the reason for this tragedy."

Indeed, all of us believe that "God is righteous and just," but understand? – we cannot! Knowledge of Divine rationale is beyond human grasp. Tragedy can be for reasons known to God alone, because it is not always a result of the sins of the people.

Unfortunately, Rabbi Yosef is not the first to suggest that God records the sins of the Jewish nation until they accumulate to such a peak that He unleashes His wrath and punishes them. Although Jews do believe in the concept of reward and punishment, it is not feasible to say that this tragedy occurred "to atone for the misdeeds of the reincarnated sinners," as suggested in the rabbi's sermon.

When considering the annihilation of six million Jews in the most barbaric and cruel fashion possible, it is unthinkable to assume that this destruction came about as punishment for bad conduct. Indeed Satan himself would be unable to devise a list of sins worthy of such an awesome atrocity.

On the contrary, to say anything negative about the six million, after the fact, is blasphemy and a desecration of their souls.

Rabbi Yosef surely knows that since they died for no reason other than simply being Jewish, then according to Jewish law, they are regarded as saints. Our sages say that before entering Paradise all souls must go through a purification process, with the exception of those saints who were killed for the single fact that they were Jews.

Upon reflection, we cannot deny that God did afflict us. To view Jewish history as a chain of chance occurrences is untenable; it flies in the face of rational historic interpretation. Is it mere coincidence that only the Jewish people has been persecuted so unceasingly, and nonetheless has outlived all the peoples that have persecuted it? Yet, no reason exists within the realm of human comprehension beyond the fact that it was a Divine decree.

It is therefore pointless to even begin to look for rational reasons as to why the Holocaust happened, for God's way defies the understanding of humankind, even that of Israel's leading political rabbi.

Rabbi Mikhael Dahan is a professor of religion and humanities at College Marie Victorin in Montreal.

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Greater Toronto Area

The Tobe family reunion organizing committee are, from left, Gittie Naiman Gollish, Marilyn Platnick Glass and Joan Rudson Tobe.

Tobe clan set to hold first reunion

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — There are more than 600 people listed on the Tobe family's Web site.

On the weekend of Aug. 18, some 200 family members from across Canada, the United States, Great Britain and possibly Switzerland will gather in Toronto for the first Tobe Family Reunion.

They are descendants of Moishe David (1835-1895) and Sarah Tobe (1837-1910) of Plonsk, Poland. Moishe and Sarah were married in 1855 and had eight children; one died before the war, four died in the Holocaust.

The family members who left Poland include Dora Tobe Landau, Shlomo Tobe, Arya Leib Tobe, and three children of Mindel who died in the Holocaust. Today, the Tobe family counts seven generations.

Marilyn Platnick Glass, one of the organizers of the reunion says the weekend will begin with a Shabbat dinner and conclude with a Sunday brunch at the Ontario Science Centre. There will be activities for the children, a picnic, entertainment by members of the Tobe family, recording of reminiscences and family pictures.

The North American and British branches of the family were reconnected when cousins, David Tobe of England and Kelly Gollish from Toronto were stationed in London, England, during World War II.

Glass told *The CJN* that the idea of bringing the family together emerged a year ago when Larry Schwartz of Detroit met Gwen Ison of Toronto at a synagogue service in Israel. After a brief conversation, the cousins realized that many in the family did not know each other.

On their return to their homes, they contacted other members of the family, established a Web site at www.tobefamily.com, and formed a planning and organizing committee headed by Glass, Joan Tobe and Gittie Gollish.

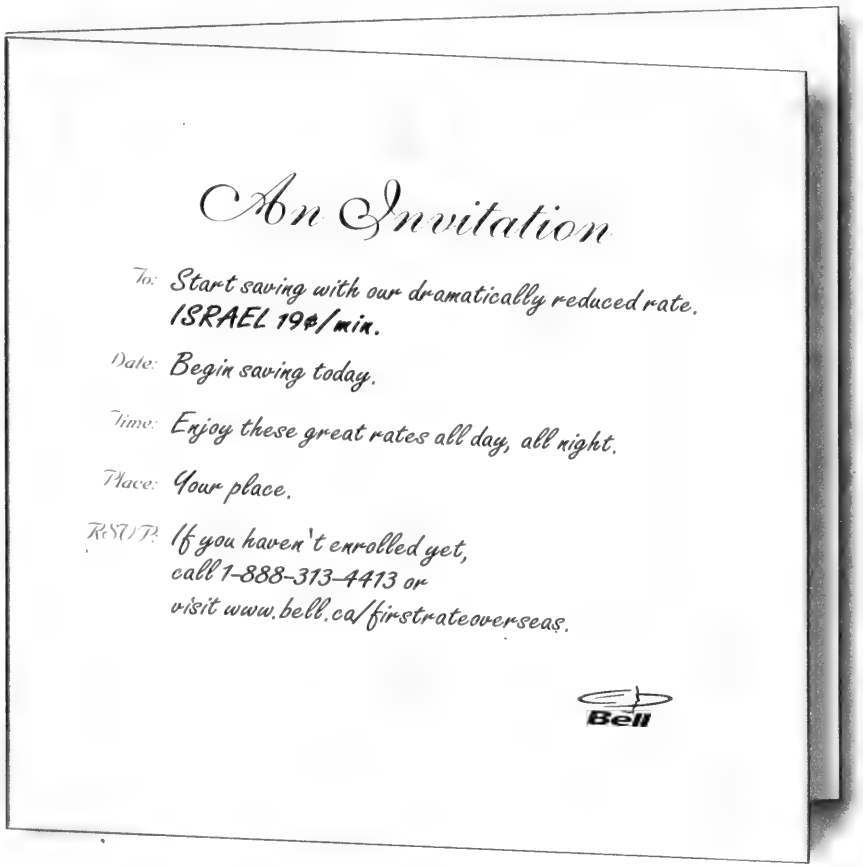
"My grandmother Dora was the first in the family to arrive in Canada just after the turn of the century," Glass says."My grandparents opened a restaurant."

Later came Dora's brother Shlomo and his son Sam, who bought a farm at Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1926. Sam's brother Jack later opened a tree nursery, also in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They were one of three Jewish families residing in the area at that time, Glass says.

The committee located some relatives on the genealogy Web site; others saw ads in the Jewish newspapers in England and Switzerland. The family are looking for Tobe relatives from Plonsk.

Glass notes that the original family name, Taub or Taube was changed to Tobe by an immigration officer.

RICHLER READING: Author Mordecai Richler reads from his works to an audience at a recent cocktail reception for Canadian Friends of Peace Now hosted by artist Charles Pachter at his gallery, the Moose Factory in downtown Toronto. Seen (from left) are Erez Anzel, national co-president CFPN; Richler and Pachter.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Jewish Learning Centre revitalizes its programs

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Jewish Learning Centre has moved to the Jewish Public Library in the Lipa Green building. Rabbi Daniel Bahar, founder of the centre, believes the move will benefit both.

The JLC has a convenient, comfortable base for its social and educational activities, and the library gets more exposure and use, the rabbi explained.

Rabbi Bahar is excited about marking the revitalization of his program with a "Music and Friends Concert," to be held at the Sephardic Kehila Centre on Aug. 19, at 10 p.m.

For a $5 cover charge, young adults can enjoy Ronnie Wiseman, "the king of Jewish reggae," and light refreshments.

Rabbi Daniel Bahar

In a time where, Rabbi Bahar believes, the environment for young people is unhealthy, the former youth director at Shaarei Shomayim and Chabad @ Flamingo wants to create "healthy programming."

"There is not too much being done for kids – that is why they are hanging out in parks," he said.

His intention is to bring Jewish kids together and make being in a Jewish environment fun.

The rabbi is excited about several new programs he has developed. One is beginners Hebrew for junior high and high school students, to be taught by high school kids. Not only will this make the kids more comfortable coming, the rabbi explained, but will help the teachers develop into leaders.

Another program will teach grade 9 and 10 youngsters how to design their own Web site.

Levi Moskoff, age 5, enjoys arts and crafts at the Jewish Learning Centre.

There is also Reading Genius, a multi-media course in speed reading.

He and his wife Esther recently ran an arts and crafts and storytelling afternoon for children from three to six. Volunteer Hadassah Henig read stories on Jewish themes, and then the kids made imaginative crafts about them.

Rabbi Bahar also organizes trips to such places as LaserQuest. In the past, he has taken children fishing and on retreats.

For young adults, he hopes to have a coffee house at his home once a month.

"I try to give the personal touch," he said.

For more information about the concert or the centre, call 416-TAP-JYLC (416-827-5952).

CORRECTION

In the story "Holocaust memoirs published on the Web" (*CJN*, Aug. 10), one of the Internet addresses was incorrect. The addresses are www.concordia.ca/jchair and www.migs.org. We regret the error.

Under the Concordia project, unpublished memoirs of Canadian Holocaust survivors can be submitted to The Editors, CCJS, Department of Religion, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal, Que., H3G 1M8.

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CJC pilot project settles disputes over the phone

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Some disputes within the Jewish community have been settled over the phone.

This has surprised and encouraged Sharon Wolfe, who is chair of the Jewish Mediation Services of Ontario (JMSO), a pilot project of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

"We're successful in bringing the parties to the table 50 percent of the time, but in some of the cases we help the parties solve the matter without going to court or meeting face to face," she said.

If the cases cannot be settled by a face-to-face meeting, they can go on to be heard by a list of qualified mediators. In one year, it has been so successful that the program may be expanded to other regions of Canada, Wolfe said.

If the case goes to mediation, there is a charge of $200 to each party, $150 for a three-hour session with the mediator, and $50 to support the program.

Mediators have been established in other parts of Ontario, but no issues from these areas have yet come forward.

"We don't deal with family matters or divorces, or with halachic issues," said Wolfe.

"We have heard from everyone concerned that they are satisfied with the results," she added.

All aspects of each case are confidential, Wolfe said, and any inquiries should be directed to 416-635-2883, ext. 112.

The JMSO board of directors includes Rabbi Phillip Scheim, Rabbi Moshe Stern, Charles Harnick, Cliff Hendler, Paul Perall, Fred Kaufman, Rose Wolfe and Rhoda Eisenstadt. Ben Zarnett is honorary legal counsel.

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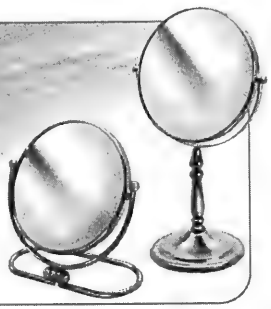

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On Campus

Scholarship winner plans to work with terminal and AIDS patients

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It's a tough job, but Eden Rosen wants to care for patients who are dying of AIDS and other illnesses.

Eden Rosen

The 23-year-old social work student was recently awarded a scholarship that will allow her to do just that during her upcoming second year at Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work in New York.

In an interview at her parents' home during a recent visit to Toronto, Rosen spoke of her gratitude for the scholarship in memory of Peter Krueger, who died of AIDS.

"It really is an honour to be carrying on the name of someone who meant so much to a family. It's something I don't take lightly," she said, referring also to her feelings about the Stephen Cooper memorial scholarship she received last year at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

In a 1999 *CJN* interview, Rosen said she would like to return to Toronto after completing her education, to serve the needs of AIDS patients in the Jewish community.

But in her interview for the scholarship this year, she was initially discouraged from accepting the position (and, in effect, from accepting the scholarship) in the home care hospice program run through the Peter Krueger Centre for Immunological Disorders at Beth Israel Medical Centre. She was told that many students find they can't deal with the placement.

Rosen, however, had the confidence to plead her case, backed by solid volunteer experience in the area and newly acquired skills reflected in her 4.0 grade point average.

As an undergraduate at the University of Western Ontario, she took a thanatology (death and dying) course, and also worked in Toronto as a Jewish Hospice Program volunteer, at two hospital palliative care units, and at a hospice catering to AIDS patients.

"Just because something might be intimidating or sad is no reason for me to shy away from it," she said. "I have the ability to take care of people and deal with the impact of somebody close to me dying, and move on...Although the end result might be traumatic and extremely sad, the work you do to get there is worth it."

This year she expects to provide therapy and comfort to about half a dozen clients and their families, in consultation with their medical professionals.

Despite Rosen's choice to deal with so much pain and sadness, her smile is frequent and sunny, and she practically bubbles with enthusiasm when she talks about her studies.

"I work very hard, but I love it. I love doing the papers. I love working till 1 or 2 [in the morning]."

She also loves the cultural diversity of New York, and the intimacy of the small school, where she has become involved in student government, gotten to know and admire her professors, and spoken to visitors at open houses.

In addition to her course work, Rosen spent part of her first year doing a placement at the Jewish Home and Hospital in the Bronx. There she provided individual counselling and implemented three support groups – two for senior residents losing their vision due to macular degeneration, and one for men dealing with issues such as bereavement and being a caregiver.

This summer, Rosen is an intern at the Office of Domestic Violence Emergency Intervention Services at Human Resources Administration of New York City. She finds she loves the job, her first experience in a non-clinical setting.

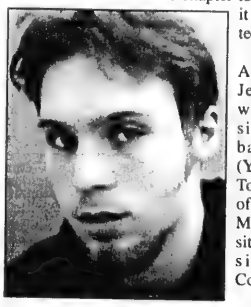
Among other duties, she trains welfare recipients in job-related skills, and is involved in planning a conference on the effects of domestic violence on children.

Because of her wide-ranging experience this year, Rosen has discovered a number of new interests. "There are a lot of things I want to do," she said. "I'm only 23...I think that's an advantage."

Ryerson AEPi chapter in works

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For the past two years, Jack Gryn has been a student at Ryerson Polytechnic University, but a member of Eta Pi, the AEPi fraternity chapter at York University.



Jack Gryn

Now the 20-year-old computer science student is working on starting a chapter at Ryerson. Three of his Ryerson peers are also in the York chapter.

"It's just a matter of getting a few more people and getting things organized," he told *The CJN* recently. To the best of Gryn's knowledge, this would be the first fraternity at Ryerson.

He has identified about a dozen potential members so far, but figures it will be easier to get the project off the ground once classes begin Sept. 5. For the chapter to be viable, he said, it needs 10 committed people.

AEPi is North America's largest Jewish fraternity, with 105 chapters, six of which are based in Canada (York, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, McMaster University and the University of British Columbia.)

Gryn is also serving as president of Ryerson's Jewish Student Association (JSA) for the 2000/2001 year. Whether he would serve as "master" of the new chapter depends on election results once the chapter is formed. It is estimated the school has over 1,000 Jewish students.

He sees AEPi as offering a smaller, more closely knit group, that would work with its counterparts at York and the University of Toronto. Its emphasis would be on social events and philanthropy.

Gryn's goals regarding the JSA include letting more people know the organization exists and that it is there to serve them as a social outlet and to address issues such as exams on Saturday, which have arisen in the past. "People have to know they have a right to choose to write the exams on another day," he said.

To contact Gryn about Ryerson's AEPi or JSA, e-mail jgryn@aepi.dhs.org or jsa@acs.ryerson.ca.

For students on any campus who would like more information about AEPi, register on the Web at www.aepi.dhs.org/rush.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

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פון ש. סימכאָוויטש

דעם 12טן אויגוסט איז געווארן 48 יאָר, זינט דער ברוטאַלער סטאַלידרעשטשיס איז סאָוועט־רוסלאַנד האָט דערמאָרדעט 24 פון די סאַמע בעסטע יידישע שרײַבערס אָן קולטור־טוערס. הונדערטער אַנדערע זינען פאַרשיקט געווארן איך טורמעס און שקלאַפֿן־לאַגערן, וווּ א סך זיינען אומגעקומען. אויך אַזאַ אופן האָבן די קאָמוניסטישע הערשערס געוווכט צו דערשטיקן יעדן אויסדרוק פון יידיש און יידישער קולטור.

נאָך מיט פיר יאָר פריער איז געפאַלן דער ערשטער קרבן פון דעם טייוולאַנישן פֿלאָן. שלמה מיכאָעלס, דער געוויאַלטר קונסטלער און פאָרזיצער פון יידישן אַנטי־פאַשיסטישן קאָמיטעט, איז אויפן באַפעל פון סטאַלינען דערמאָרדעט געווארן איך מינסק. מיט עטלעכע חדשים שפּעטער האָט זיך די מערדערישע האַק אַראָפּגעלאָזט אויפן נאַנצן בונץ פון יידישער קולטור־שאָפֿונג איך סאָוועטן־פאַרבאַנד.

עס האָבן זיך אָנגעהויבן די מאַסן אַרעסטן פון די שרײַבערס און קולטור־טוערס. די נעמען פון די מאָרדערס זינען גוט באַקאַנט און ווערן דערמאָנט ביי די יערלעכע אזכרות פאַר דיערע אומשולדיקע לעבנס. צווישן די אַרעסטירטע איז אויך געווען סאָלאָמאָן לאָזאָווסקי, אַן אַלטער באַלשעוויק און אָנגעזעענער קאָמוניסטישער פירער. זיין „פאַרברעכן" איז באַשטאַנען איך דעם, וואָס ער איז דורך סטאַלינען באַשטימט געווארן צו זיין דער פאַרבינדונג־מענטש צווישן יידישן אנטי־פאַשיסטישן קאָמיטעט און דעם צענטראַל קאָמיטעט פון דער פאַרטיי.

נאָענט צו פיר יאָר זיינען די אַרעסטירטע געהאַלטן געווארן איך טורמע, ווו זיי זיינען ברוטאַל געפּײַניקט געוואָרן. איך 1952 זיינען 25 פון די אַרעסטירטע געשטעלט געווארן פאַר אַ געהיימער פראָצעס, אונטער דער קלאָגע, אַז זיי האָבן אַרגאַניזירט אַ קאָנספּיראַציע צו באַזעצן יידן איך קרים און פאַרוואַנדלען די געגנט איך אַ מלחמה באַזע פאַרן אַמעריקאַנער אימפּעריאַליזם. אויף אָסדער וואַזיניקער באַשולדיקונג זיינען אַלע געפונע געווארן שולדיק, און 24 זיינען פאַרמשפּט געוואָרן צום טויט. די איינציקע, וואָס איז אָנגעקומען מיט אַ שטראָף פון 10 יאָר תפיסה, איז געווען די באַרימטע וויסנשאַפֿטלערין לינע שטערן. זי איז באַפרייט געווארן אין 1956 און איז מיט אַ פאָר יאָר שפּעטער געשטאָרבן.

אַ דאַנק איר זיינען באַקאַנט געווארן דעטאַלן פון פּראָצעס און דער בראָוער האַלטונג פון די באַשולדיקטע, פּונם אַל פּונם מינן טויט. זיי האָבן מיט פאַראַכטונג צוריקגעשלידערט די אויסגעטראַכטע באַשולדיקונגען. אונטער די געענדערטע באַדינגונגען פון „גלאַסנאָסט" און „פּערעסטראָיקאַ" זיינען די סטאַליניסטישע פאַרברעכנס אויפגעדעקט געווארן דורך דער סאָוועטישער קאָמוניסטישער פאַרטיי גופא.

זינט דאָן זיינען אַזוינע 48 יאָר, אַבער דער פונק פון יידיש און יידישער שאַפֿונג איז נישט אויסגעלאָשן געוואָרן. איצט איז דער קאָמוניסטישער רעזשים און דער סאָוועטן־פאַרבאַנד זיך צעפאַלן און אַ גרעסערע פריימיט הערשט איך רוסלאַנד און איך די אַנדערע פריערדיקע סאָוועטישע לענדער. נאָך צענדליקער יאָרן פון פאַלגונג און אונטערדריקונג זיינען אַרגאַניזירט געווארן יידישע קולטורעלע אַרגאַניזאַציעס. וועלכע פון יידישע שרײַבערס, וואָס זיינען געווען באַהאַלטן איך שופלעדער, האָבן דערזען די ליכטיקע שיין. אַ גרעסערע צאָל שרײַבער האָבן עמיגרירט פון דאָרט און איינגעשטעלט נייע היימען איך ישראל און איך אַנדערע מערב לענדער.

דער שאָד־פלעק פון די פאַרבראָכנס, וואָס זיינען באַגאַנגן געווארן קעגן יידיש און יידישער קולטור, וועט קיין מאָל נישט אָפּגעוואַשן ווערן. די יאָרצייט פון 12טן אויגוסט וועט און מח אָפּגעהיטן ווערן פון דור צו דור.

Coast to Coast

Million-dollar estate may be lost to charities over will dispute

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Quebec's auditor-general has agreed to look into the case of a woman who did not sign her will, but allegedly asked for her estate, estimated at $1-million, to be left to the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), as well as two other hospitals.

According to court testimony by JGH social worker Sharon Freedman, Bertha Kellner Stowasser, who died recently at age 79 at the JGH, stated on at least two occasions that her estate should be divided among the NCJW for a planned palliative-care hospice, the JGH, as well as the Montreal Children's Hospital and Shriners' Hospital.

Stowasser, a widow with no known heirs, did not sign the will because her notary, Abraham Polger, decided he could not accept her signature due to her poor health.

The woman's estate is now being held by the Public Curator and will be turned over to the state after 10 years, if no legitimate claims are made on it. Much of her wealth was in properties, which have since been sold by the Public Curator.

While the unsigned will has no legal validity, Ura Greenbaum, the head of the Association pour la Défense des Personnes et Biens sous Curatelle Publique, a private organization that deals with complaints against the Public Curator, wrote to the auditor general and provincial ombudsman, stating that at least part of the estate should go to the charities "on moral and humanitarian grounds."

The charities have also tried to persuade the government that some money should go to their causes.

Gilles Boulianne, attache to Auditor General Guy Breton, wrote back to Greenbaum saying, "We are taking good note of the facts mentioned in your letter, and if observations or recommendations result from our audit work, they will be communicated to the National Assembly through our annual report."

Provincial ombudsman Daniel Jacoby has not replied to Greenbaum's letter.

Freedman testified that Stowasser was deemed mentally competent by JGH doctors after she entered the JGH May 31, 1999. Stowasser complained to hospital staff that she feared two men were taking advantage of her financially.

Freedman advised her to get a notary to help put her assets in order and to draw up a will.

During her first meeting with Polger June 18, 1999, Stowasser named the four charities she wanted as beneficiaries. These wishes were reiterated at a second meeting at her home July 2.

The NCJW project was suggested by Freedman to Stowasser, when she could not think of another charity. The NCJW has been trying to open an AIDS hospice, called Chesed House, for about five years.

She was re-admitted to the JGH shortly thereafter, but improved enough that her discharge was being planned. On July 5, Polger came to the JGH with the will for signing, just as Stowasser's health took a sudden turn for the worse.

Two days earlier, it later came out in court, a man (one of the persons she had claimed took advantage of her financially) came to the JGH with a will naming himself and another man Stowasser's heirs and, according to testimony by Freedman, "forced" her to sign it. Stowasser was legally blind.

Quebec Superior Court Judge Claude Larouche refused to probate this will.

"In every way, Mrs. Stowasser fulfilled the requirements of making a will, except for a technicality, and that is that the notary was too ethical to take her signature because of her state. She had made her intentions very, very clear to the notary before that. I was a witness," Freedman told *The CJN*.

Freedman, who has been a social worker at the JGH for 22 years, said this case dramatically illustrates the necessity of having – well before your health declines – a legal will and a mandate, which names a person who can make health care and financial decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated.

She added it also should remind professionals, as well as the public, to be alert of signs of elder abuse, which can take many forms, besides physical harm.

Greenbaum, who was a lawyer, said the charities may have more than a moral argument.

"Article 48 of the Quebec human rights charter prohibits any form of exploitation of elderly or handicapped persons. The charter overrides the Civil Code, which governs the making of wills. It could be argued that the Public Curator is violating that article by not respecting Mrs. Stowasser's wishes," Greenbaum said.

KlezKanada back for 5th year

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Now in its fifth year, KlezKanada has gained an international reputation among lovers of klezmer music and Yiddish culture, said its founder and chief driving force, Hy Goldman.

Participants this year can expect "a spectacular all-star festival," he said.

"It's a testimony to the continued vitality and creativity of the culture born in eastern Europe."

This year's all-time high registration and the calibre of the faculty make KlezKanada "the premier event of its kind," Goldman said. He devotes much of his time outside of being a physician to the organization of KlezKanada.

This year's version will be held as always at Camp B'nai Brith, 60 miles north of Montreal, from Aug. 23 to 27.

That's five days of music, both in the form of concerts and informal jamming that goes into the wee hours of the morning. There are also lectures and discussions, films, and instrumental workshops.

Close to 400 people from Canada, the United States, Europe and elsewhere have registered. They range from serious musicians to those who simply like to soak up the culture of their forefathers, all the while in a rustic Laurentian setting. All ages show up and there are programs for children and teens.

Participants are housed in accommodations ranging from tents and cabins to the camp's hotel-like retreat centre. The overflow ends up at nearby motels.

Among the names on the faculty this year are: Mina Bern, a legendary Yiddish actress who began her career in pre-war Lodz, Poland and is still performing with the Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre in New York; Brave Old World, an American quartet that gives a modern twist to traditional klezmer; a clarinet team of Kurt Bjorling, German Goldenshteyn, David Krakauer and Merlin Sheperd; violinist Deborah Strauss of the Klezmer Conservatory Band and Chicago Klezmer Ensemble; and Khevrisa, a new klezmer group that plays violin-led instrumentals from 19th-century eastern Europe.

Also present will be Jenny Romaine, who directed, choreographed and performed in *The Memoirs of Glückel Hameln*, a well-received musical production recently staged in New York.

A recurring theme this year will be The Lands of Poland: The Cradle of Yiddishkeit 14th to 20th Century. Michael Steinlauf, a leading authority on Polish Jewry, is one of the guest speakers.

Other session leaders include Manger Prize-winning Yiddish author Chava Rosenfarb; her daughter English professor and writer Goldie Morgenthale.

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What's New

By Rebecca Nadler

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NEWS FLASH ... NEWS FLASH

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Aug. 21, is deadline for Aug. 31 and Monday, Aug. 28, is deadline for Sept. 7. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Aug. 17

NCSY GOLF DAY

Join alumni and friends at the Pheasant Run Golf Club. Great auction! Great food! Shotgun at 1 p.m. For information call 905-761-6279 ext. 32.

HEAR NEILA CARLEBACH

The Riverdale Jewish Community Centre presents an evening with Neila Carlebach, who will discuss Love, Marriage and Listening To The Voice. 179a Danforth Ave., 7-9 p.m. **David Bender** 465-4377.

Friday, Aug. 18

SINGLES SHABBATON

A Shabbat festival hosted by Project Tikkun and Chabad Markham. An exploration of love, marriage and sexuality for graduates and young professionals 23-40, regardless of affiliation. Register, 784-3525.

Saturday, Aug. 19

JEWISH REGGAE CONCERT

The Jewish Youth Learning Centre presents a concert for young adults 18 and over, with **Ronnie Weisman**, king of Jewish reggae, and his band Kedusha, 10 p.m. at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre. Admission $5. Information, 827-5952.

Sunday, Aug. 20

PESACH IN THE SUMMER

Parents and children can enjoy the story, the spirit and the songs of Pesach at the Jewish Discovery Place. Pesach seder at noon, songs 1 p.m., saltwater art 2 p.m. and a trip through the Red Sea 3 p.m. 4588 Bathurst St., admission $2. Call 636-1880, ext. 456.

VEGGIE LUNCH 'N' LEARN

The L'Chaim Vegetarian Group will meet from 12-2:30 p.m. at the Le Commensal vegetarian restaurant 655 Bay St. For information, call **Howard Koch** 633-4076.

Wednesday, Aug. 23

MAGICAL FAMILY BBQ

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel in conjunction with Intersynagogue Singles is hosting a family barbecue at 6 p.m. Children are welcome. Cost $15 prepaid by 1 p.m. Aug. 18, $18 at the door. Children under 16 $5. Call 635-5340.

ROM WALK AND DINNER

Jewish Women International offers a walk through historic Toronto for women 55+. Tour begins at 6 p.m. Following the tour the group will go to dinner. RSVP **Bettie Raibmon** 905-881-4213.

And What Else Is New

SHABBATON

Cutting the Puppet Strings, a Shabbaton for singles and marrieds 23-40 at the Mizrachi Bayit, Aug. 25-26. Topic for weekend is finding spontaneity within Jewish law. Call to register, **Kinneret** 784-3525.

HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM

A panel of professionals will discuss What Health Care Will Be Left For Seniors in 2020 at Terrace Gardens Retirement Residence, Thursday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m. 3705 Bathurst St. 789-7670.

JVS STUDY WORKSHOP

Help your kids begin the new school year with a head start. Students learn skills in note-taking, creative writing, organization, time management and test-taking. Parents learn how to support your child's school success. Grades 6-9. Students, Aug. 28-30, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Parents, Aug. 31, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call **Pat Sinervo**, Jewish Vocational Service, 787-1151 ext. 203.

Continued on page 21

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What's New

Continued from page 20

LEARN HEBREW...

Learn to speak, read and write Hebrew with **Channa Sargon** in courses offered by the Canadian Zionist Federation. Classes begin the week of Sept. 11. For information and registration call 633-3988.

...MORE HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., fall courses for adults, teenagers and preteens in conversational Hebrew for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Tuesday mornings Sept. 12-Dec. 12; Wednesday mornings Sept. 13-Dec. 13; Thursday mornings and evenings Sept. 14-Dec. 14; Friday mornings Sept. 15-Dec. 15. Register now. **Joseph Klinger**. 787-0197.

YIDDISH FOR CHILDREN...

UJA FEDERATION and the committee for Yiddish offer free Yiddish classes for children, Sundays 9:30 a.m. to noon, starting Sept. 17, at Beth Tikvah Synagogue **Naomi** 635-2883, ext. 150.

...YIDDISH FOR ADULTS...

Adath Israel Synagogue has a number of openings in their beginners and intermediate Yiddish classes beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5, and Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Register, **Louis Gula** 495-0919.

...AND YIDDISH AT U OF T

The University of Toronto offers two Yiddish courses this year. Elementary Yiddish, Thursdays 1-4 p.m., Alumni Hall, St. Michaels, Room 302, with **Eleanor Moidel**; and Introduction to Yiddish Literature in Translation, Wednesdays 1-4 p.m., University College, Room 51 with **Sharon Green**. For information, call **Monica** 926-2324 or see www.chass.utoronto.ca/german/.

TORAH STUDY FOR WOMEN

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women classes in Talmud, biblical exegesis, Tanach and Jewish law begins the week of Sept. 11. Courses meet weekly and are offered during the day and evening. Text provided in English and Hebrew. Information and registration, **Susan** 398-1510.

BRIDGING COURSES

The School of Women's Studies, York University offers three non-credit bridging courses for women who want to upgrade their writing and speaking skills and explore the possibility of university study. Courses are offered in various locations around the city in the evening and begin in October. For information, call **Celeta Irvin** 736-2100, ext. 77818.

RIDE FOR DIABETES

A stationary bike-a-thon (bikes provided) or teams of four in Nathan Phillips Square to raise money for juvenile diabetes research. Friday, Sept. 15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For information or to sign up, call 905-944-8700 or visit www.jdfc.ca.

JWI QUEEN CITY REUNION

Queen City chapter, Jewish Women International, formerly B'nai Brith Women, is celebrating its 50th anniversary on Sept. 20. All charter and past members are invited to join in the festivities. For information, call **Mary** 633-6668.

RESOURCE CENTRE

Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. **Bernice Friedman** 905-882-8509.

Jen's Circle/Storytime, songs, stories and rhymes, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to noon and 2:45-3:15 p.m.; knitting club Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.; Jewish arts and crafts Thursdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Shabbat party every Thursday 11:30 a.m. to noon.; sensory play Wednesdays during August.

Join Pencil Fun on Tuesday, Aug. 22. Activities all day.

Meet **Joan** from York Region Early Intervention Services and learn about getting Your Child(ren) Ready For School. Tuesday morning, Aug. 22.

Summer's End (indoor) Picnic Tuesday, Aug. 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-register.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. 638-7800.

Bereavement Group for Younger Persons. A 6-week group for those who recently lost a spouse. Discuss coping with grief, loneliness and changing relationships. Begins Sept.19. **Teena** ext. 212.

Parenting Can Be 1,2,3, Magic, based on Dr. Thomas Phelan's book, beginning Sept. 25, morning and evening at The Promenade. **Teena** ext. 212.

Parenting Your Teenager: Challenges and Rewards. Learn how to keep talking to that stranger in your house, how to set limits and how to identify the line between independence and freedom. Begins Sept. 27. **Teena** ext. 212.

Parenting the ADHD Child, Learn what ADHD is, coping strategies, information about medication and other treatments. Begins Sept. 27. Register early. **Teena** ext. 212.

Jewish Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays monthly meeting is the third Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Next meeting Aug. 21. For information 763-9111.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

FOR SENIORS

The Association of Jewish Seniors' general meeting will take place on Thursday, Aug. 17, at 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. The speaker will be **Julius Ciss**, director of Jews For Judaism, speaking on the topic, Confessions of a Former Jew For Jesus. Everyone is welcome. For information, call **Goldie** 635-2860.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club Aug. 22, *Damn Yankees*, Drayton Festival Theatre. Painting classes every Wednesday 1-3 p.m. **Lena** 785-5773.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. Aug. 17, bingo; Aug. 24, dinner out at Bais Burger, 6 p.m.; Aug. 31 singalong. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Michigan trip to Soaring Eagle Casino Aug. 20-23; line dancing Tuesday mornings during August. 395-7881.

LZA Senior's Club Miami Trip 2001 is now being organized. Dance classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Cultural Club meets Tuesdays 10 a.m. in the board room. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Lodzer Holocaust Congregation is sponsoring a luxury cruise, Visions of The Stars, Jan. 29-Feb. 9, 2001. Price $1435 (US) PP inside cabin, $1590 (US) PP outside cabin. Call **David Rybowski** 636-6665 or synagogue office 636-8861.

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Osteoporosis Support Group Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1:15-2:30 p.m. **Naomi Kirshenbaum** will present Falls: The Problem and Prevention.

Heart Health Series presents **Linda Stewart** discussing heart Attack and Stroke Emergencies: Information, Prevention and Detection. Thursday, Aug. 10. 1-4 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Aug. 22, sing-along; Aug. 29, summer party; Sept. 5, movie; Sept. 12, lecture. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie Sunday, Aug. 20, 2 p.m. *Waking Ned Devine.*

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Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

The Jewish Discovery Place Museum has 10 exciting interactive exhibits for children to enjoy together and something special each day! This week it's Passover in August! For details, call ext. 456.

Limited space for preschool children in Tuesday/Thursday Tic Tac Two, 9:15-11:15 a.m. Judaic programming, music, snack, circle and free play. Parents can exercise while children play. Babysitting available, ext. 248.

Limited nursery space for September-June program. This enriched program includes Hebrew, Judaica, fun centre and music specialities, ext. 248.

Registration for fall programs begins Aug. 20. Registration hotline at ext. 235 till Sept. 1. Sundays 9-3, Monday-Thursday noon-8 p.m. Program books now at centre.

55 Plus Department of Adult Services annual concert Sept. 25 with **Aelita** and Friends, Around the World in 90 Minutes. Tickets on sale now at Information Desk. Reserved seating $12.

CHEQUE FOR BAYCREST: Forest Hill Place Retirement Residence recently presented a cheque to Baycrest Centre to mark the residence's 10th anniversary. From left, Susan Fenwick, president of Baycrest Centre's Women's Auxiliary, receives the donation from Frances Wintrob and Pauline Nelson of Forest Hill Place.

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Coast to Coast

'Everything good is possible'

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

The House of Commons has a smattering of women from all parties. Their presence in the House is not new, but their motivation to engage in politics and the style they bring, in many respects, is very different.

This can be understood best by focusing on Carolyn Bennett.

First elected in 1997, Bennett, a successful physician who served as chair of the medical staff at Women's College Hospital in Toronto, is an MP for the riding of St. Paul's (Rosedale).

What brought her to Ottawa was a desire to help effect social change. She rejects the idea that only someone sitting at the cabinet table can make a difference and has proved it through her indefatigable crusades ever since she arrived in Ottawa.

To give you a sense of the scope of her activity, consider the following accomplishments over the last couple of years: She helped craft a report on natural health products that led to the establishment of a new office and screening process within Health Canada; she was a key drafter of the joint committee report on child custody and access; and she helped prepare a report on the health care, transportation and environmental challenges facing the arctic.

Bennett also championed the original tobacco bill through the House and chaired the Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) committee reporting on persons with disabilities.

In between all of this, Bennett was elected chair of the Women's Caucus and developed a citizen engagement forum that literally set a new standard for participatory politics in the country.

Of note to the Jewish community is that she serves as the chair of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Association and has begun to develop a permanent bilateral forum for the promotion of Canada-Israel relations.

In her spare time, Bennett has written an important volume on the crises in the health care sector, aptly titled *Kill or Cure*?

All of this, of course, is aside from her regular duties on committees and the typical mound of constituency-based work that attaches to any MP.

Most of all, Carolyn Bennett is upbeat and refreshing. From her perspective, everything good is possible. Luckily for us, where Bennett is concerned, it's not only possible...it's probable!

Winnipeg Conservative shuls discuss merger

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Two north Winnipeg Conservative synagogues are engaged in discussions aimed at merging their congregations.

The Beth Israel and Bnay Abraham synagogues have been meeting to explore the possibility of merging and representatives of the two shuls are positive about the results so far.

Positive results to date

In a special letter to congregants, Bnay Abraham president Moish Silver emphasized that the talks at this stage are just that – talks – and that no final decisions will be made without the approval of the synagogue membership. The same sentiment was expressed by Jack Litvak, who is chairing the Beth Israel's exploratory committee on the subject.

In his letter, Silver identified Bnay Abraham's aging, declining membership and financial constraints as the major reasons for merger talks.

There was also a membership survey in which 85 percent of respondents support merger discussions with another synagogue and an increase in the role of women in the service. Currently, the Bnay Abraham has mixed seating but is otherwise a traditional congregation. The Beth Israel is fully egalitarian.

"There are a number of areas where we are in agreement," says Jack Litvak, "but other areas where more negotiation is necessary. We think a good fit is possible though."

One of the issues still to be settled is where the combined congregation will be housed. Litvak comments that at the moment, neither facility is adequate.

If the congregations approve the merger, services will probably be held in the Bnay Abraham building, with an eventual relocation to an expanded Beth Israel.

The Beth Israel was planning a $2 -$3 million expansion last year, but that was based on retaining Rabbi Allan Green whose presence helped boost membership by 50 percent over the past few years. Rabbi Green is leaving the congregation at the end of August to take a position at Winnipeg's south end synagogue, Shaarey Zedek.

Litvak reports that the current aim of the negotiators is to come up with a letter of intent before Yom Tov, for the boards and membership of both congregations to consider.

Coast to Coast

Montreal school vandalized with racist graffiti

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Racist graffiti recently painted on a Laval elementary school have triggered concern that organized racists or neo-Nazis were behind them.

The graffiti, painted on the outside back wall of the Twin Oaks Elementary School in Fabreville, included not only Nazi swastikas and racist slogans such as "Kill Jews," "Heil Hitler," and "Go Home Nigger," but also a number of symbols that organized groups might use.

"We're very concerned that this was not just a random act or an isolated incident by a bunch of kids," said Robert Libman, regional executive director of B'nai Brith Canada. "Based on the level of sophistication of the signs, we don't think it was a group of people out on a one-night binge."

Libman speculated that the school may have been targeted due to its ethnically diverse student population. It was reported that there were similar incidents previously at the school.

"It's one of the most serious incidents I've seen since I've been at B'nai Brith," Libman said.

The symbols painted included the Celtic Cross, a cross inside a circle used by white supremacist groups such as Storm Front.

Another symbol was the number "88" after the word "Genocide." Each eight represents the eighth letter of the alphabet, H, signifying Heil Hitler.

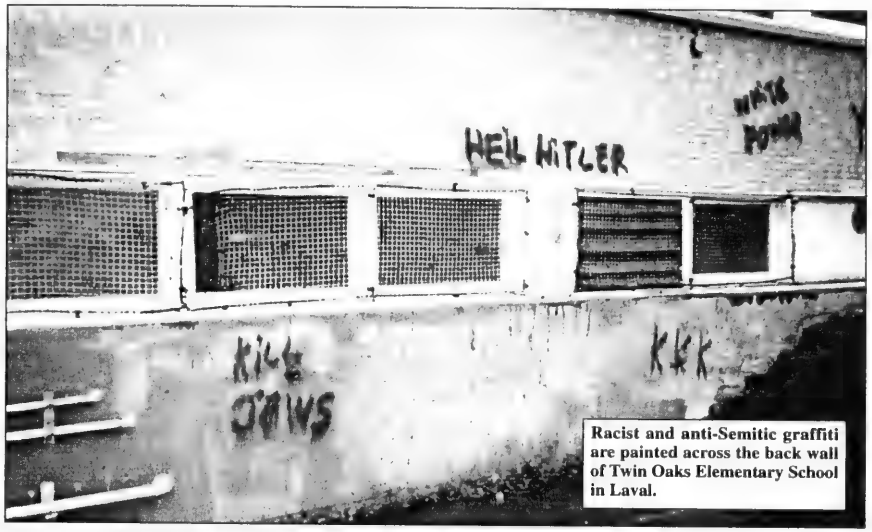
Another was "311." That number signified the 11th letter of the alphabet, K, repeated three times, as in KKK, or Ku Klux Klan.

Libman said one key in determining whether an organized group was behind the incident is if it happens again in the near future or begins to occur on a regular basis. If that is the case, he said, it could suggest a "cell" of racist activity taking root in Fabreville, an area of northern Laval just south of the Milles-îles River.

Laval police were investigating the incident, which also included a school window being broken by a rock.

Libman said the incident will be included in B'nai Brith's annual audit of anti-Semitism.

He said there were 37 incidents reported in Quebec last year, but only "a handful" consisted of daubings.



Racist and anti-Semitic graffiti are painted across the back wall of Twin Oaks Elementary School in Laval.

Board of Winnipeg Vaad Ha'ir approves major changes

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The board of Winnipeg's Vaad Ha'ir overwhelmingly approved major changes to the organization.

Among the motions passed on Thursday, Aug. 3, were the creation of a new designation for its licensees – the new MBK designation is to be phased in over the next year as WK licensees come up for renewal – and the appointment of Orthodox rabbis Avraham Altein, Yaacov Benamou and Moshe Stern to oversee kashrut in Winnipeg.

In introducing the far-reaching changes, Vaad President Don Aronovich reviewed the process that has led to the changes. He recalled that as president of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council four years ago, he had struck a committee charged with reviewing the state of kashrut in Winnipeg.

"The committee's report made it clear that the status quo was not good enough," he said. "The WK symbol is not widely recognized. We felt that we had to deal with the WK hechsher."

For the past few years, Rabbi Peretz Weizman has served as the Rav Hamachshir of the Vaad. For the past year, however, Winnipeg's senior rabbi, retired from the Bnay Abraham Synagogue, has been spending much of his time serving as the rabbi of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

"After five decades of dedicated service, Rabbi Weizman has decided to retire," Aronovich said.

The president reported that he and his executive approached Rabbi Benamou, spiritual leader of the Herzlia Adas Yeshurun Synagogue for input. They have also been looking beyond Winnipeg for advice.

"We have had numerous discussions with Rabbi Reuben Bulka of Ottawa ... as well as COR rabbis ... in Toronto. They insisted that we had to involve as many our community's orthodox rabbis as possible. Rabbis Altein (the Lubavitch rabbi here), Benamou and Stern have agreed to work together for the good of the community. We want to create a high standard of kashrut which will be acceptable to all denominations."

AIDS specialist named research director at JGH

MONTREAL — A renowned AIDS researcher has been appointed director of research at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH).

Mark Wainberg, 55, who has just completed a two-year term as president of the International AIDS Society, succeeds immunologist Dr. Samuel O. Freedman, 72, who has retired after nine years.

"I would like the general Quebec community to recognize and appreciate that the JGH is an integral part of research at McGill University," Wainberg stated.

He added that he is "counting on the hospital board and administration to remain steadfast in their support of JGH academic activities."

Recruiting "best and brightest" clinician-scientists to the JGH's Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research is one of Wainberg's top priorities, and he is committed to enhancing the interaction between clinicians and scientists within the hospital.

Wainberg was most recently scientific director at the JGH. He continues as director of the McGill AIDS Centre, which is based at the JGH.

Wainberg was the first scientist in Canada to work directly on HIV.

He was among the first scientists in the world to identify the problem of HIV drug resistance and played a key role in the discovery of 3TC, a treatment for AIDS.

In July, he was chief organizer of the 13th International AIDS Conference held in South Africa, and will chair the 15th conference in Toronto in 2004.

A professor in the departments of microbiology and immunology, pediatrics and medicine at McGill, Wainberg has authored and co-authored over 300 publications in medical journals.

Freedman, who is credited with developing the Lady Davis into one of the best research institutes in Canada, will remain at the JGH as a senior adviser for academic affairs.

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CJ Seniors

Sunnybrook Hospital Memorial honours RCAF officer

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — I never met Sammy Kwinter, yet I would know him instantly if he were to walk down the street – fair haired, handsome, with a jaunty step, an eye for the girls and the girls eyeing him.

But I will never see him, because he was killed in World War II, and I did not meet his friend Joe – who would become my husband – until after the war.

RCAF Flying Officer Samuel Noah (Zalman) Kwinter was 24 when his plane was shot down over Hungary in 1944 and he was reported missing in action. Six weeks later it was confirmed that five of the eight-man crew including Sammy, had died in the crash. Three bailed out and were taken prisoner.

Sammy lies in the British Commonwealth Cemetery on the outskirts of Buda in Budapest.

Now in the year 2000, his family has presented a particularly meaningful memorial in his name, a heritage showcase for Judaic artifacts, which graces the synagogue at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre. There is a war veterans' wing on the hospital grounds.

Sammy's brother, Moe, and sisters, Frances Grossman and the late Lily Nyman, supported the synagogue previously and this gift is a reflection of their ongoing commitment.

At the dedication, attended by friends and relatives, Rabbi Peretz Weizman affirmed, "In reality, we don't lose people we love. They continue to live in our minds and in our hearts."

He said Sammy's memory and life are ingathered with his people's traditions and principles. "As Jewish life is eternal, so will be his blessed memory."

During a dinner following the dedication, Moe's son, Sandford Noah (Zalman) Kwinter, who is Sammy's namesake, noted that his uncle's crew was given the notoriously hazardous Pathfinder Squad assignment.

"Their task was to fly in ahead of the bombers, light up the target and draw fire," he explained.

Pathfinder pilots had the highest fatality rate in the war.

Sammy's first attachment was to the Royal Air Force and while in London he was "adopted" by Faye and David Cowan who welcomed a number of overseas servicemen at their home in Hendon. Here they could relax on leave and sit down to Friday night dinners. Sammy listed Mrs. Cowan as his next of kin in England.

Much of Sammy's duty involved bombing runs on Romanian oil fields from a base in Sicily. Completing his full tour of duty, on re-enlistment he was offered a less dangerous assignment but declined, determined "to fight and risk all in actively resisting Nazism," maintains his nephew. It was on a return flight from Romania that his plane was shot down over Hungary.

Sammy Kwinter grew up in an apartment over his parents' butcher shop, Naftuly's, at the corner of Spadina and Baldwin. He was a pupil at Orde St. Public School and graduated from Harbord Collegiate.

He delivered kosher meat all over the city from Cabbagetown to North Toronto.

On Sundays, when he had completed the last delivery, he picked up "the boys," his friends from Club Savoy and drove them in his father's big Dodge to Sunnyside Beach, recalls Murray Shapiro.

RCAF Flying Officer Samuel Noah (Zalman) Kwinter

At night they invited themselves to weddings or bar mitzvahs at the Belvin on College Street or one of the numerous shuls in the district.

At weddings, before dancing with any unattached girls they would quickly inquire, "Are you on the bride's or groom's side?" They would then immediately claim the alternate relationship.

On other occasions, they would be invited to girls' homes where they danced to popular records, snuggled a bit if the in-house parents weren't too watchful, filled up on cake and pop and then escorted the girls home.

Sammy played basketball at 44 St. George St., which became a Jewish servicemen's canteen during the war and he also played hockey at Christie Pits.

He loved to dance, and Saul Cantor remembers him at the Seabreeze, Palace Pier, Top Hat, Silver Slipper, just a few of the places where he was well known.

"He was the centre of everything that was going on," Cantor says.

Somehow, through all these years, Sammy has always surfaced in his friends' conversations. Although "the boys" are in their late 70s and early 80s, Sammy is still with them.

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CENTENNIAL MAN: **Sam Rotish, of Walmer Rd., Toronto celebrated his 100th birthday on July 20. Celebrating with him is his wife Ann.**

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See Page 30

Barak shuffles the deck just to stay in the game

By DAVID LANDAU
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

No longer having a majority in the Knesset, Prime Minister Ehud Barak has moved rapidly to shift public attention away from his political weakness to his gritty determination to stay in power.

Barak filled four cabinet positions that had been held by parties that left his coalition, with members of his One Israel Party, and they set about purging officials put in place by the previous ministers.

Analysis

At the same time, government sources intimated that informal talks with the Palestinians are continuing with the intent of resuming the peace negotiations broken off at Camp David last month.

And, in a third step designed to shore up his power — or at least the perception of his power — Barak launched into high-profile discussions with possible new coalition allies.

The purge at the ministries included the peremptory dismissal — it was billed a "resignation" — of the director general of the foreign ministry, Eitan Ben-Tsur, and the recall of Likud-appointed envoys abroad, among them the ambassador to France, former Likud legislator Eliahu Ben-Elissar.

Barak, who took over the Foreign Ministry himself after the resignation last week of David Levy, plans to appoint a professional diplomat and close political confidant, Alon Liel, as director general. Liel served as Israeli ambassador to South Africa during the 1990s.

Levy reacted by claiming that Barak had "lost his senses" and was trying to ram through appointments while he still has power.

But Barak denied that he was "settling the score" with Levy, who resigned amid charges that Barak had conceded too much to the Palestinians at Camp David.

"It is natural for the director general to change when a new minister comes in," Barak said at a briefing. "As for the ambassadors, their contracts were up, and they had known this for a long time."

In the reshuffling of other cabinet assignments, Communications Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer took over the housing portfolio; Finance Minister Avraham Shochat assumed control of the Infrastructure Ministry; Haim Ramon took over the Interior Ministry; and Justice Minister Yossi Beilin assumed the religious affairs portfolio.

These ministries had been held by the three parties — Shas, Yisrael Ba'Aliyah and the National Religious Party — that bolted the governing coalition on the eve of the Camp David summit.

Less money for West Bank settlements

Barak and his team of ministers soon made it clear that there would be a price to be paid for these defections.

After taking over the Housing Ministry, which had been held by Yitzhak Levy of the NRP, Ben-Eliezer vowed there would be far less money for Jewish settlements in the West Bank and much more for Negev development towns.

Beilin ordered the transfer of a key rabbinical department to the Chief Rabbinate. This department, which is responsible for the appointment of hundreds of rabbis around the country, has traditionally been a fertile source of patronage for the political parties that have run the Religious Affairs Ministry — most recently Shas.

Beilin said he would like to dismantle the ministry entirely, subsuming its functions into the Interior Ministry and the local authorities.

For his part, Ramon, stepping into the Interior Ministry, formerly a Yisrael Ba'Aliyah fiefdom, deliberately nurtured expectations that heads would roll.

Barak and his party are determined to create an image of business as usual, despite the premier's perilous condition in the Knesset, where the coalition controls only 42 of the Parliament's 120 seats.

They believe that during the current three-month Knesset recess the premier cannot constitutionally be voted out of office by a no-confidence motion.

They therefore feel that they have a breathing space in which to reassert their control over the country and perhaps rebuild their coalition.

With this in mind, Barak met with Knesset member Roman Bronfman, who last year broke away along with one colleague from Natan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'Aliyah Party to form his own party, Democratic Choice.

The premier also met with Haim Katz, a legislator from the One Nation Party, which also holds two Knesset seats and is also a possible coalition partner.

While the arithmetic still does not add up to a stable legislative majority – unless Shas, with its 17 Knesset seats, returns to the fold – Barak seems anxious to project confidence that he can keep the ship-of-state in motion while diplomatic efforts continue.

This effort to resuscitate the peace process received a boost from Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Touring the Arab world in an effort to garner support following the failed Camp David summit, Arafat said there might be another summit after the Democratic Party convention is held in Los Angeles.

Barak said that it is still too soon to talk about a new summit.

"I have not heard about the convening of a summit, and I doubt that conditions are right for such a summit," Barak said.

Barak described Peres' talks as "informal but important."

For his part, Arafat has ample motivation to move forward with the peace process before the end of the Knesset recess. If Barak fails to shore up his coalition by then, and the opposition manages to get through a no-confidence motion, Arafat may find himself without a peace partner.

(JTA correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

Europe cool to PA unilateral declaration

By AMNON BARZILAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — European leaders have indicated opposition to a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood after meeting separately with acting Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Israeli officials believe that the lack of European enthusiasm for such a declaration has compelled Arafat to abandon plans to declare a Palestinian state on Sept. 13.

In response to these developments, Prime Minister Barak has revised his peace process timetable, targeting the end of September as the deadline for completing talks with the Palestinians.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer voiced opposition to a move to unilateral Palestinian statehood in a phone conversation with Ben-Ami. Fischer said that in light of the progress he believes was made at Camp David, such a PA declaration would not be warranted.

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin told Arafat he should not issue a unilateral declaration.

In a discussion with Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique, Ben-Ami asked Spain to pressure other members of the European Union to avoid expressing support for unilateral Palestinian action. Spain should tell EU members, Ben-Ami said, that such a move would cause irreversible harm to the peace process.

Pique promised Ben-Ami that Spain would work to ensure that the EU coordinates its moves on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process with the United States.

Diplomatic sources said that two conclusions can be drawn from Ben-Ami's talks with European leaders. First, the Europeans are favourably disposed to positions espoused by Barak at Camp David, and admire the prime minister's courage.

Second, in some European countries, leaders are uneasy with Arafat's demand that the Palestinians be given control of Christian holy places in Jerusalem.

Arafat's demand that the international community back the positions taken by the PA at Camp David has stirred little response.

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Joe Lieberman 'grew up' in Stamford synagogue

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Network TV trucks have been driving by the Agudath Sholom Synagogue in a virtual convoy and the phone hasn't stopped ringing, but the congregation in the Stamford, Conn., shul doesn't seem to mind.

They're abuzz at all the attention. One of their members, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, has made history as the first Jew to be nominated as a candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States.

In the wake of Al Gore's selection of Lieberman, an observant Jew, as his running mate, the media have been streaming to the shul to see first hand where the vice-presidential candidate grew up.

Rabbi Mark Dratch, spiritual leader of Agudath Sholom for the past three years, has fielded plenty of phone calls from reporters curious about Lieberman's past. He can only tell them what they have already heard from political friends and foes alike – the candidate is "honest, straightforward… he's responsible."

Rabbi Dratch, who served at Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim synagogue for five years prior to moving to Connecticut, described Lieberman as a man of integrity and courage – someone who was willing to criticize his good friend, Bill Clinton, over the Monica Lewinsky affair and who sent a videotaped acceptance speech to the Democratic convention when nominated as U.S. senator, rather than appear in person and violate the Sabbath.

"That takes a lot of guts," he said.

Lieberman's ties to the synagogue go back three generations. His grandparents were members and so were his parents.

Lieberman's late father owned a liquor store and was involved in the real estate business while his mother Marcia, who is shomer Shabbat, is heavily involved in charitable work.

She still lives near the shul and is "a champion for the cause of senior citizens," Rabbi Dratch said.

"She tells wonderful stories about growing up. Her parents' home was open to strangers passing through town," and she sometimes had to give up her room to make space for visitors. Community service was part of the family ethos, Rabbi Dratch said.

Lieberman attended Jewish afternoon school at the synagogue and remains a member, occasionally attending services on Shabbat and holidays, the rabbi added.

Although Lieberman "was born in this synagogue," the candidate does not spend as much time there as he used to, Rabbi Dratch said.

Most of the time, Lieberman resides in New Haven, Conn., and Washington, D.C.

Over the course of his tenure in Stamford, Rabbi Dratch has discussed various issues with Lieberman and he finds the senator "cerebral and bright."

Lieberman's world view is influenced by his Judaism. "Through learning and consultation, he knows what to do. But he doesn't have a rabbi sitting in the corner, telling him what to do," Rabbi Dratch said.

"In terms of the his stand on issues, there are many different influences, but certainly his Jewishness plays a role. I don't see that he's going to vote due to Jewish criteria."

Rabbi Dratch pointed to several issues where Lieberman diverged from what might have been expected of someone toeing a Jewish line.

"He's against clemency for [convicted spy] Jonathan Pollard, even though that's not popular among many Jews," Rabbi Dratch said.

Lieberman is pro-choice and he's in favour of gay rights, even though the Bible condemns homosexuality.

"The Torah prohibits homosexual behaviour but it doesn't speak to the element of discrimination. That's a political question, not a religious question," Rabbi Dratch said. "Lieberman is not there to legislate Halachah (traditional Jewish law). He's there as an American."

Rabbi Dratch suggested the nomination of Lieberman "speaks of a coming of age in America, of a maturity. But one day it may just be an interesting footnote in his campaign."

The following are statements made by Democratic vice-presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman.

On Israel:

"American policy and Israeli policy has been in the same direction."

"I have got a lot of friends in the Arab-American community."

"I'm a believer in the peace process."

On moving the Israeli Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem:

"I have been a supporter of moving our embassy to Jerusalem. It just seems to me that in every other country in the world, we put our embassy in the city that the country says is its capital.

"The piece of land where – which we already have designated for an American embassy in Jerusalem – it is in a part of Jerusalem that was Israeli back to 1948. So under no settlement would that change."

"Let's wait until the end of year, see where we are, and then, before [President Clinton] leaves office, he will make a decision about moving that embassy."

On his faith and practice:

"I'm not surprised that there's been a lot of focus on my religion now, because we've broken a barrier."

"I believe that my faith is going to strengthen my ability in this next opportunity that I've been fortunate enough to be given – just as it has throughout my life."

"They're going to ask me some very fair questions. You know, 'Will you do your government work on your Sabbath?' Well, of course I will. That's what I've always done. That's my responsibility. That's a value that, in my understanding of my religion, takes precedence over the normal way I observe the Sabbath, as important as my religion is."

"I like to think of myself, as an observant Jew, because it is broader and it's inclusive."

"When it comes to governmental responsibility, I have always felt – and the rabbis have encouraged me in this – and Jewish tradition does – that when you have a responsibility to people that can protect or advance their well-being, or their lives, then you have got to do it. If the Sabbath is about respecting creation and honouring and protecting human life, then how could you let the specific prohibitions of the Sabbath stop you from doing that? So I voted on the Sabbath."

On the role of religion in the campaign:

"I think religion, not through the state but in our country, has always been a great asset."

"I think it [religion] informs and makes us a better country."

On being chosen as a candidate:

"I cannot express with words the gratitude that I feel in my heart today as the first Jewish American to be honoured to be a major party candidate for the vice-presidency of this blessed United States of America of ours!"

"There are some people who might actually call Al's selection of me an act of chutzpah."

"I am so grateful, and it redeems the faith that my parents gave me when they brought me up, which is that you know you don't have to be like everybody else to make it in America. America gains its strength from its diversity, and the American people are fair, and they are tolerant and they will judge you based on who you are and what your qualities are."

On anti-Semitism:

"I'm sure there are some anti-Semites out there. But you know, this people, the American people, are so tolerant, they're so open, I'm just convinced that they're going to vote for me or against me not based on my religion, but based on how they judge me as a person and whether they think I can do this job, and I can't ask any more than that."

Compiled by Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

A Jewish vice-president?

Continued from page 1

Questions were raised about the Massachusetts senator's "dual loyalty" – that as a Catholic, he owed more allegiance to the Vatican than to the United States. Even some liberal Protestant theologians voiced concerns about the lack of independence within the Roman Catholic Church.

In a speech at a Houston hotel in September, Kennedy decided to tackle the issue head-on.

"I believe in a president whose views on religion are his own private affair, neither imposed on him by the nation nor imposed by the nation upon him as a condition to holding that office," Kennedy said.

"I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute," Kennedy said, adding that he opposed public funds for any church or church school.

That speech is credited with having put the issue to rest in the election – although while Kennedy earned 80 percent of the Catholic vote, he received less than one-third of the Protestant vote.

Observers say attitudes have changed in the United States in the past 40 years. Lieberman himself supports school voucher plans that provide government funds to help needy students attend parochial or private schools.

Districts with minuscule Jewish populations have Jewish representatives in Congress.

"There will still be a whispering campaign against Joe Lieberman, and there will still be an anti-Semitic vote," said Allan Lichtman, the chair of the department of history at American University.

But, he added, "those who would not be likely to vote for Joe Lieberman on religious grounds would not be likely to vote for Al Gore anyway."

Gore doesn't need any help with the Jewish vote. Jews overwhelmingly vote Democrat, and the Clinton-Gore administration has been popular with most Jewish voters.

Of course, Gore's selection of an observant Jew could help him among Orthodox Jewish voters, whose views are closer to Republican positions on issues like vouchers and school prayer.

But if it's not clear if Lieberman will help the vice president among Southern conservatives, who are widely considered to be solidly in Bush's camp.

Even among voters unlikely to support the Gore-Lieberman ticket, the moderate Connecticut senator could challenge a lot of pre-existing views about Jews in general – and Orthodox Jews in particular. He's fair-skinned, quiet, not wealthy – and doesn't wear a yarmulke.

"He's going to break a lot of stereotypes," said Rabbi Kurt Stone, whose book about Jewish politicians, *The Congressional Minyan: The Jews of Capitol Hill*, will soon be released.

But whether the stereotypes have broken in enough minds for religion not to come into play in the voting booth remains to be seen.

As Democratic pollster Mark Mellman put it, "We had a test 40 years ago with John F. Kennedy, and we passed. We have a test with Joe Lieberman, and I think the country is going to pass."

President of Maccabi World Union resigns

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Maccabi World Union (MWU) President Ronald Bakalarz has resigned – three years after a bridge disaster at the 1997 Maccabiah Games claimed the lives of four Australian athletes and injured dozens of others.

Bakalarz's resignation followed a series of events that put increasing pressure on the beleaguered international Maccabi movement. In July, a Knesset committee released a report that concluded Bakalarz should step down. Earlier, MWU chair Uzi Netanel resigned his post shortly after an Israeli court found Yoram Eyal guilty of criminal negligence causing death. Eyal was the MWU official who organized the Games' opening ceremonies. Four others – the builders and engineers – were also found guilty of negligence.

Despite his resignation, Bakalarz was defiant, claiming the Knesset report was unfair and that he was being forced to relinquish his post without full justification.

"I have always said that if the time comes that my presidency might negatively impact in any way on our youngsters, I would resign from my office," Bakalarz wrote in his letter of resignation to the members of the MWU executive meeting in New York. Bakalarz had served six years as president.

Bakalarz termed the Knesset report "totally biased and inaccurate." He said he read the report with "great sadness, distress and frustration."

Leaves post three years after '97 bridge disaster

Nevertheless, Bakalarz wrote that he decided to resign "to insure the continuity and success of the 16th Maccabiah Games, as well as participation of Jewish athletes from all over the world."

Maccabi Canada President Roy Salomon, who attended the MWU meeting, called Bakalarz "one of the finest presidents in our history. I believe an injustice has been done."

Salomon, who also serves as co-chair of the North American Confederation of MWU, said Bakalarz's resignation was a selfless act that was done with the best interests of the Maccabi movement in mind. Had he not resigned, there was "the danger that Israel would not participate [in the competitions] and we would not have the backing of the government. That is a serious situation relative to the Games."

The Knesset committee had recommended that if Bakalarz did not resign to demonstrate accountability for the disaster, then Israel should not finance the 2001 Games or take part in any of its public events.

In addition, there was a good chance Maccabi Australia would not send a team to the Games unless he resigned, Salomon added.

Salomon said Maccabi Canada has consistently supported Bakalarz and that many of the public comments about him and the Maccabi movement have been inaccurate.

Referring to the events that followed the bridge collapse, Salomon said both Bakalarz and Netanel visited victims in the hospital and Maccabi officials grieved with those who lost loved ones.

Except for the 1997 disaster, the MWU had "run 14 Maccabiahs without incidence of drugs, with professionalism, without major injuries and without major incidents," Salomon said.

In Israel, meanwhile, MWU chair Oudi Recanati accepted "with sadness and pain my friend Ronald Bakalarz's courageous decision to resign... This is an act of leadership that proves true sacrifice for unity [and] hope for the future."

In Australia however, Colin Elterman, welcomed Bakalarz's resignation. Elterman, whose daughter Sasha was infected with a brain fungus as a result of her plunge into the polluted Yarkon River, said "he resigns ungraciously without making any concessions that his past actions may have been flawed."

Several outstanding issues still needed to be addressed, including assurance that next summer's games will be safe and insurance payments will be made to the victims' families, he added.

Rabbi's remarks based on kabbalist theology

Continued from page 1

His comments immediately drew a barrage of condemnation from a variety of quarters in Israel and the Diaspora. But in Toronto, reaction from some quarters was less critical.

Rabbi David Schochet of the Lubavitch movement said "people apparently didn't understand what he said. Perhaps he shouldn't have spoken above their heads."

Rabbi Schochet, who serves as head of Toronto's Vaad Harabonim, the council of Orthodox rabbis, said the theology behind Rabbi Yosef's remarks was sensitive and complex.

"Essentially, those who died in the Holocaust were pure people, holy people, without sin." But, he continued, "they must have been a reincarnation of people who had sinned at some time.

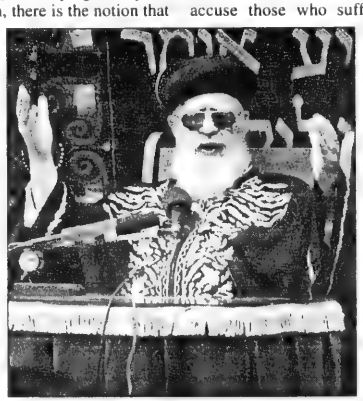
"That doesn't mean it's any excuse for the Nazis, in the same way it wasn't an excuse for Pharaoh for enslaving the Jews."

He said that "if you look at history in general, you see wherever there is assimilation, a calamity happens." Rabbi Schochet pointed to the Jewish experience in medieval Spain and in modern Germany, where assimilation was followed by the murder and expulsion of Jews."It is a pattern in history," he said.

Rabbi Schochet said the Kabbalah – the theology of Jewish mysticism – is too complicated to be discussed in radio broadcasts. Kabbalists believe the souls of people who have died without atoning for their sins return in another life to atone.

A similar reading of Rabbi Yosef's remarks was advanced by the U.S.-based Union for Traditional Judaism (UTJ). In a release, Rabbi Ronald Price, executive vice-president of UTJ and dean of its rabbinical school, said Rabbi Yosef's remarks had been misinterpreted. "His words are based on a sophisticated kabbalistic notion of why suffering comes to good people," he said.

Rabbi Martin Berman of Shaar Shalom Synagogue, a Conservative congregation in Thornhill, said "people have misunderstood what [Rabbi Yosef] was trying to say. In kabbalistic tradition, there is the notion that people may have sinned and not gained full atonement, so to get divine mercy, they suffer punishment to enter the world to come, having atoned for their sins."



Rabbi Ovadia Yosef gives a lecture to supporters at a Jerusalem synagogue. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Rabbi Berman, who said he did not agree with that theological interpretation of the Holocaust, suggested "what Rabbi Yosef said was this is God's mercy. Otherwise, there'd be no atonement and no entry into olam habah [the world to come]."

Rabbi Peretz Weizman of Winnipeg's B'nay Abraham Congregation, was scathing in his condemnation of Rabbi Yosef.

"I see this as a distorted theology," Rabbi Weizman said. "They [Rabbi Yosef and those who agree with his kabbalistic interpretation] are sacrificing six million Jews to justify their distorted, corrupted, unfounded theology about hashgachat prateet [Divine providence for the individual]," said Rabbi Weizman, a survivor of the Lodz ghetto and the Czestochowa concentration camp.

"Since the Holocaust is a denial of their theology, they are sacrificing six million to fit into their theology," he said.

His voice rising in anger, Rabbi Weizman asked of Rabbi Yosef: "Who are you to accuse those who suffered?... Here are people [Holocaust victims] who are called kedoshim [holy] and he [Rabbi Yosef] is making them the worst people possible...What can be a greater chilul, a greater desecration?"

Rabbi Weizman, who lost 80 relatives in the Holocaust, including six brothers and sisters, said Rabbi Yosef's statement would provide "fuel to the anti-Semites... It means Hitler made a mitzvah. [Rabbi Yosef] should ask for forgiveness from the six million martyrs who gave their lives for kiddush HaShem [sanctifying the name of God]," he said.

Rabbi Philip Scheim, spiritual leader at the Conservative Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am synagogue in Toronto, said his initial reaction on hearing Rabbi Yosef's comments were, "he should consider retirement."

Calling Rabbi Yosef's statement a "goof" and "a blunder," Rabbi Scheim said, "Even if that is what he believes, it wasn't necessary for him to make that speech.

"It's very dangerous to try to interpret the Holocaust in terms of biblical theology or medieval theology," he said. He added that this exacerbated tension between Sephardim (Shas is a largely Sephardi movement) and Ashkenazim.

In Montreal, the Communauté Sépharade du Québec (CSQ) dissociated itself from Rabbi Yosef's comments. In a statement, the CSQ said it agreed with Ehud Barak's response to Rabbi Yosef's remarks, saying "they strike a blow at the memory of the victims of the Shoah and the sensibility of their families and of the entire people."

In Israel, Barak said Rabbi Yosef's remarks were not fitting for a rabbi of his standing, while Palestinian spokespersons condemned his remarks as racist.

In a statement, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations said, "Rabbi Yosef's comments on the Holocaust and his suggestion that the victims of the Nazis were the reincarnated souls of Jewish sinners, are nothing less than an unforgivably arrogant blasphemy."

The UAHC, a Reform organization, also called Rabbi Yosef's remarks about Palestinians "outrageous" "abhorrent" and "dangerous."

Ha'aretz reported that Shas spokesman Itzik Sudri said Rabbi Yosef's recent comment on Arabs were taken out of context.

"Snakes are a metaphor," Studri said. "By the same token, the rabbi could have used some other animal, cats or dogs. He wanted to indicate [Arab] slyness and guile."

Fishin' expedition features enormous feast on shore

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

POINTE DU BOIS, Man. — For the past week or so, everything to me has smelled like minnows.

My pants smell like minnows, my car smells like minnows, restaurants smell like minnows, even corporate boardrooms have the unmistakable, though muted, whiff of fish. Those

salty, silvery, previously frozen fishes that come in margarine containers and whose primary purpose in life is to serve as food for bigger fishes, seem to be everywhere.

Along with suntan lotion and barbecue smoke, minnows to me represent the smell of summer – an olfactory sensation that quickly links we city types to the great outdoors.

Recently, four friends and I got to spend two full days sharing a couple of boats with a dozen containers of minnows, on what has turned into a summertime tradition – a fishin' expedition in the wilds of my home province, Manitoba.

Up the Winnipeg River, about a 90 minute drive northeast of the Manitoba capital, behind the hydro-electric dam at Pointe du Bois, another 45 minutes up river by boat, you'll find a scenic and tranquil spot where cell phones don't reach. There, in a bend in the river, sits Pine Island Lodge.

A self-contained assortment of cabins that relies on local generators, the lodge offers a rustic and bare accommodation for dedicated fishermen. Women are scarce at the lodge, though prior to embarking on our trip we contemplated inviting wives along – for about a millisecond. This was to be a time for boys' bonding.

Rooms at the lodge are spare but the kitchen is large, with two fridge/freezer units available to store the daily catch as well as the numerous containers of minnows and worms that will serve as yummy enticements for slow-thinking walleye. Rumour has it that the fish you can't eat for shore lunch end up in the fridge/freezer to be taken home, but that's something I can't speak about from personal experience.

Shore lunch is one of fishing's great traditions, the gauge by which you judge the success of your trip. There's not much that can beat the fun and satisfaction of choosing the right spot to land your boats, to starting a wood fire, to frying up the morning catch, to preparing the fried potatoes and onions that accompany the fish dish, to downing the vodkas and brewskies that helped wash it all down.

For this tender-footed fisherman, shore lunches make or break a fishing trip. A pan full of frying pickerel marks success; a second course of smokies cooking on a grill over the wood fire is not a bad consolation prize.

A rainstorm is the only thing that could dampen the joy of the event, but we enjoyed two days of brilliant sunshine and cobalt-blue skies. Although the morning temperature on day two plummeted to a bone-chilling plus three, the skies held out the promise of a nice day ahead.

At 6 a.m., the two most dedicated fishermen among us motored onto the water for an early morning confrontation with some particularly crafty walleye, while three of us availed ourselves of more sleep followed by a pot of hot coffee and some bagels.

For their trouble, our fishing fanatics managed to bag one particularly unlucky fish, giving us a good head start en route to shore lunch.

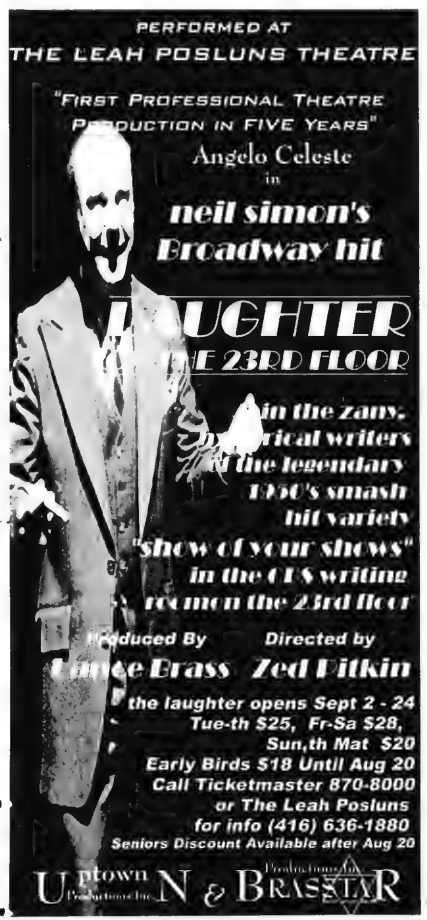
As the morning progressed and the temperature rose, we loaded our three-seater boats (powered by 15-horsepower Mercs) with all the necessary equipment – vodka, beer, tonic water, sunflower seeds, smokies, potatoes, chips and, oh yes, rods and reels.

Fisherman extraordinaire Mark Newman shows off a walleye, a good eatin' fish that makes for a lip-smacking shore lunch. [Paul Lungen photos]

Once out on the water, the minnows were put to good use. Walleye, a.k.a. pickerel, like to feed near the bottom and so to get them, you generally must use a jig. A jig is a round metal ball with a hook at one end (that's where the minnows come in) that drops to the bottom and offers the walleye what appears to be a free lunch. But as we know in life, there is no free lunch, unless you're fishing with us city boys.

Many was the time that some smart-alecky walleye or pike or sauger or bass, nibbled bait off the line, or grabbed it and gave us a good tussle, only to escape at the last minute. But those fish were a good 5 lbs. if not more, so it's no surprise they got away. That's our story and we're sticking to it.

In the end, we managed to catch enough good eatin' fish to enjoy a fine shore lunch. But as one wag calculated, if you compare the price of the trip to the number of fish we caught, those pickerel ran us about $200 a pound. And that's not including minnows.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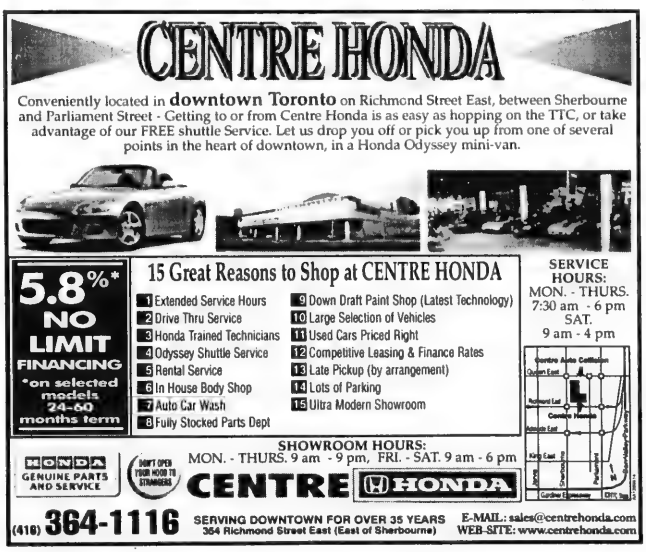
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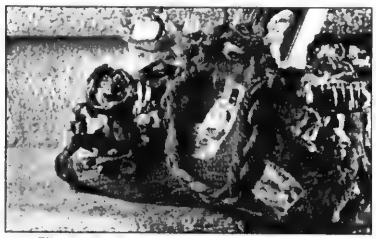
Arts & Travel

Artist's infuses work with her soul

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Moroccan-born sculptor/painter Lynda Herskovits draws on a powerful spiritual core as she infuses her work with her Jewish heart and soul.In her home, paintings and sculptures in clay and wood, overflow from room to room.

The Wandering Jew is a poignant piece. A battered suitcase covered with stamps from many countries captures the plight of the Jew in exile, "always ready to go." A fiddler perches with his instrument and a man carries the five scrolls of the Torah. An old woman leaning against the suitcase holds two lit candles. Everything is portable.



The Wandering Jew is a poignant piece.

The style is basically primitive, yet there is detail and perception.

Art was not always central in Herskovits' life. After earning a BA in French and Spanish at York University, she travelled the world both independently and as a representative for Seiko watches, but she was always searching for something more meaningful.

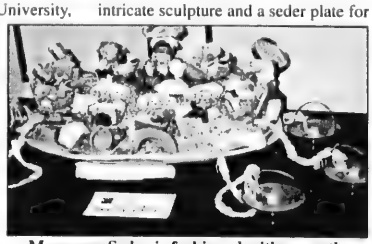
Some years ago, Herskovits' brother, Aaron, a chassidic rabbi who teaches at Montreal's Hebrew Academy, took her to visit a chassidic community outside Outremont, presided over by the revered Rabbi Loewe. Facing the rabbi's piercing eyes, she was transfixed, feeling that in some mysterious way, she had been blessed.

But it wasn't until years later when she was pregnant with her second child, that the obsession with art erupted.

"Suddenly, without any training, with no experience, I knew that I could sculpt," she says. "It was just there!"

Energetic and prolific, she is constantly exploring new thought and technique.

Reflective of Herskovits' birthplace is *Moroccan Seder*. Fashioned with warmth and affection. it is both an intricate sculpture and a seder plate for actual use, commemorating local Pesach customs. According to tradition, the oldest man or woman present is given the honour of starting the seder with a prayer for freedom



Moroccan Seder is fashioned with warmth.

A deepening affinity for religion has prompted her to tell her brother, "What you do in your way, I do in mine, through my art. This is my prayer."

In preparation for her older son's forthcoming bar mitzvah, Herskovits has hand sculpted 22 bar mitzvah youths as table centrepieces. Each wears a kippah and holds a dove for peace and a Torah. She has also designed the invitations.

Actress meets her idols during TV shoot

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Some of Tali Lewin's friends were even more excited than she was over her latest acting job. The 12-year-old will soon be seen across Canada and the United States in a Burger King commercial with the Backstreet Boys.

Tali Lewin

"It was pretty exciting and amazing. Basically, it was just really fun," Lewin said in an interview at the office of her agent, Shari Quallenberg, of Talent Vision.

The commercial, shot at a Toronto Burger King, features four youngsters, two boys and two girls. There will be four 30-second spots, and two scenes were shot with Lewin.

Lewin is the girl who exclaims, "There they are!" when the five heartthrobs enter the fast food restaurant.

"I'd never seen them perform, so this was really exciting," said Lewin.

But while other young fans were swarming the set – hoping for at least a glimpse of A.J. McLean, Brian Littrell, Howie Dorough, Kevin Richardson and Nick Carter – Lewin and the other three young actors were ensconced in their own trailer, near the five trailers that each housed a Backstreet Boy. Entry to the area was restricted, Lewin recalled.

The young actors met Richardson and McLean, Lewin's new favourite. "We said we're going to be in the commercial, and A.J. said, 'Cool.' He was really nice to us."

A big smile lit up Lewin's face as she recalled her reaction when it was confirmed she'd actually be working with the Backstreet Boys. "I was like, 'Oh my God!' I was so excited."

Over the past few years, Lewin has appeared in almost a dozen commercials. A member of the children's theatre troupe CharActors, where she appeared as Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls* at the Yorkwoods theatre, Lewin got her showbiz start at age nine in the cast and chorus of *Show Boat*, at the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts (now Toronto Centre for the Arts).

Prior to that, she had studied dance for five years. She still takes tap, jazz, ballet and acro.

Her musical ability likely comes from her father Mickey, a singer and bandleader.

A student at a local arts school, she is also taking part in a musical theatre program at day camp this summer.

Eventually, she'd like to have a performing career as an adult. "I really like to sing and dance and perform."

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ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

1 A	2 D	3 A	4 M	■	■	5 G	6 U	7 S	■	8 B	9 E	10 S	11 T	12 S
13 L	O	L	A	■	14 G	U	S	H	■	15 U	S	H	E	R
16 A	N	D	I	■	17 E	L	S	E	■	18 S	T	U	N	S
■	19 S	A	L	20 L	Y	P	R	I	21 E	S	A	N	D	■
■	■	22 E	O	S	■	■	■	23 L	E	T	■	■	■	■
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35 S	A	L	36 E	■	37 S	E	L	38 M	39 A	■	40 D	U	E	S
41 K	N	E	A	42 D	■	■	43 L	E	N	44 T	■	45 D	A	Y
46 S	A	M	U	E	47 L	48 H	O	L	D	H	49 E	I	M	■
■	■	■	■	50 M	A	E	■	■	51 R	A	N	■	■	■
■	52 A	53 B	54 R	A	H	A	55 M	56 G	E	I	G	57 E	58 R	■
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66 B	A	N	D	S	■	67 N	O	S	■	■	68 S	E	E	M

SHOLEM ASCH RECONSIDERED

Peter and **Sylvia Lustgarten**, and **Ben** and **Anne Marmur**, all of Toronto, were among a handful of Canadian participants at a scholarly conference on the influential Yiddish author **Sholem Asch**, which took place several months ago at Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

Asch was born in Kutno, Poland, in 1880 and died in London, England in 1957. Beginning in 1904, he published many novels dealing with Jewish life from the then contemporary shtetl to historic epochs such as the time of the Chm'nielsky massacres. He wrote mostly in Yiddish, but nearly all of his works have been translated into English.

His novels appeared in regular instalments in the Yiddish-language *Forward* until he presented that important New York daily with the first of three books about the founders of Christianity. Though the trilogy was well-received by the wider literary community, most Jewish critics took the *Forward's* lead and attacked Asch as a heretic.

"In my opinion, he was a flawed genius," says Sylvia Lustgarten, former director of the UJA Federation's Committee for Yiddish. "When you read Sholem Aleichem, every sentence is brilliant. But Sholem Asch, although he was a fabulous writer with great imagination, was given to excess.

"The conference was an attempt to reconsider Asch's literary reputation. Somehow, he has fallen in people's esteem. The Jewish community couldn't understand why he was writing about Christianity."

Lustgarten is an enthusiastic member of several local Yiddish reading groups, including one that she founded in the Eglinton-Bathurst area. For details, call 416-787-6548.

For conference details, visit the Web site www.library.yale.edu/judaica/asch/

* * *

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

Awards for NFB: *Village of Idiots*, a short film based on a Jewish folk tale, is one of two animated shorts produced by the National Film Board of Canada that were honoured recently at the International Animated Film Festival in Annecy, France.

Directed by Oscar-winner **Eugene Fedorenko** and **Rose Newlove**, *Village of Idiots* "offers a very funny take at the human tendency to romanticize what we don't have." The Toronto Jewish Film Fest screened the film last May.

The NFB's other award-winner is *The Hat/Le Chapeau*, directed by **Michele Cournoyer**. Eye on Arts is glad to see that this historic Canadian institution is upholding its longstanding reputation for excellence.

* * *

Posthumous Collection: Matt Cohen's last novel, *Elizabeth and After*, won a Governor General's award in late 1999, which the author accepted in Ottawa. Several weeks later, he died at his home in Toronto.

Knopf Canada recently published *Getting Lucky*, a collection of 10 stories by the late author. The hardcover is available in bookstores for $32.95.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Words, Words, Words, an exhibition of woodblock prints and collages by **Eugenia (Genia) Weinerek**, is on view at the Yorkville Public Library, 22 Yorkville Ave., now thru Aug. 31. 416-512-9167.

• Works on Paper, a variety of "very strong" watercolours by artist-poet **Lorraine Kerzner**, are on view at the Toronto School of Art, 410 Adelaide St. W., Aug. 24 thru Sept. 6. Opening reception, Thurs. Aug. 24, 4 to 9 p.m. 416-707-7743.

Works Thus Far, a solo show by Ilya Gefter.

• Works Thus Far, a solo show by **Ilya Gefter**, is on view now to Sept. 3. Veni Vidi, 170 Queen St., Port Perry, Ont. 905-985-8775. www. dti-web.com/venividi.

• Pieces competing in the Toronto Potters' 10th biennial juried exhibition, and some past winners, are on view at the John B. Aird Gallery, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay St. at Wellesley. Aug. 29 thru Sept. 23. 416-699-1257.

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Lonely Planet Middle East travel guides

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Middle East is a fascinating destination, brimming with awesome ancient ruins, colourful and aromatic outdoor markets and scenic vistas.

If you're heading for the Mideast, pick up one of its Lonely Planet guides, distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books.

Middle East, bulging with 912 pages, entries on 16 countries ranging from Israel to Libya and a profusion of maps and colour photographs, is an excellent source, comprehensive yet concise.

Istanbul to Cairo on a Shoestring deftly explores six Middle Eastern nations from Egypt to Turkey, and the journey is never less than revealing and enjoyable.

Egypt, an atlas leavened by highlights of its main attractions, is practical and useful.

Syria delves into the country's Roman ruins, Crusader castles, colourful souks and bustling towns and cities.

Dubai describes a country that was once a backwater but that is now a commercial hub and a shoppers' paradise.

If your Hebrew is rusty, don't forget to bring along *Hebrew Phrasebook* when you go to Israel.

For some 40 days and nights in the winter of 1999, three Canadians and their three Omani Bedu guides trudged through the wastes of the Empty Quarter – the world's largest sand desert – by camel. Their 1,200-kilometre trip, inspired by Wilfred Thesiger's epic 1947 crossing of this remote and dangerous wilderness, comes vividly alive in *Sand Dance* (McClelland & Stewart), written by Bruce Kirkby, one of the intrepid participants.

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Arts & Travel

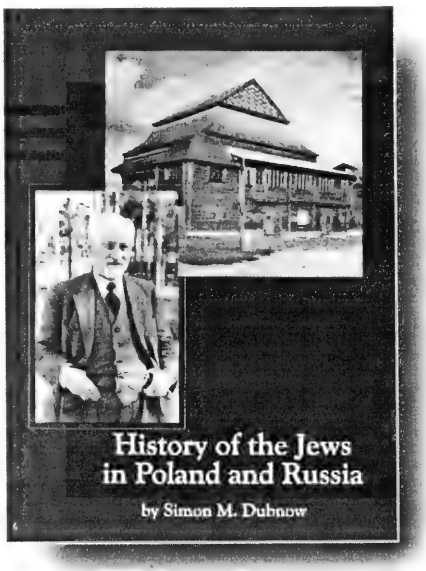
Classic Russian-Jewish history book reissued

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Born in Belarussia, and later a resident of St. Petersburg, Odessa, Kovno and Riga, Simon Dubnow (1860-1941) published his first essay about the Jews of Russia in 1880, and understood at a relatively early age that the subject would remain of particular significance to him.

He wrote in his diary in 1892, "My life's task has become clear to me: to spread historical science and work especially on the history of Russian Jews. I have become a missionary of history."

By that time, he well understood that his self-declared task was too big for one man. That is why, the previous year, he had galvanized the intellectual community with a broad public appeal for assistance in collecting and preserving source material related to the history of the Jews in Russia.



Written specifically for the Jewish Publication Society of America, Dubnow's *History of the Jews of Poland and Russia* appeared in English translation in three volumes between 1916 and 1920. There were several reprints throughout the century, the most recent being a re-issue by Ktav in 1975.

Now, Avotaynu Inc., the New Jersey-based Jewish genealogical printing house, has presented the latest incarnation of Dubnow's classic in a large, single volume of 600 pages.

Dr. Israel Friedlander's original translation has been reset and enhanced with a more thorough index; without, however, any new maps, illustrations or photographs to illuminate the text.

Dubnow's masterful study opens with early Jewish settlements on the shores of the Black Sea, and continues by methodical chapters to the agitations, disabilities and pogroms that sparked the waves of mass exodus of the late 19th century. His special talent apparently lay in crafting a grand intellectual synthesis without neglecting the small, telling details, which he presents in their full colour. The flavour of original sources is evident on almost every page.

Reviewers have lauded Dubnow for his brilliant writing style, his clear language, his objective yet sympathetic approach to the Jewish people, and his wide-ranging, sociological view of history, not favouring economic, religious or any other aspect above another.

While some reviewers have noted Dubnow's tendency to "compartmentalize" the Jews of Russia, as if the rest of the world didn't exist, this criticism seems contrary to his own theory of Jewish history.

He had become convinced of the unity of the Jewish people, despite the seeming discontinuities of isolated regional Jewish populations.

The diaspora "was not only a possibility but a necessity," he once wrote. "A people small in number but great in quality, situated on the crossroads of the giant nations of Asia and Africa, could not preserve both its state and its nationality, and had perforce to break the barrel in order to preserve the wine – this was the great miracle of mankind."

It is particularly gratifying that Avotaynu has brought out this fresh edition, considering that the Nazis seemed bent on destroying Dubnow and everything he represented. The author was murdered by a Gestapo agent in Riga in 1941; according to the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, his killer had been a former student of his.

Afterwards, the Nazis burned the third volume of his autobiography in its entirety – every last copy, it seems, but one. It turned up in 1956, allowing a complete edition of the autobiography to roll off the press the following year.

History of the Jews in Poland and Russia costs $69.50 (US) and should be available in Jewish bookstores in Canada.

To order by mail, visit Avotaynu's Web site [www.avotaynu.com].

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Computers improve quality of life for the disabled

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Computers are miraculous devices. You can use them to write letters, track your finances, design posters, play games and surf the Internet. And that's just for starters.

There's no end to the type of work and leisure activities you can do on a computer – unless you're not physically able to use a keyboard or handle a mouse. Then it becomes just another frustrating and inaccessible high-tech gizmo that other people use.

ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) patients, quadriplegics and those suffering from multiple sclerosis are among those who lack the motor skills to interface easily with computers. But over the past six years, a clinic in Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre has addressed that problem.

The Assistive Technology Clinic (ASC), located in Sunnybrook's Centre for Independent Living (SCIL), provides the physically disabled with the tools they need to use computers productively.

Headed by Pearl Gryfe, ASC's clinical and managing director, the clinic includes a team of 11 full-time and part-time therapists and computer specialists.

The clinic, which treats 400 to 500 patients a year, operates on a $500,000 budget, financed by donations and matching funds from the Ministry of Health. About half of its clients suffer from ALS (Lou Gherig's disease), 40 percent from multiple sclerosis and the rest have a variety of ills, Gryfe said.

The clinic's goal is to help clients improve their quality of life and give them some functional independence. Some even return to work as a result of the computer interfaces developed for them, she said.

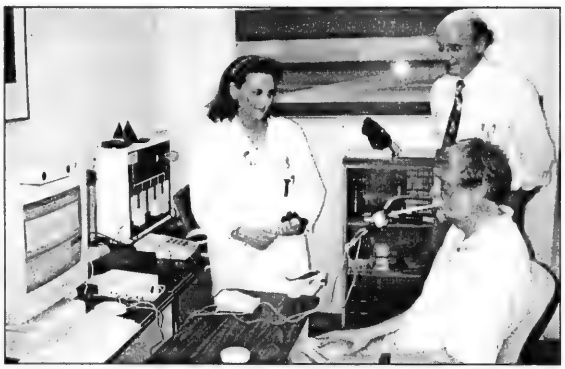
ALS affects the central nervous system, "rendering victims unable to move, to speak and unable to eat or breath except through artificial means." Though the body has withered, patients' minds are still sharp.

"They're a brain trapped inside their bodies," Gryfe explained.

Employing a team approach to treatment, the clinic's occupational and physical therapists assess each client and technologists design suitable interfaces.

"We match the technology with the pathology," Gryfe said. "We assess the client physically to see how they can access the computer … and the technicians work the magic."

Gord Laiken has been with the clinic for five years and is second only to Gryfe in seniority. A computer expert who worked for many years as a mainframes systems programmer for an insurance company, he was intrigued by the prospect of helping disabled people use computers.



John Hogerwaard (seated), environmental control specialist at the clinic, demonstrates use of a puffer to control the computer, while Pearl Gryfe and Gord Laiken look on. [Paul Lungen photo]

Laiken scours the computer world for innovative technologies and he provides each with the appropriate interface.

"We keep track of the technology available, see what's already been used… We add on to PCs (personal computers) with specialized hardware and software," he said.

"There's a list of computer products that can be used as an alternative to a mouse. It's like going to a custom tailor."

Some accessibility options are already bundled with Microsoft's operating system (large print, "sticky" mouse), but Laiken is able to design interfaces for people who are profoundly disabled. Their only motor skill may be the ability to move their head, or twitch their cheek muscles, or puff into a straw-like device, or simply blink their eyes.

With proper design, almost any bodily movement can be used to trigger a switch that operates a cursor on the computer screen.

The clinic employs some of the most advanced technology available, Laiken said. One interface, developed by the military, involves using monitors to measure eye movements, muscle activity and brain waves. Called Brain Interface Technology, the clinic has tried to adapt it "but it doesn't work that well," Laiken said.

Gryfe developed the idea behind the clinic years ago when, working as an occupational therapist, she operated a wheelchair clinic at the hospital.

Hoping to make patients more mobile, she contacted IBM, Apple Computer and other high-tech companies for assistance in developing devices that could be adapted for wheelchairs. At the time, the seating clinic treated about 10 -20 ALS patients but it was enough to get noticed by SCIL management, which asked her to set up a special clinic.

One of the new clinic's first patients was an employee of drug manufacturer Apotex. Along with the Samuel Lunenfeld Charitable Foundation, Apotex subsequently provided funding for the clinic.

Today, the clinic receives financial support from the ALS Society of Metro Toronto and Area; the ALS Society of Ontario; the Sunnybrook Foundation; the Ontario Ministry of Health; and Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre.

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Primary teaching position available. 4 afternoons per week. Experience and references req'd. **Bathurst/Wilson area. Fax Resume to: 416-789-7730.**

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Exp. Nanny req'd for 2 kids. Bathurst & Lawrence. Ref's. Call after 5 p.m. 785-8968.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Bringing People Together. It only takes one match to light a fire. Call Ruth **905-731-5204.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

David & Sylvia Morris of Toronto and **Ben & Veronica Selinger** of Australia are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, **Samantha & Michael.** A summer wedding in Australia is planned for December, 2001.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to my wonderful Zivug, Joanna. These have been the best 3 years of my life. **All my love, Michael**

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

• CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.

Early 40's widow w/ 19 yr. old son, slightly physically challenged would like to find male companionship, 43-50, Young Israel, Modern Orthodox background. CJN Box # 7299.

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
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North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cohen/Solnick. Melanie and Brian are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child. Madelyn Beth. Born Aug. 3rd 2000. Delighted grandparents are Lola and Syndey Solnick and Shane And Morty Cohen and greatgrand bubby Rose Pollack.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Chat books. Grade 9. Perfect condition. (905) 764-0118.

Dining set, 6 chairs, table, hutch. $2000. 905-889-3116.

Mahzors for sale; Sephardic Adler Mahzors, 31, 2 vol. each. Birnbaum Sephardic Mahzors, 100 Rosh Hashana, 19 Yom Kippur. Contact First Narayever, R. Landau, 416-968-2876.

N & N Antique & Fine Art Gallery. Bath./Drewry area. Purchase/sale/consignment of fine paintings & art works. Sculpture, bronze, vases & silverware. Estate & entire contents. Free est. Call 416-227-2614.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Used SUKKAH in good condition wanted. 905-764-5926.

330 OBITUARIES

RUBIN, RALPH - age 97, of Scottsdale, Arizona, died August 6th. Beloved husband of the late Frances Rubin. Dear father of Irving (Dianne) Rubin and Donald (Linda) Rubin. Grandfather of Aaron Rubin, Alissa (Jim) Cohen, Judith (Boaz) Rubin, Kate Rubin, Marc (Suzanne) Rubin, Miriam (David Lesako) Rubin and Roseanne (Rudy) Simons. Great grandfather of Asher Cohen, Eli Simons, Nathan Rubin. He celebrated 70 years of marriage and at age 93 he was re-Bar Mitzvahed on the 80th anniversary of his original Bar Mitzvah. Contributions may be made to Aventura-Turnberry Jewish Center in Aventura, Fla. or the Jewish charity of donor's choice. Services were held Wednesday, Aug. 9 at the Clover Hill Cemetery in Birmingham, Michigan. Arrangements by THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL, 248-569-0020.

Service Directory and Classified Advertising deadlines are 8 days prior to the issue date, by 4pm. Early deadlines are possible due to holidays and office closings.

Israel & the Jewish World

Lieberman's wife child of survivors

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Minutes after the official announcement that her husband would be the first Jewish vice-presidential candidate on a major ticket, Hadassah Lieberman stepped on the national stage.

"Here I am the daughter of survivors from the Holocaust, the most horrendous thing that happened," she said last Tuesday, standing with Democratic presidential candidate Al and Tipper Gore, and her husband, Senator Joseph Lieberman, at a World War II memorial in Nashville.

"And here I am in the place that commemorates the American heroes, the soldiers who actually liberated my mother in Dachau and Auschwitz."

Born Hadassah Freilich in post-war Czechoslovakia, Lieberman is the daughter of two Holocaust survivors. Her mother, Ella, survived both Auschwitz and Dachau and her father, Samuel, survived a Nazi labour camp. The family came to the United States in the early 1950s, when she was 3 years old.

Lieberman, 52, grew up in Gardner, Mass., where her father served as a congregational rabbi.

A graduate of Boston University, Lieberman has spent most of her career doing public relations on health-related issues. Until recently, she worked for the National Research Council, linking American corporations to mathematics and science education reform. She has also worked with the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, Conn., and for Pfizer, the national pharmaceutical company.

330 OBITUARIES

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Yad Vashem at Landmark Monuments

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(416) 782-8995

3429 Bathurst St. (corner of Melrose)

BOLTER, Norman - on July 21, 2000, late of 52 Shallmar Blvd.
WEINBERGER, Irene - on July 22, 2000, late of 60 Harris St.
GLIKSMAN, Regina - on July 23, 2000, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
LEVY, Zacharia - on July 23, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
LIGHT, Alice - on July 23, 2000, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
NASHMAN, Yetta - on July 23, 2000, late of 51 Ava Rd.
POMOTOV, David - on July 23, 2000, late of 54 Bamboo Grove.
DOBROVOLSKI, Minzia - on July 24, 2000, late of 6040 Bathurst St., #309.
GOODMAN, Fanny - on July 24, 2000, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
LESNIAK, Grace - on July 25, 2000, late of 1996 Bathurst St., #132.
FICHTENBAUM, Harry - on July 27, 2000, late of 111 North Meadow Cres.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GREEN, David - on July 27, 2000, late of 919 Pyramid Rd.
DLOOMY, Josef - on July 29, 2000, late of 3303 Don Mills Rd., #801.
KALINA, Morris - on July 29, 2000, late of 4300 Bathurst St., #416.
SEGAL, Harold - on July 31, 2000, late of 343 Clark Ave. W., #1507.
HENNICK, Frances - on Aug. 1, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
KAUFFMAN, Minnie - on Aug. 1, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
MANPEL, Freda - on Aug. 1, 2000, late of 7420 Bathurst St., #1514.
FAIL, David - on Aug. 2, 2000, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
KNOBEL, Genia - on Aug. 2, 2000, late of 200 Baythorn Dr.
ZITNEY, Saul - on Aug. 2, 2000, late of 575 Avenue Rd., #703.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

KANTOR, Rita Sarah - on July 28, 2000, late of 4000 Don Mills Rd.
NUSSBAUM, Chaje - on July 28, 2000, late of 130 Neptune Dr.
STECKLER, Eva - on July 28, 2000, late of 226 Goulding Ave.
ZAMDLEYFER, Berta - on July 28, 2000.
WOLF, Krusa - on July 29, 2000, late of 34 Verwood Ave.
SOLOMON, Lillian - on July 30, 2000, late of 7 Farrington Dr.
SWITZMAN, Bella - on July 31, 2000, late of 175 Cummer Ave.
CHOCRON, Donna - on Aug. 1, 2000.
STRAUSS, Dorothy - on Aug. 2, 2000, late of 625 Finch Ave. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
TILLY LINDSAY ז"ל
(NEE SEGAL)
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 20th, 1:00 p.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Talmud Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
CHARLES MILLER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 20th, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Workman's Circle Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARA ROSENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 20th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
PAULA (PUICA) GOLDENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 27th at 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie
Community Section Phase III
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BERISH (BEN) ZOLTY ז"ל
will take place
Friday, August 25th at 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Agudah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The Meeting Place

Brought to you by the Canadian Jewish News

To listen and respond to these ads,
Call: 1-900-451-4552 Ext. #65

It's only $2.49 per minute. You must be 18 years of age, and have a touch tone phone to use this service.

To place a **FREE** personal ad,
Call: 905-276-6167 Ext. #65

Women seeking Men

To respond to an ad, Call
1-900-451-4552
Ext. #65

EASY ON THE EYES
Professional Jewish female, 5' 7", blue eyes, intelligent, sensitive, selective, sensuous, keeps fit/active, non smoker, social drinker, carries no personal baggage, enjoys theatre, travel, and lives life to the fullest, seeking male who shares emotions, to share life together. **AD#1500**

COSMIC LOVE
Jewish female, 5' 6", slim, fit, pretty, intelligent, spiritual, creative, holistic, loving, friendly, dancer, artist, writer, therapist, deep, humourous, joyful, seeks fit, romantic male, 33-53 yrs, who's in an ecstatic natural state of joy and love, and wishes to share it with someone **AD#1414**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single mom, Russian origin, one 15 yr old son, professional, enjoys art, movies, music, nature and travel, positive, creative, attractive, sincere, seeks male, intelligent, sincere, creative, responsible, loving for long term relationship **AD#1431**

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, intelligent, attractive, creative, red hair, loves the outdoors, canoeing, art galleries, travel, Latin and Ballroom dancing, seeks male, 35-50 yrs, non smoker, good sense of humour, university educated, emotionally secure **AD#1219**

A LOT TO OFFER
Separated female, attractive, young, 46 year old teacher, has 2 teenagers, caring, intelligent, athletic, good natured, fun, enjoys tennis, working out, movies, theatre, dancing, dining, walks and quiet evenings, seeks male, 40-50 yrs, with similar interests **AD#1430**

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP
Attractive youthful single Jewish lady, 62 yrs, 5' 5", fit, fun loving, warm cultured, well travelled, sports enthusiast, enjoys music, movies, seeks gentleman, 57-70 yrs, tall, slim, non smoker, sense of humour, emotionally/financially stable, with similar interests, for friendship or future relationship. **AD#1602**

COMMUNICATION IS KEY
Separated female, 41 yrs, 5' 1", light brown hair, brown eyes, pretty, young looking, honest, nice, humourous, enjoys travelling, outdoors, walks, swimming, sports, movies, music, theatre, bowling, mini golfing, believes communication, friendship and trust are important in a relationship. Seeking male with similar interests. **AD#1465**

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, warm, loving, 2 small children, seeks male, family oriented, down to earth, good sense of humour, loves children, for friends first relationship **AD#1056**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, enjoys music the theatre, dining and dancing, long walks, seeks male, elegant, classy, for loving monogamous relationship **AD#1104**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish mom, 42 yrs, 5', petite, professional, non smoker, active, caring, sincere, fun loving, humourous, enjoy arts, dancing, dining, outdoor activities, walks, canoeing, hiking, seeking male, 37-48 yrs, fit, intelligent, caring, sincere, stable, good natured, non smoker, similar interests **AD#1258**

COMMITMENT
Professional Jewish female, 49, passionate, caring, enjoy teaching school and aerobics, movies, dining out, theatre, seeking Jewish male, 49-62 yrs, who's caring, fit and affectionate, for a committed relationship **AD#1262**

GOOD FRIENDSHIP
Attractive professional female, 50's, young looking, slim, warm hearted, humourous, independent, enjoy theatre, ballet, dining, shopping, quiet evenings, walks, travelling, cooking, playing bridge, scrabble, seeking white Jewish gentleman, tall, slim, independent, established, warm, caring, no head games, for good friendship. **AD#1336**

LET'S TALK
Female, seeks male, emotionally stable, with sense of humour, who enjoys travelling and the theatre **AD#1213**

FRIENDS AND COMPANION
Single Jewish retired professional female, intelligent, honest, kind and loving, with variety of interests, seeks male, 63-75 yrs for friendship and companionship **AD#1277**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Divorced Jewish female, 35 yrs, with children, intelligent, attractive, fun loving adventurous, financially stable, enjoys walking, travel, dining and dancing, seeks male 35-50 yrs, traditional values loves children for friends 1st relationship **AD#1134**

PRETTY PETITE
Single female, semi-retired, pretty, petite, independent, good sense of humour, intelligent, seeks male, 65 yrs, for friends first relationship, leading to future possible commitment **AD#1153**

FRIENDSHIP
Attractive single mom, honest, kind, sweet, works a lot, enjoys all sports, movies, dining out and quiet times, seeking preferably a single dad, employed, honest, kind and fun, for friendship. **AD#1157**

SEEKING SINGLE DAD
Single Jewish mom, 39 yrs, attractive, kind, honest, sincere and hard working, seeking single dad, who's attractive, honest, employed and fun to be with, to enjoys adult times together **AD#1395**

BE MY SUNSHINE
Attractive single Jewish female, 5' 5", straight brown hair, brown/hazel eyes, fit, non smoker, kind, good natured, emotionally stable, seeking single traditional Jewish gentleman, 45-50 yrs, around 6', established, handsome, exciting, honest, funny, caring, non smoker, children welcome, to share life **AD#1045**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, 5' 8", blonde, slim, fit, attractive, vivacious, outgoing, friendly, enjoys dancing, being outside, seeking male, tall, slim, fit, Jewish/family values, attends Synagogue, friendly, outgoing, down to earth, enjoys relaxing, hanging out, doing fun things, who's respectful and caring **AD#1257**

MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP
Female, 62 yrs but looks 50, European background, owns business, exceptionally attractive, elegant and sophisticated, seeks gentleman, 65-70 yrs, who's also sophisticated in all aspects, professional or businessman, who knows how to treat a lady for a meaningful relationship **AD#1272**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Divorced Jewish female, 44 yrs, 5' 9", smoker, seeks male for dining and dancing, and outdoor activities **AD#1454**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Widowed female, 66 yrs, young, seeks gentleman mensch, 65-72 yrs, who's young in spirit, clean looking, enjoys movies, watching TV, quiet evenings and appreciates a real nice lady **AD#1421**

SERIOUS COMMITMENT
Down to earth and outgoing female, 38 yrs, seeks down to earth and outgoing male, 38-48 yrs, who enjoys dancing, dining out, movies, and different interests, to eventually develop a strong serious relationship. **AD#1555**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, attractive, affectionate, active, cuddly and bubbly, caring, compassionate, seeks male, 68-74 yrs, good sense of humour, thoughtful, caring to share life's joys **AD#1099**

ROMANTIC PARTNER
Single female, young 50'ish, attractive, 5' 9", professional, warm, caring, fun, loves the outdoors, music, seeks tall Jewish male, adventurous, intellectual, with good sense of humour. **AD#1378**

PASSION FOR LIFE
Divorced Jewish professional female, 5' 4", slim, pretty, shapely, caring, warm, own home, enjoys theatre, movies, dancing, cottages, and winter south, seeking established, sincere male, 60+, non smoker ,who loves life, laughter and enjoys all that life has to offer **AD#1312**

JEWISH VALUES
Single Jewish female, 31 yrs, 5' 8", attractive, fit slim, never married, seeking tall Jewish male, keeping kosher, funny intelligent, articulate, good communication skills, who enjoys outdoors, family events, meeting people, will accept/respect me and value out times together **AD#1248**

LET'S SETTLE DOWN
Single female, lives in Toronto, outdoorsy, sports, oriented, workout, enjoys cottage/country life, boating, sailing, dining out, family and horse back riding, seeking male, to meet, talk, get to know, to settle down, and have a family **AD#1495**

SPORTS ENTHUSIAST
Retired female, in early 50's, 5' 4", red headed, new to Toronto, non smoker and enjoys sports **AD#1156**

UNIQUE TREASURE
Traditional Jewish female, with teenage son, 5' 5", straight brown hair, brown hazel eyes, attractive, fit, good natured, emotionally stable, non smoker, seeking tall, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 45-50 yrs, 6', exciting, honest, sensitive, humourous, emotionally stable, non smoker, to share life. **AD#1410**

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Widowed Jewish female, 5' 2", 118 lbs, with green eyes and enjoys life, seeks male, who's fun, sensitive and secure **AD#1553**

LET'S COMMUNICATE
Single professional female, 31 yrs, non smoker, energetic and well travelled, seeks male 25-40 yrs, who's down to earth, communicative, outgoing, emotionally mature, fit and non smoker. **AD#1452**

SOCIAL PROFESSIONALS
The Jewish Health Alliance, a social and professional network for Jewish mental health providers, intends to host various events to foster dialogue between practitioners for networking and socializing. Please leave your name and number **AD#1379**

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Single female, 40 yrs, professional, 5' 5", blonde hair, hazel eyes, intelligent, caring, compassionate, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, family life, fine wine. Seeks male honest, sincere, witty, with a good sense of humour, to be her best friend and soulmate **AD#1279**

FAB 40's
Divorced Jewish female, 44 yrs, 5' 10", smoker, seeks male 44-55 yrs, for outings and to enjoys life. **AD#1275**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single female, early 40's, slim, long curly hair, olive complexion, enjoys art, photography, the theatre, the outdoors, nature, hiking, cross country skiing, movies. Seeks male, fit, physically and mentally healthy, financially secure, compassionate, for long term relationship. **AD#1276**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, 31 yrs, 5' 2", intelligent, sincere, caring, attractive, good sense of humour, non smoker, enjoys movies, music. Seeks male, 30-40 yrs, with traditional values. **AD#1120**

It's absolutely **FREE** to retrieve your messages

Men seeking Women

To respond to an ad, Call
1-900-451-4552
Ext. #65

OLD FASHIONED VALUES
Single male, 47 yrs, conservative looking, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies, country drives, seeks female, late 40's, to early 50's, does not have to be slim, single mom's okay, very down to earth **AD#1327**

MUST WANT FAMILY
Divorced Jewish male, 53 yrs, good brain, good heart, good looking, former, real estate broker, now writing a book, have no children, but would like to, seeking female who can and wants to start her own family, the old fashioned way **AD#1573**

NO STRINGS
Single male, late 50's, physician, enjoys music, reading, working out, seeks female, 30-40 yrs, attractive, quiet, cultured, for long term mutually satisfying relationship with no strings attached **AD#1006**

FOREVER YOUNG
Single male, 6', handsome, energetic, easy goin, athletic, enjoys dining and dancing, athletic events, seeks female, single or single Mom's, slender, attractive, 38-52 yrs, 5' 4" or taller for possible relationship **AD#1164**

COMPANION FOR LIFE
Single male, happy, very fit, caring, successful professional male, enjoy travel, and all the arts, seeking an attractive, 40'ish, female, who has done her homework, emotionally and physically for a life time companion **AD#1517**

READY AND WAITING
Divorced male, Jewish, Toronto born, no children, generous, speaks 2 languages, writer, seeks female, young with similar interests, and qualities, who is ready to start a family **AD#1266**

CULTURED SCHOLAR
Single male, 54 yrs, 5' 7", lawyer, arcitte, kablist, financial whiz, fit, world traveller, violinist, poet, seeks slender female, gracious compassionate, attractive, intelligent, emotionally, and financially stable, for permanent relationship. **AD#1522**

WHAT A CATCH
Single male, Jewish, 34 yrs, 5' 10", 165 lbs, slim fit, handsome, humourous, warm, down to earth, honest, sexy, sincere, financially, secure, romantic, enjoys dining and dancing, romantic evenings, seeks female Jewish, petite romantic, warm loving, for possible long term relationship **AD#1025**

BEST IS YET TO COME
Single male, 54 yrs, original fiddler on the roof, nice, kind, traditional values, educated, successful, good sense of humour, handsome athletic, enjoys outdoor activities, travel, dining and dancing, seeks female with similar interests and qualities **AD#1088**

SERIOUS INTENTIONS
Single male, 46 yrs, professional, 5' 8", medium build, down to earth, sincere, easy going, seeks female, 35-45 yrs, intelligent, sincere, honest, good sense of humour, no head games please, for possible long term relationship. **AD#1476**

GREAT RELATIONSHIP
Attractive retired male, 76 yrs, widow for 2 years, seeks non smoking, nice young female, for great relationship. **AD#1047**

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY
Single male, 5' 9½", 150 lbs, small-medium build, blue eyes, in reasonable physical condition, an amateur musician, with strong interest in music, conservation, environment, nature and social sciences, seeking female with small-medium build and similar interests **AD#1204**

A GREAT CATCH
Single male, 34 yrs, 5' 7", 175 lbs, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, fit, workout, educated, multilingual, employed on internet, in Canada and abroad, enjoys studying, writing, reading, travelling, outdoor activities, anything cultural/historical, seeking female 20-30 yrs, attractive, smart, stable, ambitious, enjoys travelling, having fun **AD#1460**

LET'S TALK
Single Jewish male, educated professional, tall, witty, smart, loves the arts, theatre, movies, music, dining, dancing, and many other thing, seeking Jewish female, children and pet are okay **AD#1011**

MUST WANT CHILDREN
Divorced male, with no children, working on my first book, speaks English, Yiddish, fairly generous, involved with volunteer work for many years, seeking female, young enough to start a family, and must want to have children, for true happiness **AD#1071**

LIFE AND LAUGHTER
Single Jewish male, a vegetarian, tall, slim, romantic, sensitive, with a sense of humour, seeking female, 43-55 yrs, who's health conscious, and would like to share life and laughter. **AD#1376**

LET'S TALK
Male, 70 yrs, 5' 10", 190 lbs, in good physical condition, seeks communicative female to develop a relationship with **AD#1020**

WAITING FOR YOU
Single male, seeking female, nons moker and non drinker, for serious long term relationship **AD#1200**

HEART TO HEART
Single, unattached and unincumbered, seeking female, who's intelligent, with high integrity, pleasant disposition, without sense of ownership or assumed expectations, for open heart to heart communication **AD#1360**

LET'S TALK
Single male, 34 yrs, not shy, loves exercise and conversations, seeks female with similar qualities **AD#1334**

ORTHODOX PREFERRED
Single Jewish male, late 40s, 5' 10", great blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, compassionate, with a great sense of humour, enjoys theatre, long walks in the park, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking single or widowed female, intelligent, 32-45 yrs, with similar personality and interests. **AD#1097**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single male, Shoma-Shabbas, professional Jewish educator, warm, caring, handsome, and eclectic, seeking Jewish observant, female, who's spiritual, with joie de vivre, for love, marriage and children. **AD#1245**

SUMMER ROMANCE
Divorced male, Jewish, 37 yrs, handsome, athletic, 5'10", no children, condo owner, enjoys tennis, squash, movies, reading, dining and dancing. Seeks female, Jewish, 32-42 yrs, slim, attractive, for possible long term relationship **AD#1160**

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 36 yrs, 5'7", blonde hair, never been married, fun loving, easy going, happy, with good sense of humour, enjoys sports oriented, activities, and going out to movies. Seeking female of similar age. **AD#1422**

LOVING GENTLEMAN
Single male, tall, youthful appearance, active, fit, loving, considerate, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks amiable female for companionship and friends first relationship. **AD#1088**

HEART OF GOLD
Single senior gentleman, tall, youthful active, thoughtful, loving non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks female similar for companionship. **AD#1244**

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, non-observant Jewish male, widow, 50 yrs, professional, no kids or other dependants, very fit, works out 4 times a week. Seeking female, 45-50 yrs, with very similar attributes, for a relationship **AD#1241**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, professional accountant, enjoys sports, long walks, dining and dancing, keeping fit, movies, reading travel. Seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1445

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Divorced male, 44 yrs, Toronto born and raised, 5'10", smoker, lived in Israel for 11 yrs, variety of interests, seeks female, sexy, attractive, adventurous, fun loving, for romantic relationship. **AD#1375**

LET'S TALK
Caring nature, semi-retired, 67 yr old, professional male, non-smoker with many interests and hobbies, seeking easy going, down to earth female, who's slim, attractive, and fun to be with **AD#1094**

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Semi-retired male; 5'11", 165 lbs, slim, blue eyes, healthy, attractive, casual, romantic, enjoys intimate restaurants, sea, sun, walks on the beach sports, swimming, tennis, 60's music and kissing, seeking attractive female, caring, humourous, financially secure, physically and emotionally fit **AD#1524**

POSSIBLE ROMANCE
Single male, 48 yrs, 5'10", 175 lbs, attractive, friendly, outgoing, romantic, passionate, straight forward, open-minded, employed, enjoy movies, dining, walks in parks, sporting events, golf, cuddling and watching TV. Seeking female with similar qualities and interests, for friendship and perhaps romance **AD#1623**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people Seeks female similar qualities and interests **AD#1388**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography. Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with **AD#1038**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family. **AD#1370**

SPECIAL SENIOR DOLL
Single retired male, living in Toronto and Florida, seeking female, 65+, who's good looking, slim, and must have a good sense of humour, for meaningful relationship **AD#1680**

LOVE WAITS
Single male, 5'7", Greenish blue eyes, handsome, poor starving writer, reliable, enjoys sports, swimming, tennis, very down to earth, ready to start a family. Seeks Jewish female, with similar interests **AD#1195**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 34 yrs, seeking female with professional status, intelligent, good conversationalist, who enjoys movies, sports, dining, dancing, walks, reading, having fun and tender moments **AD#1190**

IT'S SPRING!
Single male, 46 yrs, special education teacher, 2 grown children, 23 yrs & 21 yrs, romantic, self-confident, enjoys roller-blading, travel, country walks, have eclectic tastes, good sense of humour. Seeks female with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1498**

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The Canadian Jewish news

Sports & Leisure

Israeli tennis player Levy shines at tournament

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Pete Sampras, the current Wimbledon tennis champion, often states the men's pro tennis circuit has to promote its young stars to attract new fans. His words proved prophetic at the $2.9-million Tennis Masters Series-Canada tournament, held recently at the National Tennis Centre at York University.

Unknown Israeli Harel Levy became an instant star by finishing as runner-up to tournament champion Marat Safin of Russia. Levy, a 22-year-old journeyman who averaged $1,000 weekly in his three-year career, earned $211,000 (US) in one week in Toronto. By finishing as a finalist, Levy improved his world ranking from 133rd to 60th. Prior to the tournament, Levy earned $152,000 (US) over his career.

Levy's performance stunned his opponents – and himself. Because of his low ranking, the Israeli had to qualify into the tournament's main draw and he did not expect to advance beyond the first or second round. Instead, the longshot advanced further than top seeds Andre Agassi, Patrick Rafter and Sampras through a combination of grit, outstanding execution of shots, and by capitalizing on his opportunities.

In a week that seemed to be scripted by Hollywood, Levy defeated seven higher-ranked opponents. His victims were, in order, Canada's Chris Gotek 6-2, 6-4; James Sekulov of Austria 1-6, 6-3, 6-1; Czech Martin Damm 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-3; Austrian Stefan Koubek 6-1, 6-3; Sebastien Grosjean of France 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Jerome Golmard, also of France, 6-4, 6-4; and Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; before losing the title match to Safin 6-2, 6-3.

Levy raised the level of his game as he advanced round-by-round. His great play at the net, with no less than four sizzling backhand passing shots, left Martin Damm dispirited in the third set of their match. Against Grosjean, Levy fired four aces (clocked at 126 km/hr) and a high first serve percentage to seal the match in three sets.

By the semi-final round, the buzz around the stadium was that Levy was a dangerous foe who was thrilling to watch.

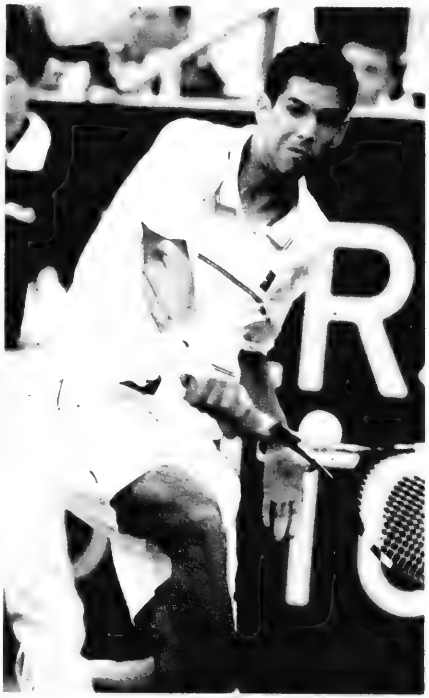
His semi-final match proved to be dramatic. Levy celebrated his 22nd birthday and he flew his father, Yoel, a jewelry importer, and his coach, Oded Jacob, to Toronto from Tel Aviv, specifically to watch his match against Novak.

Instead of choking, the young Israeli rose to the occasion and made his birthday the most memorable of his life. Before a sold out crowd of 10,000 and an international television audience (the matches were televised in Canada, the United States and Israel), Levy was pumped with the crowd adoring his every move. The atmosphere on court resembled a Davis Cup match held in Jerusalem,with choruses of "Levy, Levy", Israeli flags, and the singing of Hatikvah by many fans

Levy fired bullets, with aces and outstanding backhand shots to break Novak twice for a 5-0 lead in the first set. But Novak kept on fighting, despite losing the first set 6-3. He opened the second set with a break and added two more to force the deciding third set as Levy felt the pressure, committing 11 unforced errors, seven more than Novak.

That prompted Levy to change his game plan and come to the net more behind his serve. The change in tactics earned him the victory.

The final set came to a climax in the ninth game with a Levy drop shot over the net breaking Novak for a 5-4 lead. At match point, Levy clinched the win by pursuing a short Novak shot and putting it into the open court.



Harel Levy [Vidal Keslassy photo]

At the moment of victory, Levy pumped his fists, then went directly to his father's courtside seat to embrace him with several hugs.

The crowd support may have been the most passionate display of affection for an Israeli athlete ever by Torontonians.

"I had the dream of my life today with this victory. I know there is a big Jewish community here, so probably a lot of Jewish or even Israeli people came out today and [their] support was great. It really helped me," said Levy , who saluted the crowd and through tennis balls to the spectators after the match. He then celebrated his birthday with a cake and a few drinks in the player's lounge.

Born on a kibbutz, Levy was ranked number one in Israel following the retirement of Amos Mansdorf in 1996. Last month, he finished serving his third and final year in the army. His mother, Nitza, is a nurse and he has two sisters, Ofri, 19, and Stav, 12.

The final proved to be anticlimactic for Levy, despite the overwhelming support of the crowd, including two young men who took their shirts off and painted the flag of Israel on their chests and faces. Safin, the eighth-seeded Russian, was overpowering, with serves clocking in at more than 200 km/hr. He never lost control of the match. Levy learned that to advance from 60th rank to the top 10, is a long climb.

"My dream came true, especially because so many in Israel were asking when I am going to be in the top 100. Now my goal is to be in the top 50. I will work hard to realize my next dream," said Levy, who will never forget his nine days in Toronto.

Toronto tennis fans may never forget Levy either. Despite the absence of Agassi, Rafter and Sampras in the final, Levy won the hearts of the record 137,680 tournament spectators by his hustle, persistence and show of emotion on the court.

Levy's semifinal victory ensured him a place in the record books of this 110-year-old tournament. He was the first Israeli to make the finals and the first Jewish finalist since 1990, when American Jay Berger achieved the feat.

TENNIS LINES... Canadian David Abelson of Montreal, the top ranked Jewish player nationally, didn't get past the opening round of qualifying, losing to Lionel Roux of France 7-6 (8-6), 6-2... Anna Smashnova,the former Soviet Jew who is Israel's top female player, won a July tournament in Belgium. She is scheduled to compete at the Du Maurier Open in Montreal from August 12-21...American Paul Goldstein, ranked 70th on the men's pro tennis circuit, did not compete at the Tennis Masters-Canada tournament because of injuries.

Harel Levy (centre) was joined for his semi-final match by his father, Yoel (left), and his coach, Oded Jacob. [Willie Honohan photo]

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Recommended Reading

Non-Fiction

• **The Price and Privilege of Growing Old** *by W. Gunther Plaut*, CCAP Press, $21.00 SC, $32.50 HC.

A thought-provoking, moving perspective on the challenge of growing older, with a touch of humour.

• **Fulfilment** *by Judge David Vanek*, Dundurn Press, $25.99 SC.

A fascinating biography, which includes details of the trial of Susan Nelles, a nurse charged with the murder of four babies at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

• **Around the Shabbat Table** *by Aryeh Ben David*, Jason Aronson Inc., $48.00 HC.

A guide to fulfilling and meaningful Shabbat table conversation based on the weekly Torah portions.

• **Judaism on Trial** *by Nathan Lopes Cardozo*, Urim Publications, $39.95 HC.

An unconventional and controversial discussion about Jews, Judaism and the State of Israel.

• **A Little Too Close To God – The Thrills and Panic of a Life in Israel** *by David Horovitz*, Alfred A. Knopf, $39.00 HC.

An interesting account of life in Israel and the tension and ideological struggles in day-to-day affairs.

Fiction

• **Greenwich** *by Howard Fast*, Harcourt, Inc., $37.00 HC.

Set in comfortable Greenwich, Conn., the characters "embody the interdependence of human life and human guilt and the eternal work of redemption." A good read.

• **The Human Stain** *by Philip Roth*, Houghton Mifflin Company, $36.95 HC.

This novel, "set in 1990s America… concludes Roth's eloquent trilogy of postwar American lives."

• **Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith** *by Gina B. Nahai*, Washington Square Press, $19.95 SC.

A fascinating, magical tale that follows the characters from the Jewish ghetto of Tehran to Iran's aristocracy to Turkey and finally, to America.

• **To Die In Spring** *by Sylvia Maultash Warsh*, Dundurn Press, $9.99 SC.

This suspenseful murder mystery, the author's first novel, "sells the sequel as you turn the pages."

Children and Young Adults

• **Come, Let Us Be Joyful: The Story of Hava Nagila** *by Fran Manushkin*, UAHC Press, $20.95 HC.

A beautifully illustrated story of Moshe Nathanson and the growing popularity of *Hava Nagila* during Israel's pioneering days, when it "was sprouting up everywhere, like sunflowers in the newly planted Negev" (for ages four and up).

• **God Said Amen** *by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso*, Jewish Lights, $26.95 HC.

A wonderful story that teaches the importance of reaching out to others (for ages four and up).

• **Like a Knot In My Shoelace, A Yahrzeit Remembrance** *by Ilene Munetz Pachmen*, United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education, $16.95 SC (for ages four and up).

• **The Thinking Jewish Teenager's Guide To Life**, *by Akiva Tatz*, Targum/Feldheim $31.99 HC.

A philosophical approach to life from a traditional Jewish perspective. Issues such as freedom, responsibility, free will and individuality are addressed.

Recommended reading appears monthly. The list is prepared by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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4 10" flour tortillas
4 oz. whipped cream cheese
6 oz. thinly sliced lox
1 small red onion, thinly sliced, rings separated
3 plum tomatoes, cut into 12 slices
butter and oil
sour cream for garnish

Place tortillas on a flat working surface. Spread thin layer of whipped cream cheese on half of each tortilla. Divide lox evenly over cream cheese. Place onion rings and tomato slices over lox. Fold empty side of tortilla over filled half. Heat equal mixture of butter and oil (about 1/2 tblsp.) on large griddle. Cook 2 at a time on both sides until golden brown. Cut each tortilla into 4 wedges and serve with dollop of sour cream. Makes 16 wedges.

About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I'm going to have my bar mitzvah in a couple of weeks and although I am very excited about it, I am also very nervous! I don't really want to sing in front of all of my family and friends in shul. I'm afraid that I am just going to mess up my portion and look stupid. I have been to all of my older cousins' bar and bat mitzvahs and they were all so good when it came to reading Torah, but I am not sure that I will be so confident. I have been learning my portion for about six months, but I still feel really nervous about singing in front of the whole congregation. I know that at your bar mitzvah, you are supposed to be a man, but I really don't feel like it – especially when I have to go up in front of so many people and sing! Is there anything that I can do to make me less nervous?

Bar Mitzvah Blues

Dear Bar Mitzvah,

Mazal tov on your bar mitzvah! A bar mitzvah is a very important time in a Jewish boy's life, and you should be very excited about this as well as your future, where you are recognized as a man in Judaism. All of us are nervous at our bar or bat mitzvah, because the focus is on us. You are going to have to do your best in front of lots of people, but the truth is that all of those people will know you, care about you, and be extremely proud of you.

Everyone gets nervous before being put in the spotlight. Even great musicians and athletes are nervous each time they walk onto a stage or playing field.

If you are feeling some level of stage fright, or perhaps the more appropriate term would be "bimah fright," you should try singing your portion in front of an audience, even if its just your parents, your dog or a couple friends. Try to sing in front of an attentive audience and see how you feel.

You could even work your way up from there, practising in front of your whole family. I am sure that your older cousins would be delighted to listen to you to help you out.

Good luck at your bar mitzvah and don't be nervous! I am sure you will do a great job and make you and your family very proud.

Karilani is a composite name for three girls, who are close friends and in Grade 12 in Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

"REFORM SCHOOL"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

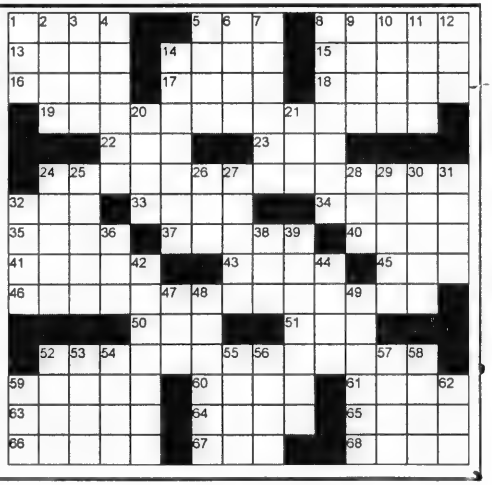
Across

1 First man
5 Quarterback Frerotte
8 Tops
13 Kinks hit
14 Overflow with praise
15 Ziegfeld's employee
16 "God was in this place, ___, I did not know."
17 "What ___ is new?"
18 Shocks
19 First female American Reform rabbi, (1946-)
22 Goddess of the dawn
23 Permit
24 Builder of the first Reform temple (1768-1828)
32 Gardner of old films
33 Unlike refuseniks
34 Vladimir Horowitz's medium
35 Macy's event
37 "Night Court" actress Diamond
40 Annual synagogue bill
41 Work dough
43 Charged interest
45 December 25, for example
46 Noted radical Reform rabbi (1806-1860)
50 West of Hollywood
51 Operated
52 Key Reform philosopher (1810-1874)
59 ___ Line (Six-Day War demarcation)
60 Vantage point
61 Dutch cheese
63 Put on the tube
64 Shade trees
65 Enjoy *chaim*
66 Wings and Eagles
67 Negatives
68 Give the appearance of

Down

1 In the style of
2 Mafia bosses
3 "Manhattan Murder Mystery" star
4 *Harlot's Ghost* author
5 Show terror, perhaps
6 Birthplace of many recent immigrants to Israel
7 Judy Blume's *Otherwise Known As ___ the Great*
8 Where people wait for a lift
9 "Como ___ usted?"
10 Give the cold shoulder
11 Watch the sheep
12 AARP members
14 Old Faithful and others
20 Challah amount
21 EU predecessor
24 Donald's ex
25 Massachusetts city whose name means "peace"
26 Actress Remick
27 Dessert choice
28 Auction amount
29 Certain Middle Easterner
30 Late bedtime
31 Like a yenta
32 Pops the question
36 ___ *de Cologne*
38 "Young Frankenstein" director Brooks
39 Mary Poppins portrayer
42 Terrorist's list
44 Popular cuisine
47 ___-di-dah (blase)
48 First-day creation
49 Marx collaborator
52 Sills piece
53 Swiss capital
54 Biblical sea
55 "Bloom County" character
56 Diamonds, e.g.
57 Paul Simon's wife ___ Brickell
58 Praise from Gene Siskel
59 Yap
62 Lamed follower

(Answers are on page 30.)



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This Week

National

Yossi Beilin optimistic about peace process. *Page 3*

Canadian teens caught up in alleged drug case. *Page 5*

On Campus

Birthright trip planned for physically disabled. *Page 22*

Arts & Travel

Israeli youth choir to perform at Royal York. *Page 36*

Health & Lifestyles

New carbon monoxide treatment developed. *Pages 40*

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Israel erred on int'l court: Cotler

Could have modified provision aimed at the Jewish State

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel made a key tactical error during the multilateral negotiations in Rome that established an International Criminal Court (ICC), an international law conference was told last week. As a result, the war crimes offences covered in the Rome Treaty include a provision that appears to be directed specifically at Israel.

Canadian MP Irwin Cotler and U.S. lawyer Jerome Shestack agreed Israel erred during the Rome negotiations. "Many in Israel thought Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) did not have the power to supersede the wishes of the United States," Cotler said.

"Israel made a mistake in its negotiating tactics and the United States made a monumental mistake," Shestack added.

Cotler and Shestack were speaking at a conference of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ). The meeting, which was held in Canada for the first time since the IAJLJ was founded in 1969, brought together about 200 lawyers, professors and judges from across the globe. Participants hailed from Canada, the United States, Israel, Argentina, Britain, France, Germany, Austria, South Africa, Costa Rica, Brazil, Greece, Italy and Switzerland.

The conference theme this year was, Pursuing Justice in the Global Village.

Irwin Cotler

In the months leading up to the event, the conference was touted as a key development for the IAJLJ. "It signifies a desire of the association to bring it to the attention of many more lawyers and jurists in North America who are interested in the association's work," said conference chair Igor Ellyn.

However, in the aftermath of the event, Ellyn's feelings were mixed. "The conference overall was very successful. The disappointment of the organizers was that considering the potential of a niche market of Jewish jurists, lawyers and law professors, we didn't attract more than the delegates we got. The organizers are puzzled why we didn't get more people."

Ellyn estimated there are as many as 30,000 Jewish lawyers within a two-hour radius of Toronto, including New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Despite the poor attendance, he felt "the [IAJLJ's] exposure was increased even if people didn't register."

With a break-even figure of 400, the conference will run a deficit, though it's too early to give a specific figure, Ellyn said.

Continued on page 24

TAKING A BREAK FROM NEGOTIATIONS: Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak and his wife Nava vacationed last week in the north of Israel; but even on holidays they were accompanied by crack security soldiers. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Greater Toronto Area

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Israel now must wait and see: Barak — please see page 2

The News in Brief

CANADA

Jewish Data Bank

MONTREAL — The Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR) data bank, which has over 300,000 articles with current and historical information on the Middle East and Jewish life around the world can be accessed through the CIJR's Web site at www.isranet.org.

ISRAEL

More Shoah Remarks

JERUSALEM — For the second time in a week, the Shas party has sparked a public outcry over remarks about the Holocaust. Shas MK Shlomo Benizri was quoted by the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* as claiming that the Zionist movement abandoned Europe's religious Jews to perish at the hands of the Nazis. Benizri also defended the party's spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who came under widespread criticism in Israel and abroad after he said last week that Holocaust victims were the reincarnated souls of sinners.

Secular Jews Upset

JERUSALEM — Israel's new president tried to smooth over a flap that erupted over remarks he made about secular Jews, in an interview with an Orthodox newspaper. Moshe Katsav, who took office three weeks ago, promising to promote unity, was quoted as saying that "if secularism dominated in the past hundreds of years, we would have long ago disintegrated and dispersed." Katsav later said his remarks were taken out of context.

WORLD

Families Sue

LOS ANGELES — Families of the victims of a white supremacist's 1999 shooting spree at the North Valley Jewish Community Centre near here have filed a lawsuit against gun makers, saying they should be held responsible for the incident. The suit alleges that six firearms manufacturers are liable for "public nuisance and negligence" and failure to take steps to prevent criminals such as alleged gunman Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr. from obtaining firearms.

New Envoy

AMMAN — Jordan has named a former intelligence general as its ambassador to Israel. Abdul-Illah al-Kurdi is Jordan's third envoy to Israel since diplomatic relations were established after the 1994 peace treaty. Kurdi, in his mid-50s, is a general who served with Jordan's secret service for nearly two decades.

Birthright Program

NEW YORK — The Birthright Israel program plans to send 7,500 young Jews to Israel this winter. The free 10-day trips, which will begin in December and January, are open to any Jewish adult between 18 and 26 who has never been to Israel as part of an educational program. Those interested in registering can contact the organization at www.birthrightisrael.com before the Oct. 5 deadline.

Man Ordered Out

NEW YORK — A U.S. immigration judge ordered the deportation of an 84-year-old retired auto mechanic to Germany to face charges that he served as an armed guard at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Michael Gruber, who resides in Rockland County, N.Y., admitted serving as an SS guard in Oranienburg, Germany, but denied knowing that there was a concentration camp there.

War Crimes Parley

RIGA — Latvia plans to host a meeting of international experts next month to discuss the cases against two men suspected of Nazi war crimes, Konrad Kalejs and Karlis Ozols. The meeting will be a follow-up to one held in February with experts from Canada, the United States, Britain, Germany, Israel and Australia. Latvian prosecutors have been investigating the wartime activities of both suspects, who are originally from Latvia and now live in Australia.

Salvage Fails

ATHENS — Members of a salvage operation failed to find a sunken boat believed to be loaded with gold and jewelry taken from Greek Jews during World War II. After five days of searching, members of the team said they found no sign of the valuables, said to be worth more than $2 billion.

Putin's Meetings

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin met with the editors of two anti-Semitic newspapers, according to the Washington-based Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. The Aug. 10 meeting was "part of a disturbing pattern," the council said. It indicates that Putin "apparently doesn't see the promotion of anti-Semitism as a litmus test for political legitimacy."

Probing Rabbi's Threats Against Lieberman

WASHINGTON — FBI investigators are looking into possible death threats by a controversial New York rabbi directed at vice-presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman for his position on the Jonathan Pollard spy case.

Rabbi Mordechai Friedman, president of the American Board of Rabbis, a small Orthodox movement, said because Lieberman does not support Pollard's release from prison, Lieberman should be excommunicated from the Jewish faith.

Pollard is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel.

On his televised talk show in July, Rabbi Friedman suggested that Jewish law allows for the assassination of a Jew who turns a fellow Jew over to gentiles. Rabbi Friedman has since called for Lieberman's resignation but says he did not threaten the senator's life.

Still, the FBI, Capitol Police in Washington and police in Connecticut are beefing up security around Lieberman's Washington office and Connecticut home, the Associated Press reported.

Rabbi Friedman's remarks were denounced by other Orthodox groups.

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Beilin optimistic about peace with Palestinians

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Yossi Beilin, Israel's dovish justice minister, is cautiously optimistic that Israel and the Palestinians can reach an historic peace agreement that most Israelis would support in a referendum.

Speaking here about three weeks after the collapse of the Camp David summit in the United States, he rated the chances of success at 51 percent.

One of the architects of the Oslo peace process, Beilin warned that the window of opportunity is fast closing. "In the coming weeks, we'll have to take bold decisions," he said, adding that the era of "false slogans" has passed.

Beilin made his remarks at two venues – a breakfast sponsored by the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and UJA FEDERATION and at a meeting with reporters at the Israeli consulate.

Officially here to deliver a keynote speech to the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, Beilin met with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and President Bill Clinton's national security advisor, Samuel Berger, before flying to Toronto from Washington, D.C.

Declaring that the "moment of truth" is at hand, Beilin said that Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PLO chair Yasser Arafat have until September to sign a deal.

The tight deadline is dictated by several factors, Beilin observed. Clinton's term is ending, the Palestinians are threatening to declare unilateral statehood, and Barak's coalition government is teetering.

"I hope we have the courage, the creative ideas and the help of the Arab world to move forward."

Beilin doubts whether the Palestinians will reject Israel's "generous" terms to end the conflict. They may never again see an Israeli government as moderate as Barak's.

Pointing out that the two sides have never been closer to resolving their core differences, Beilin declared, "For the first time, we put our cards on the table."

Beilin suggested that a follow-up American-sponsored summit, lasting no more than a couple of days, remains a distinct possibility.

The key issues yet to be resolved are security, borders, a Palestinian state, settlements, Palestinian refugees and Jerusalem.

Israel's justice minister addresses legal conference

see page 14

Israel photo
Yossi Beilin

Jerusalem will be the toughest nut to crack, but it is not an "insurmountable" issue, Beilin said.

At Camp David, Barak and Arafat made two crucial concessions. Barak expressed a willingness to cede 28 Arab villages annexed by Israel in the greater Jerusalem area, while Arafat acknowledged that 11 Jewish neighbourhoods built by Israel in eastern Jerusalem since the 1967 Six Day War are in fact Israeli.

The thorniest issue in Jerusalem is the status of the walled Old City, with its array of Jewish, Muslim and Christian holy places. Such is its contentiousness that the Palestinians still do not grasp the importance of the Temple Mount – the site of the First and Second Temples – for Jews, Beilin said.

Some kind of "joint regime" may be the answer in the Old City, he said.

Saying it is in Israel's interest to reach an understanding with the Palestinians on Jerusalem, Beilin noted, "We're the only country in the world without a recognized capital. Why should we be so? Without negotiations, we won't have a recognized capital."

A breakthrough on Jerusalem will make it easier for Israel and the Palestinians to solve the remainder of their problems, he speculated.

Chief among them is the Palestinian refugee issue, the "reddest" of red lines. For demographic reasons, Israel cannot and will not admit Palestinian Arabs displaced by the 1948 war.

"If we agree to absorb the refugees, it is the end of the Jewish state."

Palestinian leaders understand Israel's objection, but they have yet to convey this message to their people. At Camp David, Beilin disclosed, Palestinian negotiators fought for a formula that would appear to give the refugees the right to return to their former homes in what is now Israel.

In his view, the impasse over refugees can be broken through the mechanism of a compensation plan and by their resettlement in an independent Palestinian state.

Turning to a related topic, Beilin said that Israel wants to annex three Jewish settlement blocs, with 80 percent of the settlers, in the West Bank.

Continued on page 14

Rabbi Melchor cancels campaign launch visit

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's minister for Israeli Society and the World Jewish Community, will not be appearing as scheduled for the community launch of UJA FEDERATION's Campaign 2001 on Aug. 30. The rabbi has to stay in Israel for cabinet discussions regarding the 2001 budget, said federation representative Danny Roth.

The launch, which is to take place at the Royal York Hotel, will have a "full and exciting program" featuring actor/director/producer Henry Winkler and Israel's Sheba Choir, Roth added.

CORRECTION

In the story on the Camp Biluim reunion (*CJN*, Aug. 10), the names of Mina Zwirling and Gail Paikes of Israel were incorrectly spelled. We regret the error.

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Greater Toronto Area

Two righteous women

From the editor's desk

Ono San Pietro is a small village in the very north of Italy, a short distance from the Alpine peaks where the borders of Italy, Switzerland and Austria converge.

The village is in picturesque Valle Camonica, one of a number of fairy-tale like valleys in this northernmost region of Italy. The red tile roofs of the village nestle into the side of the lusciously verdant mountain terrain like a sorority of ladybugs resting in a green patch of grass. The contrasting colours are a comfort to the eye, even as the vast upward sweep of the jagged mountain peaks are an inspiration to the soul.

Ono lies, literally, in the shadow of the Concarena, the highest of the peaks in the Alpine ridge of mountains that encase the valley.

Fewer than a thousand people live in Ono. The villagers make their living mostly by the produce they grow in their gardens or by the income they manage to bring home from jobs outside the village. Life there is relatively uncomplicated.

Except for the politely curious questioning of two Canadian visitors, invited to the village by the local priest, a teacher, scholar and expert in the Jewish history of the region, English is little heard in Ono's steeply winding, narrow streets.

One evening, three weeks ago, the priest arranged for the Canadian guests to meet two of his parishioners, Caterina and Antonia Formentalli. They are sisters, 83 and 85 years of age, respectively, both single.

One is struck immediately by the blueness of their eyes. Like a friendly beam of visible azure radar, the greeting in their eyes locks onto the visitors from Canada and takes hold of the Canadians' emotions.

The two middle-aged visitors from Canada and the two elderly sisters from Ono shake hands and kiss.

Fifty-seven years ago, during the evil maelstrom of World War 2, the two sisters and their brother Sandro, since deceased, saved the lives of two Jews.

Some 50,000 Jews lived in Italy in 1943. More than 10,000 were refugees from Germany and Austria. Most of the Jews lived in Italy's large cities: Rome, Milan, Trieste, Florence, Turin, Genoa and Venice. The fascist Italian government had imposed legislative restrictions on the Jews, but they had prevented their deportation and extermination.

In late 1943 the situation changed. After the Mussolini regime collapsed on Sept. 16, the Nazis took control of the country. Roundups and deportations of Jews started immediately. By the end of the war, 8,000 of Italy's approximately 40,000 Jews had been slaughtered by the Nazis.

Sylvia Rivera was a translator/interpreter in Turin. Like every other Italian Jew suddenly faced with trying to escape the crushing grip of the barbaric, Nazi hand, she had to run for her life.

She ran to Ono where she found shelter and safety in the home of the three Formentalli siblings. As we know from similar wartime stories, it was more than generosity that the Formentalli siblings extended towards the Riveras. It was courage and resolve; it was kindness and humanity. It was light amid total darkness.

The Nazis, who were headquartered in the region in nearby Brenno, a town significantly larger than Ono, sent out daily patrols into the villages and towns of the valleys, bloodlusting hunters craving Jewish prey. And when they found their quarry, as we know, they also destroyed the shelterers along with the sheltered.

In a certain sense therefore, it was the entire village of Ono San Pietro that sheltered Sylvia and her father. Everyone in the tiny village knew that Jews were hiding in the Formentalli home. Everyone in the tiny village had a hand in stretching the precious, barely sustaining rations of food toward the two Jewish strangers among them.

After the war Sylvia and her father returned to Turin. All of their family had been killed by the Nazis. Sylvia stayed in touch with the two Formentalli sisters in Ono until she died in 1988.

Caterina and Antonia Formentalli

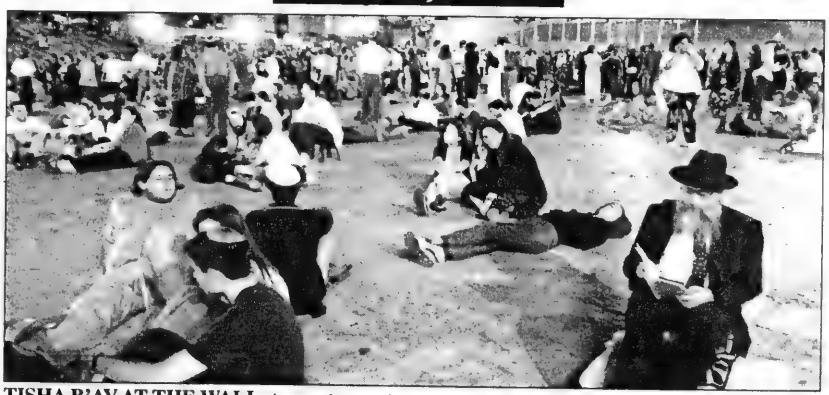
When asked by the Canadians why they hid the Jews, Caterina answered for her sister as well: "It was necessary to help. We did it for the sense of right."

Life in Ono San Pietro is relatively uncomplicated. The people lead simple lives. The vast upward sweep of the jagged mountain peaks, into whose luscious verdant terrain the houses of the tiny village nestle like a sorority of ladybugs, are an inspiration to the soul.

So too are its people.

—MBD

SEE JN



TISHA B'AV AT THE WALL: A man sits on a folding chair facing the Western Wall as he joins thousands of others, many of whom remained throughout the night, as they marked the solemn fast day of Tisha B'Av. The day commemorates the destruction of both the First and Second Temples which stood on the Temple Mount behind the Western Wall. This year brought out a larger crowd than usual to the Wall because of the peace talks with the Palestinians in which the future of Jerusalem is now the subject of discussions. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Canadian teens caught up in alleged drug case

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Several young Canadians taking part in a youth program in Israel were called as witnesses in a drug case earlier this month, after allegedly buying drugs from an Israeli seller.

The young Canadians, all 17, were part of the Biluim Israel program. They have all been returned to their parents.

Officials were tight-lipped last week, but some details about the youths' misadventures emerged.

According to Adam Minsky of the Canada Israel Experience Centre in Toronto, the incident took place in Kochav Yair, a community near Tel Aviv well known for being where Prime Minister Ehud Barak lives.

Minsky said the Canadian participants in Biluim Israel were taking part in a joint program with Israeli youths. He said several youths were approached by an Israeli who was selling drugs. Allegedly, the youths agreed to the sale and were caught using the drugs by local authorities.

Minsky said the Canadian youths were not permitted to leave the country until they gave evidence against the seller.

David Altshuller, director of the Biluim Israel program for Canadian Young Judaea in Israel, told *The CJN* that the teens were not arrested.

The youths came from across Canada. He would not say how many were involved.

"I've returned them to their parents. They're back in Canada," Altshuller said in a telephone interview, adding that "some of them were material witnesses" in the case. He would not confirm whether the teens were allowed to leave Israel until they co-operated.

Altshuller said the youths, all of them Canadian, were not kicked off the six-week program, which brought 130 Canadian 17-year-olds to Israel.

He said "some" of the youths involved in the incident "did nothing wrong."

He said he was under a lawyer's instructions not to say anything further.

Biluim Israel is the culmination of the Canadian Young Judaea program, which operates several summer camps in Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

Risa Epstein, executive director of Canadian Young Judaea, had no comment on the incident.

MITZVAH BOX: Temple Emanu-El's Camp Yossi junior campers present Miriam Kalushner of the Shalom Food Project with the mitzvah box they decorated and filled with donations of soap, toothpaste and shampoo. Shalom Food Project runs a breakfast club and provides lunches during the school year. The mitzvah project is part of Camp Yossi's curriculum.

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Ben Hillel takes over as Israeli vice-consul

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — One of Zehavit Ben Hillel's earliest memories is of being taken to a bomb shelter as a two-year-old during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Being a diplomat affords her a modest way of making a contribution toward peace, she believes.

"I love to see how something small that one of us is doing can contribute to better relations between Israel and [another] country. It's the small things that can make the whole picture," said the new vice-consul at Israel's Consulate General in Toronto.

Ben Hillel, 29, has always been curious about other cultures and "how the whole thing works," she said in an interview in the office she took over in mid-July.

Her career has already taken her to Angola and Costa Rica for short-term postings, and more recently to Lima, Peru, where she served as second secretary at the Israeli Embassy for two years before moving here.

As a teenager, she participated in Israel in a program with North American teens, including some from Toronto.

A native of Nes Ziona, Ben Hillel has a secular background. In fact, it wasn't until age 21, when she worked as an Israeli cultural counsellor at a Jewish overnight camp outside of Philadelphia, that she learned blessings like the Hamotzi and Birkat Hamazon.

Zehavit Ben Hillel

Her late father's family made aliyah in 1896 from White Russia. Her mother's family left Poland in the 1920s for Belgium, and in 1935 immigrated to Israel.

Coincidentally, both her grandfathers adopted the same Hebraicized surname in honour of their respective fathers, replacing their original names (Becker and Moksky) with the more Israeli-sounding Ben Hillel.

"Our Jewishness is very much connected to [our] roots, history, language, literature and culture," she said.

Ben Hillel is currently working on her master's degree in contemporary Jewish studies at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she completed her BA in international relations in 1995.

For "fun," as a third-year student, she studied Spanish, continuing her education through a summer course in Spain and with twice-weekly lessons in Lima, a city with a "still very lively" Jewish community of 3,000.

She is excited at the prospect of experiencing a Canadian winter, remembering a rare snowfall in Jerusalem, when she was a student there. Her mother woke her with a 6:30 a.m. phone call to alert her to the unusual weather.

Climate aside, Ben Hillel is very taken with Toronto's cleanliness, multicultural diversity, the Art Gallery of Ontario and bookstores. Among her preferred reading material are mysteries, Yiddish literature in translation, and books on art or Jewish history.

She is still learning about the Canadian Jewish community (the consulate's purview extends to the west coast), and was looking forward to upcoming speaking engagements as well as involvement with international film festivals and other cultural events.

One of her favourite examples of contemporary Israeli culture is a song called *The Winter of '73*. The words tell of children born after the Yom Kippur war – Ben Hillel's generation – and of the hopefulness of their parents, who told their children they wouldn't have to enter the army. Now, 20 years later, the song continues, and the children have to make the same promise to their children.

In light of recent negotiations at Camp David, "we're hopeful" about the peace process, Ben Hillel said, sighing softly. "It feels kind of like it's now or never."

Noting that "most of the crucial points" have been resolved, and that there are still a few weeks left to achieve a more definitive agreement, Ben Hillel said she hopes that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, "with the assistance of our friends in the United States and other countries, can actually do it... I really want [the next generation] to have a peaceful and tranquil future."

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SPIRITUAL PARENT: Lincoln Alexander, former lieutenant governor of Ontario, was named Na'amat Toronto Spiritual Parent of the Year at their recent Growing Up With Na'amat gala. Seen (from left) are Marilyn Myers, president of Na'amat Canada; Alexander; Susie Shillow, Toronto president; Vivian Silverberg, Toronto vice-president.

Greater Toronto Area

Israeli columnist says peace treaty could lead to future problems

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinians may be possible now, but five years down the road, when the Palestinians have taken over Jordan and have control of the Golan and the Jordan Valley, who knows if Israel will have the technological strength to stand against them, says Jonathan Rosenblum, a *Jerusalem Post* columnist.

Rosenblum, also an author and *Jewish Observer* contributor, expressed this pessimistic view to *The CJN* at a luncheon address to a group of lawyers in downtown Toronto.

Arafat buying time to destroy Israel

A 1977 graduate of Yale Law School, Rosenblum is also director of Am Echad Jewish Media Resources, and of the Centre for Law, Society and Democracy in Israel. He has lived in Israel for 21 years.

Yasser Arafat, he said, wants to trade land for peace, for land for time – in effect, buying time for the Palestinians to be strong enough to destroy the state of Israel.

What happened at the recent Camp David summit, he said, "should have alerted Israel. If Barak was offering what no Arab expected even in 1993 [at the Oslo meetings] – and even then Arafat couldn't sign an agreement – was there really a partner to discuss peace with?"

Not only does Rosenblum believe that it is very likely that war will break out, but "there is the fear that a highly armed Egypt will join in."

It is foolish to count on the United States, he said. "When U.S. business interests conflict with Israeli interests," Israel won't win, Rosenblum warned.

People should realize that "98 percent of Palestinians live under self rule right now," and they are being fed a constant diet of anti-Israel rhetoric in schools, summer camps and in the Arab media, he said, adding that "no Arab map of the Middle East has Israel mentioned on it."

Time is on their side, Rosenblum said. "They see Israel's desire for peace as a sign of weakness."

If war does break out, he warned, "Jews will be targeted all over the world."

Rosenblum does not appear to have great faith in Israeli political leaders, describing both former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and current Prime Minister Ehud Barak as men of "tremendous intellect and no ethical values at all."

He also does not agree with much of the media coverage of the Orthodox community.

As an example, he cited the extensive coverage of the arson of a Conservative shul, by "baalei tshuvah with long criminal records."

On the other hand, in 1997 and 1998, "there were 32 attacks on Orthodox institutions. There was no coverage by the press, [and] no concern expressed by the Israeli government, U.S. federations or the Jewish Agency."

There is no interest in showing the Orthodox as victims, he charged. As to American federations, "that doesn't serve their interests concerning pluralism."

He accused the media of consistently biased reporting, citing for example, how they ignored the questioning of the finances of Shimon Peres' Peace Institute while lambasting Ezer Weizman's financial woes; concentrated on Shas MK Arye Deri's wrong-doings and ignored those of a leftist member of the Knesset; and criticized Likud's actions while they applauded similar Labour party's moves.

Nevertheless, he said, speaking as an Orthodox Jew, "I would still choose life in Israel."

In each of the last two years, he said, "5,000 non-frum children have been enrolled in religious schools, in spite of Yossi Sarid's threats to close down any more schools that open. In Har Nof (a neighbourhood in Jerusalem), there are 2,500 religious families."

Steps are being taken to slowly integrate haredim into the economic life of the country. "We need to emphasize the notion of a working ben Torah (someone who is gainfully employed and still makes time to study)."

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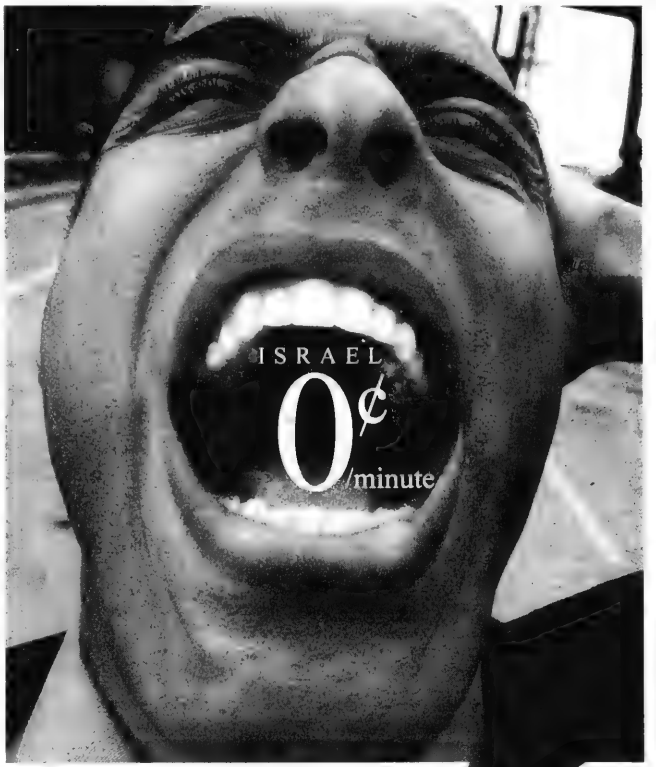

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What will be our sustaining vision?

Political boundaries generally follow natural economic relationships. A modern-day exception to this rule has been Canada. Canada was founded against the grain, so to speak. The long latitudinal political border joining the Atlantic to the Pacific does not follow the natural economic relationships of the continent, which have always been north and south.

Reconciling and harmonizing the opposite flows of the political and the economic lines of this country was the very essence of the nation-building challenge that the founding fathers undertook. They called that essence Canada.

In their wisdom and over the course of the unfolding years, the founders of the country fashioned three instruments with which to try to achieve that harmony: a strong centralized federal government; the fiscal authority to foster strong, distinct regional economies; and the social policy authority to ameliorate significant societal disparities among the regions that arose because of the distinct regional economies.

The instruments never worked perfectly. There were always regional resentments. The federal government was either fiscally "over-reaching" or socially "under-reaching." Still, during the first 11 decades of the country, despite the imperfections of the instruments and the constitutional litigation that set the limits of power between competing provincial and federal governments, there was a broad consensus throughout the land that the essence we called Canada was something different from its southern neighbour, deeply endearing and deeply precious, a sustaining vision for the way different peoples might live together, with concern for the wellbeing of the other enshrined into the very law of the land alongside individual rights and freedoms.

Over the past two decades however, due to the confluence of a series of factors, there has been a slow, incremental, but irrefutable erosion in that broad consensus. The nasty display of temper at the recent premiers' meeting in Winnipeg between two of the Atlantic premiers and the Alberta premier, ostensibly over the issue of equalization payments, was but the latest proof. The unabating calls for the decentralization of federal authority is another.

Canada is in transition. But where is it headed? What will be the defining essence of the Canada of tomorrow? Is the Canadian essence to be merely a replica of the American essence? What values will sustain the uniquely Canadian vision for the way different peoples might live together with concern for the wellbeing of the other enshrined into the law of the land? These are questions that must be debated by all Canadians, not only by politicians and not only in the context of an election campaign.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO

On July 1, in the city of Shiraz in Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Court convicted 10 Jews on the false charge of spying for Israel. They were sentenced to between four and 13 years imprisonment. Each one must be remembered. They are: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr.

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Irving Abella, Donald Carr, Q.C., Sydney Eisen, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Jack Kahn, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Guidy Mamann, Lou Ronson, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Joseph Steiner

Historical revisionism never justified

To paraphrase Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister for Nazi Germany, the bigger the lie and the more often it is told, the more people will believe it. Such is the case from virtually every Arab letter-writer in the daily press alleging the violent expulsion of Arabs from the western part of Jerusalem in 1948.

What is never mentioned by Arab writers is that with the creation of Israel and its attack from all sides by its Arab neighbours, Arab leadership called on Arabs to leave, with a promise that they would be returned once the Israelis were driven into the sea.

Nor do Arab letter-writers talk about the Arab occupation of east Jerusalem from 1948 to 1967 and the desecration of Jewish gravestones and holy sites and the refusal to allow Jews to visit the sacred Western Wall.

The ultimate resolution of the status of Jerusalem is not helped by the Pope's calling for Jerusalem to be made an international city without recognizing that since 1967, Jews, Christians and Muslims have had access to all their religious sites.

Ultimately, there will be a resolution, notwithstanding the passions connected with Jerusalem, but there is never any justification for historical revisionism.

Bert Rapahel
President
Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada
Toronto

* * *

A spectre of violence

It was 52 years ago that the State of Israel was created and many people today inside and outside the country are voicing concerns over the failure of the recent Middle East summit. The peace process is apparently continuing in spite of the rejection of co-existence by terrorist groups and rejectionist Arab countries.

Israel is battling one of her worst political turmoils internally and calamity and hate media externally.

The spectre of violence is again rolling over Israel. Attacks by extremists have erupted throughout the country and rendered the Knesset inoperative. Unless a strong coalition is quickly hammered together, the national courage needed to resolve the Mideast issue will not be there to close the irreconcible gaps.

Albert L. Stal
Toronto

* * *

Correcting article re: Stoutenburg

On July 27, you published an article written by Myron Love reporting that Dr. Dennis Stoutenburg would be heading up a project to translate Midrash Raba, to be published jointly by the Catholic Liturgical Press and the Jewish Publication Society (JPS). I would like to correct several errors in the article, foremost of which is that JPS has signed no formal agreement either with Stoutenberg or with Liturgical Press. In fact, after considerable discussion with Liturgical Press, JPS has decided not to go ahead with this project at this time.

Ellen Frankel
CEO and Editor-in-Chief, JPS
Philadelphia

* * *

Parable applies to Jerusalem

The Bible tells of two women who laid claim to one child. They brought their problem before King Solomon, who, after much thought, declared that the solution was to split the child in two, with each woman to receive one part. One of the "mothers" agreed. The other said that rather than harm the child, she would give up her claim. In his wisdom, Solomon decreed that the latter was the true mother, and that the child belonged to her.

In 1948, the Arab forces, highly superior in armaments and numbers, captured the eastern portion of Jerusalem.

In the war of 1967, Israel asked Jordan to refrain from entering the conflict, assuring King Hussein that the status quo would be maintained. Seeing the little country with its back against the wall, Jordan joined the other Arab states and together they all jumped on Israel.

During the fighting in Jerusalem, the Arab forces used any and every means of destruction obtainable, smashing, burning and destroying everything in their way. The Israelis, finally returning to the long-forbidden streets of their ancient capital, used the opposite tactics. Inching their way through the streets, they gave up many, many lives in hand-to-hand combat, forgoing surer and more direct methods that would have added to the damage and the destruction of the city. Their aim was to protect Jerusalem and to keep the city intact.

Now, I ask: To whom does Jerusalem belong?

Edith Raphael
Burlington, Ont.

* * *

High school erred in inviting Day

I was horrified to see that a Jewish institution like Beth Jacob High School for girls would permit someone like Stockwell Day to address an audience in its facilities ("Day is sympathetic to funding burden," *CJN*, June 15). Day is supported by several evangelical groups, and many of them support messianic missions.

Day opposes abortion and extending rights to homosexuals. He proposes cuts to national health care. His tax cuts would impoverish more Canadians while enriching the most wealthy.

Paul Greenspoon
St. Catharines, Ont.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

200th birthday of Rabbi Shmuel David Luzatto

By RABBI SHLOMO JAKOBOVITS

Among Jewish men of thought who are of the rationalist school, it is virtually axiomatic that their model is Maimonides (Rambam), and he is the authority who sets the standard.

But one outstanding writer constitutes the exception to this rule – Rabbi Shmuel David Luzatto, known by his acronym of Shadal.

In his voluminous works, Shadal repeatedly takes issue with Rambam, and at times also with Ibn Ezra. Like these two luminaries, Shadal himself was, in most respects, especially in his biblical exegesis and his mode of thought, a rationalist, yet he makes it abundantly clear that of the medieval sages of Judaism his heroes are Rashi, Yehuda Halevy, and Don Yitzchak Abarbanel. All three of these taught that faith derived not from intellect alone but also from the heart and from personal belief.

Furthermore, in another aspect, Shadal was not in line with what might have been expected. The movement usually known by its German name as Wissenschaft des Judentums, in English Science of Judaism, began with the publication of the first work of Leopold Zunz in 1818, when Shadal's earliest books were being readied for print.

Shadal was a leading member of the first generation of Wissenschaft scholars. But he differed radically from the norm. Most of the other scholars of his generation eschewed the type of Jewish observance which today is called Orthodoxy. They studied traditional Judaism, but did not practise it. Shadal was the exception. In both his personal observance and in his interpretation of Jewish texts he was staunchly of the traditional school.

The Luzatto family

Shadal was born Aug. 22, 1800, in the Italian city of Trieste, which at that time was under Austrian rule. The Luzatto family was exceptionally talented, and for three centuries they produced some of the most prominent Jews of Italy. The most famous of these was Moshe Chaim Luzatto of Padua, 1707-1746, known as Ramchal, author of *Sefer Mesillat Yesharim*, the foremost Hebrew text on Jewish ethics, a topic which today is known in the yeshiva world as *mussar*.

He and Shadal were both brilliant scholars, erudite in the various aspects of Torah studies and also secular subjects. Both were prolific writers and outstanding poets, and strictly observant of Halachah. But they differed in outlook on two major issues. Ramchal was an ardent proponent of Kabbalah, whereas Shadal entirely denied its validity. And concerning certain of the teachings of Rambam, whereas Shadal took issue with them, Ramchal was fully supportive.

Shadal's father, Hezekia, a carpenter by trade, would have liked to pursue intellectual goals, but was too occupied eking out a bare livelihood. Indeed he wanted his son Samuel David to learn carpentry, but this child was so vehemently determined to study and to write that no person and no obstacle could deter him.

His mother died when he was 13. A few weeks thereafter, the young boy became seriously sick, and, following medical advice, he left school. From then on, he never attended formal classes, and his only further experience with a teacher was with a part-time private tutor in Talmud. It was by dint of his self-discipline and self-instruction that he rose to become a scholar of world renown.

In 1828, Shadal married Bilha Bathsheba Segre, daughter of one of his former teachers. But four years later she became ill, and after the next seven years of intensive care by her husband, she died. He subsequently married her sister Leah; it was a happy marriage, and she outlived him. But three of his five children died in his lifetime, at age two, seven and 24.

At age 50 he lost sight in one eye, and this hindered his ability to work. He was also hampered by the effects of the three revolutions that ravaged his part of Italy in 1830, 1848 and 1860. Each revolution entailed fighting, lawlessness, economic ruin and rapacious taxes. Shadal had to plead for the support of friends to help him survive these financial crises.

But the prolific output of Shadal's pen continued throughout his life. With each misfortune, he expressed in poignant words his intense sorrow and his acceptance of God's will, painful though it might be, and also his determination to continue his mission of writing and teaching.

Projected to prominence by imperial edicts

In 1821, the Austrian Emperor Francis I ordered the Jews of his Italian possessions to use a siddur that included a translation of the Hebrew into Italian. Shadal, though only 21, was already known for his mastery of Hebrew and Italian, and the task was entrusted to him. This siddur was quickly adopted in all parts of Italy, and Shadal's name became a household word throughout the land. At that time there were 30,000 to 35,000 Jews in Italy. For comparison, Britain had about the same number, and France, including Alsace-Lorraine, about 50,000.

Another edict by the same Austrian emperor ordered all Jews in his domains to set up training schools for rabbis wherein candidates would be taught Hebrew and secular subjects to the satisfaction of government examiners. This came in response to a Jewish petition for civil rights equal to those of the empire's Christian subjects. Jews in Austria and Bohemia immediately proclaimed the edict to be unworkable, and it was withdrawn, as was all discussion of enhanced rights.

But in Italy, the Austrian-ruled communities were quite amenable to such training for rabbis. Accordingly a seminary was established at Padua in 1829, called Collegio Rabbinico. Shadal was appointed to lead it, and retained this position for the remaining 36 years of his life. The graduates from this college filled most future rabbinical positions in Italy, including pulpits in the non-Austrian provinces, which constituted the overwhelming majority of Italian congregations.

Thus Shadal's influence had an impact on the entire land. But his writings spread well beyond the borders of Italy, and he soon became world renowned.

Two more major Orthodox rabbinical seminaries were established during the 19th century and they both followed roughly the structure and curriculum established at Padua: Jews' College in London, 1855, and, on a larger scale, the Rabbiner-Seminar (sometimes called Hildesheimer-Seminar) in Berlin, 1873.

The teachings of Shadal

What is striking about this personality is his breadth and versatility. He became an expert in each field that he entered. He was an accomplished exegete (Bible commentator), translator, philosopher, outstanding Hebraist and grammarian, a poet and an interpreter of poetry.

In all these, he researched and questioned, and often disagreed with established authority, but he never veered from the rock of Jewish faith and Jewish practice.

His criticism of Rambam involved many pronouncements in Rambam's writings.

Most important is the question of God's essence and how we are to conceive Him. Rambam repeatedly states that our approach must be through philosophy and the human intellect, and the teachings of Aristotle play an important role in this. Shadal retorts: "I esteem Rambam very greatly, but Moses never dreamed of philosophy and never heard of Aristotle."

The God described by Rambam, frequently referred to as the Prime Mover, is seemingly too remote and too theoretical to be our Father and King. Shadal recognizes that God is omnipotent and infinite, but not to the extent that humans cannot reach Him; He does have feeling, and human prayer does reach Him and move Him.

Shadal did study non-Jewish writers – classical, medieval, and modern – and he quotes them extensively. But he also states, emphatically, "My God is not the God of Immanuel Kant, but the God of the Tanach." He maintains that philosophy alone cannot lead to an improved morality, and therefore it cannot be the basis of Judaism. The emotional and historical have to factor in, as in Tanach.

To Rambam he accords abiding respect, and he frequently quotes him, his criticism of him notwithstanding. An altogether different mode applies in his references to Spinoza. Upon him he pours invective and ridicule. Spinoza's "intellectual love of God" he calls an absurdity, and he deems his impact on Judaism to be totally detrimental.

Shadal and the gentile world

The development of Reform Judaism began during Shadal's teen years, although the movement made no significant inroads into 19th-century Italian Jewry. Perhaps this is because Jews had not suffered the same deprivation of rights as in central Europe. It is well to note, though it is not widely known, that the original impetus for Reform was the desire to render Jews and Judaism more acceptable to the gentile world. Changing of religious practice was not the prime motive, but merely the intended means.

In Italy, though it is the country that first established the ghetto, Jews did not live with a ghetto mentality. By the early 19th century they were reasonably well integrated socially with their neighbours, and it may be that accordingly there was less reason for Reform.

As for the situation north of the Alps, Shadal predicted that the reform of Judaism would not succeed in producing better acceptance by the non-Jewish environment. To him, the consequence of Reform would be the weakening of Judaism, without any concomitant enhancing of Jewish rights and inter-faith relations. But as to Italy, Shadal reported that in all his years he never heard his parents make disparaging remarks about non-Jews. His family, and most other Italian Jews of this era, enjoyed cordial relations with the Christian world, on both the social and the intellectual levels. On the intellectual level, Shadal declared there is much we can learn from the works of non-Jewish scholars.

He cited halachic sources to the effect that there is a significant difference between a person who is merely not Jewish and one who is an idol-worshipper, as were many peoples of old – often called pagans. There is general agreement that Muslims are deemed monotheists, not pagans. Shadal declared that the same applied to Christians.

He took an active interest in political affairs, and enthusiastically supported Risorgimento, the movement to free Italy from foreign occupation and to unite it into one land with one central government.

Books and articles from his pen

Shadal's literary attainment is nothing short of phenomenal. He authored 40 major works and published hundreds of articles and monographs. He kept copies of the hundreds of letters he sent or received, nearly all dealing with intellectual topics.

He wrote in Hebrew, Italian, German and French, and also mastered Aramaic, Syriac and Arabic. Only a few titles can be mentioned here: translation of the Pentateuch, haftarot, and five megilot into Italian, with detailed commentary in Hebrew; similar works on several books of the Tanach; grammar of Hebrew and a grammar of Aramaic; works on the machzor and on all 800 poems of Yehuda Halevy; works on Jewish history and Jewish theology; hundreds of poems.

Shadal died on Yom Kippur, Sept. 30, 1865. His demise was the occasion for eulogies and tributes in all the leading Jewish journals of the day. The main Hebrew newspaper at the time was the weekly *Hamagid*. It carried eulogies on this scholar virtually every week for an entire year after his death.

Rabbi Jakobovits is director of development at Eitz Chaim Schools in Toronto.

The 'Ouch' in Groucho

Sunday morning is my time for reading *The New York Times* Book Review. Its front page featured "A Course in Marxism" – a play on the Marx Brothers whose antics had been the rage of an earlier generation. The reason for their rejuvenated prominence was a book by Stefan Kanfer, titled *The Essential Groucho.*

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

It so happens that the Marx Brothers – a name they gave to themselves at the time of World War I – were of German origin, a fairly large family that had immigrated to the United States and lived in New York City. They were vaudevillians from the very start and, in the course of time, became a fixture on the North American entertainment scene: in film, on radio, and eventually on television as well.

Groucho, whose original name was Julius Levy, was the leader and widely recognized by his painted moustache, his professional spectacles and the ashes on his everburning cigar. I suppose that I, not having been born in North America but raised in a European Jewish environment, never came to admire the nuttiness of the Brothers and, in the course of time, began to dislike Groucho. To be sure, he was funny and acerbic, displaying his wit in interviews with people who had been enticed to be his "guests" with a promise of instant prominence. As I discovered, the unfortunate part of his display was that the guests in Groucho's shows became all too often his victims. He would take advantage of the people he interviewed and induced the audience to laugh at their expense. Not only was it not funny to me, but it was also un-Jewish.

Shaming someone is a fundamental offence against human dignity, and Jewish tradition is very firm in labelling it a major offence. But is it okay when humour is involved? I think our tradition would say. "No. Laugh at yourself but not at someone who is helpless and exposed to ridicule." Jewish humour is essentially self-critical. We laugh at our own foibles and have a good time with it. It is not, to be sure, the only form of Jewish wit, but it is the most frequent and essential aspect of the way we look at life and ourselves.

Wasn't it Groucho who once said: "A club that would have me as a member is one I wouldn't want to belong to?" Neither would I, for as the shows wore on, my wife and I were inevitably put off by the way Groucho exposed the naiveness of his guests. I did not laugh at his verbal acuity but disliked it intensely and eventually ceased giving him time in my schedule.

I do not know whether Mr. Kanfer deals with the subject, but as for me, making the Book Review a vehicle for Groucho offended my sense of propriety. I felt an "ouch" when I saw Groucho so heavily promoted.

The medium and the message

Try as you may, there's no escaping politics in Israel. Even getting in your car and going for a drive inevitably brings you up against the country's intense political reality. Literally. More often than not, the car in front of you is sporting any number of topical stickers reminding you of the state of the nation.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Not for the Promised Land are bumper stickers with vulgar puns, corny jokes, commercial slogans and logos for sports teams and tourist sites like in most countries. In Israel, we like dressing up our automobiles with the issues of the day. We like to display our ideology loud and clear.

For a crash course in public sentiment, visit any large parking lot in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa in the middle of the day and look at the cars' backsides. Don't expect too many nuanced viewpoints.

Never shy about declaring political opinions verbally, many Israelis – both on the left and right – feel the need to plaster their dearest causes and concerns on their cars. It's not hard to get the message. Opinions confront your eyes with bold letters, broad strokes, emphatic exclamation points and tabloid headlines. Not just on bumpers either, but on any flat surface of the car visible to other people.

Most stickers are devoted in some way to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process. The signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 triggered a war of political bumper stickers that still rages to this day. In 1995, there was a temporary lull in right-wing messages following the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Almost overnight, amid charges that such stickers were part of a general climate of incitement that led to the murder, people removed what was deemed politically incorrect (read anti-Oslo, anti-Rabin, anti-Labour Party) propaganda. Within days of the funeral, a new sticker appeared, reading "Shalom Chaver," repeating the words of U.S. President Bill Clinton in his eulogy to Rabin. For months, it seemed every third car was adorned with that message.

In recent years, the most ubiquitous sticker has been one in defence of keeping the Golan Heights part of Israel. "The people are with the Golan," declares the sticker whose omnipresence has emboldened residents and supporters of the Golan in their struggle. Other favourites are: "There is a mandate for peace," backing Oslo, while "Nightmarish peace," accompanied by simulated bloody bullet holes from Palestinian terrorists, strongly denounces the peace process.

There is a commonly seen sticker for Peace Now that opposes Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip while a slew of other stickers defend them. An undivided Jerusalem, communities in the Jordan Valley and the embattled Jewish enclave in Hebron are all the object of separate stickers.

Anger over widescale Haredi draft evasion has spawned the popular "One people, one draft" sticker while arguably the one that attracts the widest consensus calls for the freedom of airman Ron Arad missing in Lebanon since 1986. Shas, Chabad and other religious movements and various star rabbis adorn many stickers no less direct in their pitch than their secular counterparts. In most cases, the slogans – on both the left and right – do not translate well into English nor into a non-Israeli context.

Election time finds sticker makers working overtime. To be sure, their products even figured prominently in this year's report by state comptroller Eliezer Goldberg on illegal financial contributions to Prime Minister Ehud Barak's election campaign in 1999. One of the things the money was used for was the printing and distribution of countless thousands of bumper stickers.

According to the report, the Barak campaign funnelled millions of shekels into illegal non-profit organizations that paid for signs, surveys and bumper stickers for their candidate.

More recently, during the Camp David talks this summer, the Likud-led opposition disseminated tens of thousands of stickers with the slogan "Peace yes, suckers no" in protest of Barak's policies.

If nothing else, the proliferation of bumper stickers provides a diversion from the insufferable traffic jams that Israelis waste more and more time in every day. Just think how many political discussions and outright arguments these stickers have triggered among people stuck in their cars on heavily congested roads.

You can contact Robert Sarner by e-mail at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Setting record straight

In September 1993, the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, agreed to include Jerusalem in the permanent status negotiations under the Oslo process. At the time, we were told that this did not signal a change in policy and that Jerusalem would remain Israel's "eternal and undivided capital."

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Seven years later, at the Camp David summit talks, Jerusalem's future was placed at the centre of the table. While no agreement was reached, the concessions that Ehud Barak seemed ready to accept regarding Jerusalem could lead to the collapse of Barak's government. Opinion polls indicate that the majority of Israelis are not prepared to endorse an agreement that would redivide Jerusalem, no matter how creatively this is done.

While much of the world has accepted at face value the 1967 half-truth regarding Israel's conquest of "Arab east Jerusalem," Israelis know better. The forgotten half of the equation is the period between 1948 and 1967, when "Jewish east Jerusalem" was occupied, ethnically cleansed and desecrated. The refusal of the Palestinians and the Arab world to acknowledge responsibility, and the fear that history will be repeated, explain why "creative" solutions are non-starters.

Jewish Jerusalem was the primary target of the Arab invasion in 1948. As the Arab Legion's commander admitted, "Only four days after our entry into Jerusalem, the Jewish Quarter had become a graveyard." The Jews that survived surrendered and were forced to leave their homes.

After the Jewish Quarter was captured, 57 synagogues, libraries and centres of religious study were ransacked and 12 were totally destroyed.

Those that remained standing were used for shelter of both people and animals. Had these been Christian or Muslim sites, the outcry in the UN and the international community would have been deafening, but the desecration of Jewish Jerusalem was ignored.

During the occupation, thousands of tombstones from the ancient cemetery on the Mount of Olives were used to pave roads and for construction of houses. Parts of the cemetery were used as parking lots and for a gas station, and the Intercontinental Hotel was built on the upper section.

The pillaging took place behind the barbed wire and walls that divided the city. From 1948 until the Arab occupation was ended in 1967, Jews were totally barred from entering the occupied Old City and the Western Wall.

Guarantees of free access were ignored, and the international community remained silent. Article VIII of the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement guaranteed "free access to the holy places and cultural institutions and use of the cemetery on the Mount of Olives." These guarantees proved worthless.

At the same time, the United Nations held surrealistic debates on the "internationalization of Jerusalem," and the Vatican pressed its claims, but the inaccessibility of Jewish holy sites was of no importance. As Abba Eban noted, "the Wailing Wall, the most hallowed sanctuary of Judaism and the most ancient shrine in the entire city is barred to all access by worshippers despite solemn agreements and undertakings."

This situation would no doubt have continued forever if the 1967 war had not erupted. The war was caused by a number of factors unrelated to Jerusalem, but once the Jordanians attacked, Israeli troops entered the Old City of Jerusalem. The walls that divided the city were removed, and the Jewish Quarter was suddenly reopened.

Although 33 years have gone by since then, and many synagogues and other institutions have been rebuilt, the scars of the occupation and desecration remain. There has been no accounting, no admission of responsibility and no repentance. Instead, Palestinians and their supporters have continued in their efforts to rewrite history and to erase the central link between the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem. Indeed, every repetition of the phrase "Arab east Jerusalem" reinforces the Israeli determination to reject formulas that would turn the clock back to May 1948.

The Kirshner File

Germany confronts the pain of the Holocaust

The Federal Republic of Germany is preoccupied by the spectre of the Holocaust, which Germany's former president, Roman Herzog, has described as "one of the most horrible and shameful moments in German history."

Sheldon Kirshner in Germany

Two years ago, at a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht, an event which paved the way for the Holocaust, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder declared, "It is our task to fashion the present and the future so that the past cannot repeat itself."

Schroeder's comment was indicative of the fact that Germany is seriously trying to work through its angst, anguish and guilt about the Holocaust.

And yet, as polls and comments by prominent Germans suggest, its long, dark shadows have evoked something of a backlash.

Two months ago, the conservative historian Ernst Nolte sparked a national storm by implying that Adolf Hitler's anti-Semitism was animated by a "rational core." Accepting a prize from the Deutschland Foundation, which is ideologically close to the mainstream Christian Democratic party, Nolte said that Hitler may have had a rational reason for attacking Jews, since Bolshevism, a counter force to Nazism, enjoyed what he claimed was considerable Jewish support.

Since its reincarnation as a democratic state in 1949, Germany has coped with the Holocaust's terrible legacy through a variety of means.

In the aftermath of World War II, Germany submitted itself to a massive de-Nazification program, though the results were not always satisfactory.

Germany has given Holocaust survivors and Israel approximately $90 billion in restitution payments. On July 17, a special $5 billion fund was officially launched for Jews who were forced and slave labourers.

German schools offer mandatory lessons on the Third Reich and the Holocaust.

Although thousands of German war criminals have been tried and convicted since 1945, the process has not yet ended. Last year, a former Gestapo officer went on trial in Stuttgart, accused of complicity in the deaths of 17,000 Jews at the Majdanek concentration camp in Poland. Prosecutors claimed that the case could well be Germany's final Nazi war crimes proceeding. But a few months ago, a former SS officer was arrested in Munich for murdering a Jewish slave labourer in Theresienstadt. His trial is set to begin soon.

Germany has commemorated the Holocaust by building scores of monuments, small and large, and by naming government facilities after heroic Germans who paid dearly for their resistance to Nazi totalitarianism.

Last May, a military base was renamed to honour a Wehrmacht soldier who was executed for saving hundreds of Jews in the Vilna ghetto. And as visitors rarely fail to notice, Germany's landscape is dotted with Holocaust monuments and markers. At a busy intersection in Berlin, in front of a subway station, a black plaque is starkly inscribed in gold letters with the names of concentration camps to which German Jews were consigned. Some of them, ranging from Dachau to Buchenwald, have been converted into museums.

And now Germany plans to build a massive Holocaust memorial in the historic centre of Berlin, next to a far smaller site allocated for the new U.S. embassy.

In sharp juxtaposition to these manifestations of national remembrance, more than 50 percent of Germans think that a "line" should be drawn under the past, and that Germany should no longer be victimized by the Holocaust, according to surveys conducted by the American Jewish Committee.

This mood was distilled by Martin Walser – one of Germany's leading writers – in 1998 when he suggested that a "routine of accusations" against Germans had developed. In a controversial speech at the Frankfurt book fair, he acknowledged the enormity of Germany's crimes, but warned that if "the media present this past every day, I feel in myself something that begins to resist the permanent presentation of our shame." Auschwitz, he added, "is not suited to becoming a routine threat, a tool of intimidation that can be used any time, a moral stick or merely a compulsory exercise."

Sibylle Quack

Sibylle Quack, a 51-year-old political scientist from Hannover who heads the foundation in charge of building the Holocaust memorial in Berlin, said that Walser spoke for a lot of Germans of his generation. (Walser is in his early 70s.)

"There is a tendency to say, 'I don't want to hear about this [the Holocaust] anymore,'" said Quack, who has written monographs on German-Jewish life in the 1930s.

Hans Mommsen, a retired history professor whose specialty is the Third Reich, explained that the generation socialized by the Nazis do indeed wish to forget that epoch. "Yet it is important to point out that Walser's speech was not the language of the younger generation," said Mommsen, speaking at a restaurant on Lake Starnberg, southwest of Munich. "Auschwitz is an obligation, not a burden."

Hans Mommsen

In his estimation, Holocaust awareness in Germany was sharpened by the 1960 trial of Adolf Eichmann in Israel, by the 1979 *Holocaust* television drama, and by Steven Spielberg's 1993 Oscar-winning film, *Schindler's List*.

Germans have learned several lessons from the Holocaust, said Mommsen, a liberal whose great-grandfather, Theodor, was a scholar of classical antiquity and won the 1902 Nobel Prize for literature. In general, Germans reject nationalism, though not "constitutional nationalism." They have formed an attachment to democracy. They realize that the era of German hegemony in Europe has passed.

Annette Haller

Annette Haller, managing director of Europe's largest Jewish library, Germanica-Judaica in the city of Cologne, holds that Walser's comments were an expression of frustration with "enforced attitudes." Walser, she observed, was arguing on behalf of "personal memory."

Juliane Wetzel, a researcher at the Centre for Research on Anti-Semitism at the Technical University in Berlin, said that many Germans are in agreement with Walser. "They want to put this behind them," she noted, warning that Walser's attitude should not be confused with anti-Semitism.

Michael Wolffsohn, a professor of history at Munich's Armed Forces University, believes that Walser was widely misunderstood. "He never said, 'Enough is enough.' He was referring to the method of remembrance."

Wolffsohn, a Jew, dismissed as untrue allegations that Germany's intellectual elite is tired of the Holocaust. "This is fiction, not fact. German intellectuals go out of their way to do whatever they can, even imperfectly, to remember what happened. There is an essential goodwill here."

Wolffsohn may be right, judging by Germany's decision to build a central Holocaust memorial in Berlin on a 4.9 acre vacant lot. Eleven years in the making, the project combines a field of 2,700 low stone pillars in the shape of coffins with a documentation centre. It was designed by Peter Eisenman, a New York City architect. Some Germans, including Berlin's mayor, have voiced grave reservations about the "monumentality" of Eisenman's design. But its size did not deter most German parliamentarians. In June 1999, they approved the project by a margin of 314 to 209, with 14 abstentions.

Construction, scheduled to begin in the autumn of 2001, will take two to three years, said Quack. "This will be Germany's monument to the Holocaust." Or, as the Speaker of Parliament, Wolfgang Thierse, put it, "We are not building [it] solely for the Jews. We are building it for ourselves. It will help us confront a chapter of our history."

Moishe Waks, vice-president of Berlin's Jewish community, concurs with Thierse. "It's a good thing. It'll be a memorial where Germans can express responsibility for their crimes."

But two of Germany's leading Jewish communal leaders, Andreas Nahama of Berlin and Charlotte Knobloch of Munich, do not subscribe to this view. "Jews built a Holocaust memorial in 1945, and it is in their hearts," commented Nahama. "The memorial in Berlin is for the non-Jews." Knobloch was even blunter. As she put it: "It's not our problem. We have our memorials in the form of the former concentration camps."

Quack, however, is convinced that the memorial will serve a tangible purpose. "It is dedicated to the chief victims of Hitler's aggression, the people who lost the most. And it needs to be in the heart of Berlin, because the Holocaust is in the heart of Germany's history."

* MARTY ROTMAN *FOR* NORTHBOUND LEATHER * FRANCO MIRABELLI * SUNNY CHOI * LOGIC*

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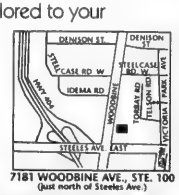

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Jewish Life

Philosopher's work entertains

***The Consolations of Philosophy* by Alain de Botton, Pantheon, $34.50**

Philosophers, new and old, are usually regarded as forbidding and difficult – reclusive, verbose, removed from the real and troublesome problems of life.

Not so, declares Alain de Botton, a young and engaging British philosopher, best known for his recent best-selling book, *How Proust Can Change Your Life.*

Books
Bernard Baskin

In brief essays, he highlights six forms of unhappiness: unpopularity, not having enough money, frustration, inadequacy, a broken heart and evil. He then indicates the consolation for each of these problems can be found in the suggestions and ideas of Socrates, Epicurus, Seneca, Montaigne, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche.

In a surprisingly witty, smooth, informative and chatty manner, the author offers biographical sketches of his philosophers and their approach to human psychic ills.

Seneca suggested that an animal that struggles against a noose only tightens it. "There is no yoke so tight that it will not hurt the animal less if it pulls with it than if it fights against it. The one alleviation for overwhelming evils is to endure and bow to necessity."

When the stoic Zeno received news of a shipwreck and heard that all his luggage had been sunk, he said, "Fortune bids me to be a less encumbered philosopher."

Montaigne, ensconced in his circular library on the third floor of a tower at one corner of his castle in southwestern France, wrote his candid essays – and outlined a new kind of philosophy. One acknowledged how far we were from the rational, serene creatures whom most of the ancient thinkers had taken us to be. He wrote, "Anyone who made an intelligent collection of the asinine stupidities of human wisdom would have a wondrous tale to tell…we can judge what we should think of man, of his sense and of his reason, when we find such obvious and gross errors even in these important characters who have raised human intelligence to great heights."

Schopenhauer viewed the break-up of a romantic relationship as a proper and helpful signal from nature. Evidently, the couple were not properly matched. He said that one day the disappointed lovers would come across others with whom they would achieve physical and emotional rapport.

This is because, our chin and their chin make a desirable combination from the will-to-life's point of view … we should draw consolation from the thought that a lack of love between a man and a woman is the announcement that what they might produce would only be a badly organized, unhappy being, wanting in harmony in itself. We might have been happy with our beloved, but nature was not – a greater reason to surrender our grip on love.

Nietzsche's tragic life led him to consider that the most fulfilling human projects appeared inseparable from a degree of torment. He was sure that our greatest joys lie awkwardly close to those of our greatest pains.

For the most part, what emerges is not so much consolation as wisdom – accommodation, stoicism, resignation, realism, balance and proportion. Has the author over-simplified complex philosophical ideas? Perhaps. But most readers will find much in this unpretentious work that is entertaining and even helpful.

Pharisee-Sadducee disputes

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Students can sometimes be bewildered by the nature of theological and sociological disagreements among different Jewish groups, and at times, the name calling which accompanies such debates. Yet anyone familiar even in a cursory way with the Pharisee-Sadducee disputes, the antagonism of the Karaites towards the rabbinic establishment in the medieval period and the chassidic-misnagdic controversies of two centuries ago, knows that Jews have always argued vociferously with one another; branded each other as heretics and destroyers of the faith; and, in times of sovereignty, even killed one another for various political reasons.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

An historical perspective can thus be a valuable tool in placing our present round of hostilities in the proper contexts, for history has on odd way of smoothing over and even changing how we view certain figures.

Let us take the example of the biblical figure of Pinchas, who spears Cozbi and Zimri to death upon seeing their act of public immorality. This act is roundly praised in the Torah. Now leap forward 3,000 years and imagine that a rabbi of today, upon seeing say, one of the leaders of Jewish life publicly flaunting his romantic relationship with a Gentile, goes out and kills him. Leaving aside civil law or even the Jewish statutes concerning "the zealot," what would be our reaction to this act today? Can we adapt the same paradigm?

The midrash tells us that Yehoshua married Rachav, known as the biggest harlot of the Near East. She had obviously given up that life, but again placing this in a contemporary light is quite sobering. Imagine a Torah sage of our time marrying a former prostitute. How would that play in the Jewish press or at the gossip drenched atmosphere of our Shabbat tables?

Or the initial reaction to the Ramchal, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, known to many as the author of *Mesillat Yesharim* and *Derekh HaShem.* What was the Ramchal's public profile in the Europe of his time? The Ramchal, who was born in 1707 to an affluent Italian family, was suspected of being a follower of Shabbetai Zevi. The Ramchal perceived himself as a conduit of Divine illumination and indeed proclaimed that God was working through him. Although many rabbis defended him, many others characterized him and his followers as an "evil sect," the perpetrator of a false illusion.

Once this theological difference had been established, his detractors went after him in a personal way, as Elisheva Carlebach records in her seminal work, *The Pursuit of Heresy.* For instance, Rabbi Joseph Ergas, an 18th-century scholar, pronounces this judgment: "I am told that he is learned but that the fragrance of piety does not waft over him. I asked whether he was married, whether he went to the mikvah on erev Shabbat, whether he was careful never to trim his beard, even with scissors, and to all of these replies the answer was negative. Yet these are the pillars of spiritual attachment."

Yet presently, the Ramchal's work can be found in every yeshiva of every stripe. He is seen as the paragon of saintliness. Students should be encouraged to take the long view when confronting the myriad of positions that currently form the mosaic of Judaism. Today's villain can sometimes turn out to be tomorrow's truth.

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Jewish Life

Jewish sites for your Palm

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The hottest craze in computing today is portability and it's hard to attend a meeting or even walk down the street without seeing someone poking and prodding at their Palm Pilot. Every Palm comes with a standard datebook, address book and calculator, but that won't help you if you are trying to decide what blessing to say over apple pie, want to learn some Torah or catch up on the latest news from Israel. Today, Jewish and Israeli software for your Palm Pilot.

Some of the software below is free, others are commercial programs or shareware that you are free to try out – but if you decide to continue using them, you are expected to pay.

The best place to start your hunt for Jewish Palm software is at PilotYid **[http://www.PilotYid.com/].** Ari Engel has created a marvelous site that will act as introduction for anyone who is puzzled over how to teach your Palm Hebrew. And don't miss the software collection page which has dozens of links to some of the best Jewish Palmware around **[http://www.PilotYid.com/collection.html]**. There are links to Jewish calendars, an exodus game, a portable version of the Shamash Kosher Restaurant database **[http://www.shamash.org/kosher]** and even a shofar simulator that will make your Palm stand out in the crowd. You can also join the PilotYid e-mail list to find out about new Jewish software for your Palm.

Another site worth a look is Penticon Technologies which develops software for the Palm **[http://www.penticon.com/].** Their commercial programs include Hebrew Support; Luach, a Jewish calendar program; and Hebrew Graffiti in which you can write on your Palm in Hebrew. If you want to read up on this coming Shabbat's Torah reading, you can download the entire text of the parshat hashavua for free. There are also all the megillot, psalms and the Palm Siddur, which includes Minchah, Ma'ariv and Birkat Hamazon, and a must for anyone on the go, the traveller's prayer.

Some uses for the Palm can get quite creative. The folks at Torah Tidbits suggest using a freeware program called Mirror that can be downloaded from many Palm software sites **[http://home.palmpilotarchives.com/utilities_2.html]**. When activated, Mirror simply makes the screen go black, which makes the screen reflective. It is perfect for checking the placement of one's tfillin, especially if you use your Palm for davening anyway.

Palm Pilots aren't popular only on this side of the Atlantic. Gadget-crazy Israelis love their Palms and have banded together to create the Palm User Group Israel better known as PUGI **[http://pugi.org.il/pugi/]**. Their Hebrew-language Web site was created by Gil Chapnik, a medical student in Be'ersheva who threw a party for PUGI members and attracted 450 Israeli Palm lovers. Their story was documented in *Ha'aretz* newspaper **[http://www.gsnonweb.com/gsnlib_a/gsn2000/2000_05/20000511/67696.html].**

Speaking of *Ha'aretz*, your Palm Pilot can also help you keep up to date with the latest events in the Middle East and the Jewish world. Two of Israel's leading newspapers offer daily Palm editions. You can download the *Jerusalem Post* Palm edition **[http://info.jpost.com/2000/Services/PalmPost/]** and the English language edition of *Ha'aretz* **[http://www.haaretzdaily.com/htmls/22_1.asp].**

Now that you have loaded all that Jewish software onto your Palm, treat your high-tech gadget with the new respect it deserves **[http://www.israelwire.com/New/000526/00052628.html].**

Rabbi Ephraim Zalmanovitz, spiritual leader of Israel's Mazkeret Batia community, studied the Palm Pilot and has issued a high-tech halachic ruling. According to the rabbi, someone who has "holy" software installed on a Palm, and drops it, must kiss it as one does a holy book such as a siddur.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@home.com].

Torah study for women

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The despair and terror described so vividly by the prophet Jeremiah in Eichah, the Book of Lamentations, have their counterpart among the Jewish people of today, asserts Rabbi Joshua Berman.

Rabbi Berman, a lecturer in Tanach (Bible) at Nishmat, and a doctoral candidate, also in Bible, at Bar-Ilan University, spoke to *The CJN* during the sixth Yarchei Kallah of Nishmat, an organization offering advanced Torah study for women.

The three day event was held at Or Chaim yeshiva.

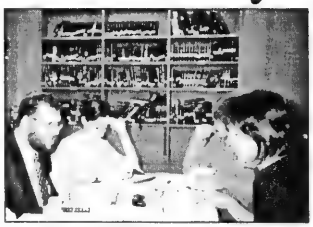
Eichah was written after the Assyrian destruction of the First Temple in 423 BCE, and the exile of the Jewish people into foreign lands.

For practically the first time, Rabbi Berman said, the Jewish people had to be Jewish without a central place to worship, without even a country, and the entire leadership scattered or killed.

"It's as if now, Shabbat, kashruth and Israel were suddenly all done away with.

"They questioned what had happened to God that He could allow such a calamity. They wondered if God still existed."

Jews asked the same questions after the Holocaust, Rabbi Berman said,



Rabbi Joshua Berman leads a study session at this year's Nishmat Yarchei Kallah.

when their numbers had been decimated and many whole communities had been destroyed.

Lamentations, though, is not about the destruction of the Temple. Rather, he said, it is about suffering.

Rabbi Berman said that the nature of suffering is personified by the widow, the bereaved mother, the starving child and the leader. Each sees a different aspect of what has happened.

"Jeremiah is acting like a therapist dealing with a patient who has mucked up his or her life. People in real life get angry and frustrated."

The characters are allowed to get angry at God, Rabbi Berman said, to express their pent up emotions.

One prime example, for instance, is that at the end of chapter two, the mother calls God a slaughterer.

People find a frame of reference to tragedies in their own lives, he said.

Contrary to what many think, he went on, the focus of the mourning is not the loss of the Temple.

"It is mourning the ruptured relationship with God. The Temple is the home we created with God – no home means there is no bond."

After the destruction of the Temple, the sages substituted prayer, Torah study, acts of kindness and repentance for what used to happen in the Temple.

"The system of the Temple and the sacrifices had become symbols devoid of substance. It's like an engagement ring can become meaningless. Then it is an affront (rather than a sign of love and commitment)."

Until we can return to that shared house with God, we have to boost our relationship with Him, the rabbi said.

The Yarchei Kallah, which takes place every year around Tisha b'Av, is sponsored by Canadian Friends of Nishmat, Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women, and Emunah Women of Toronto.

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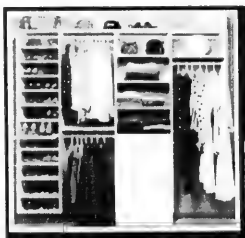
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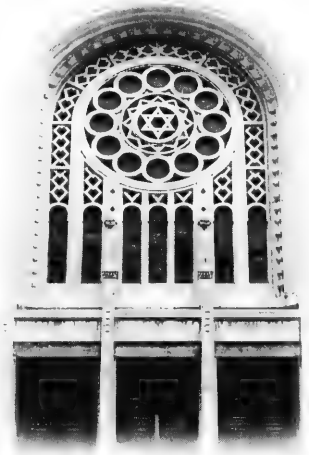

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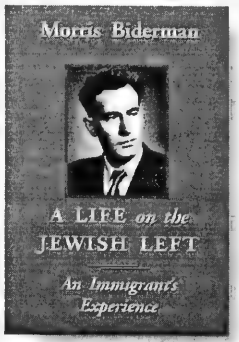

A LIFE ON THE JEWISH LEFT
An Immigrant's Experience
By Morris Biderman

"Few speak as eloquently as Biderman for the thousands of Jewish immigrants who joined the Communist crusade in the 1920s and '30s only to find out how cruelly mistaken they were."
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Introduction

...a great chronicle of this fascinating chapter in Canadian Jewish history.
JOSEPH SERGE
The CJN

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel's legal system in state of flux, says justice minister

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel's legal system is in a state of flux with the government setting an ambitious agenda that will transform Israeli society in numerous ways, the country's justice minister told a legal conference last week.

Yossi Beilin, speaking at a meeting of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, said he "hopes" to introduce several key reforms in the next few years. Among them are: A written constitution; the end of administrative detention; the introduction of civil marriages; and Israel's signing onto the provisions for an International Criminal Court (ICC).

Beilin said the use of administrative detention, a holdover from the British mandate, "is a stain on our book of laws. We keep people in prison without proving anything against them and without them knowing any charges."

Although there are currently only a dozen prisoners held administratively, Beilin said, "it is one of the things we have to put an end to.

"It is inconceivable that a country like Israel doesn't sign the Rome treaty [which created the ICC]. My feeling is that if you don't sign it, you're incriminating yourself," Beilin said. He added that Israel has a better record on human rights issues than many other countries who back the court.

Israel lacks a written constitution and in its place, basic laws guide the country's courts. He said Canada's 1982 introduction of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms could serve as a model for an Israeli constitution.

Turning to the question of conversion, Beilin said "the notion that... you have to go through a rabbi if you want to be an agnostic Jew like me...is philosophically insulting. I believe we have to find [new] ways...to become members of our very interesting club," without going through a religious route.

Beilin called Israel's religiously-based matrimonial law "a major problem."

"In Israel, the question is whether we can enable a system that imposes marriages and divorce [on people] who don't want it."

He suggested there would be greater respect for religious institutions if religiously-based marriage laws were changed.

Beilin said that in the absence of a written constitution, the Israeli Supreme Court has taken upon itself the responsibility for judicial review of Knesset decisions. The high court has issued a number of decisions recently that have liberalized Israeli society.

Recently, the high court prohibited the use of "physical interrogation."

Many in Israel believe some force or the threat of force is needed against terror suspects when lives are at stake. But, Beilin suggested, "there are other ways to get information." He said the Israeli security service, the Shin Bet, is complying with the court ruling.

The Supreme Court has also prohibited parents from hitting their children. "Something that might have been right thousands of years ago is not necessarily right today," Beilin said.

In other decisions, the court upheld the adoption of a child by two women and it has permitted Reform women to pray at the Western Wall.

"The Supreme Court is ahead of the government and the Knesset" on many issues, Beilin said. But the government has initiated important legislation in its own right as part of a "comprehensive effort to change the face of Israel...to change a map that was too conservative and that didn't adapt to the 21st century,"he added.

Israel has established a commissioner to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities and to fight for access to public spaces. It is also pushing to increase Arab representation in the civil service, to codify the rights of children and is planning to create a high commissioner on human rights.

Beilin said work is under way to abolish the state of emergency that has existed in Israel since May 1948. The state of emergency has been used by the government to enact orders on routine matters that bypass normal parliamentary approval – everything from theatre prices and egg prices to the more consequential creation of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Beilin said changes to Israel's legal system will be easier to accomplish when Israel is at peace.

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Rabbi Marvin Pachino

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המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Beilin optimistic about peace

Continued from page 3

Beilin, however, deplored the very concept of settlements in the disputed territories. "The whole idea of settling the areas was wrong," he said, explaining that Israel could have demanded strategic positions in the Jordan Valley had the settlers not been a factor in the equation.

Describing the settlements in the Gaza Strip as "such a huge mistake," Beilin implied that they may be dismantled as part of a peace accord.

Beilin said that Israel has developed "a constructive dialogue" with the Palestinians, but the "sticking points" are "very problematic."

He predicted that Barak will rebuild his shattered coalition government should peace talks fail, and call an election if they succeed.

He did not rule out the possibility of an interim agreement, saying that he was personally in favour of one should a comprehensive accord elude the negotiators.

If a peace treaty is signed, Beilin said, Israel may be able to abolish its state of emergency. Enacted in 1948, the year of its birth, it was extended by the Knesset in July for another six months.

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Due to urgent commitments in Israel, Rabbi Michael Melchior is, unfortunately, unable to appear at the launch.

Jewish TORONTO Tomorrow

Parents launch lawsuit against Ont. government

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The parents of eight-year-old twins diagnosed with autism, are one of 21 families who are suing the Ontario government for $75 million.

Robin and Simon Wynberg are part of the group called Friends of Children with Autism. They are suing to cover the cost of being unable to work and for out-of-pocket expenses for therapy for their children. Others involved in the suit include Richard and Sheila Laredo Marcovitz and Susan and Brian Fishman.

In response to the suit, which affects the ministries of health and community and social services, the government, through the attorney general's office, argues that it is not legally or constitutionally bound to provide the services the 21 families are demanding.

The group is seeking to have a therapy known as Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) used with their children in school. ABA is a form of intensive one-on-one therapy based on the work of Dr. Ivar Lovaas of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Autism is a neurological disorder that generally manifests itself in early childhood as delayed development of social and communication skills.

Erla Juravsky, co-founder of the Autistic Education Centre for preschool children, which will be located in the old Dempsey House in North York, told *The CJN* that ABA requires 20 to 60 hours per week, depending on the child's needs. It trains other parts of the brain to take over from areas relating to attention and self-monitoring, which are affected in children with autism. It does this by teaching small units of positive behaviour and then reinforcing that behaviour.

She says she and the centre's co-founder Brenda Deskin have been using ABA with their own children and that they have recruited from the University of Toronto and York University staff who will be able to train parents of preschool children in the application of ABA. The centre intends to pattern its program after the Alpine Program in New Jersey.

"This one-on-one therapy can cost a family from $40,000 to $50,000 a year," she said.

The government has announced a $19-million allocation for certain early intervention programs for preschool children, but Juravsky said she doubted the government's initiative will be successful because the funds will be applied only to the most severe cases, children who may not be helped by other kinds of early intervention.

"I wept when I heard of the government's move because it does nothing to help us," Robin Wynberg said. "Our twins are well past the window [age]. But I'm happy for the families who will be helped."

Juravsky said the new centre will help parents with older children to some degree. While its mandate is to provide early intervention for preschool children, it will also act as a resource centre for older children.

In its statement of defence, the province says while older children with autism are eligible for a variety of programs and support, it is up to local school boards to address those needs.

School boards are unable to to meet the needs of older autistic children, said David Corbett, counsel for the 21 families, in a news release.

Wynberg said the group has stopped accepting new parents who want to be involved in the legal action against the provincial government, to prevent a further burden on the legal counsel, "and because we are paving the way for them." She said Corbett, of Eberts, Symes, Street and Corbett, is not charging for his services.

"We are at the discovery stage in the legal proceedings and we expect there will be a decision in early 2001," she said.

Wynberg said the Friends of Children with Autism has been encouraged by a recent decision of the British Columbia Supreme Court that therapies of the kind they are asking for in Ontario, are a medically necessary service. The court held that British Columbia had discriminated against autistic children.

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August 2000

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Warmest regards for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Barry Silver Yitz Penciner

P.S. Don't forget to mention the above special when you call to place your order.

Soviet artists remembered

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The dramatic artistry and beautiful singing of Ethel Kovenska, the grande dame of Yiddish theatre, thrilled the 250 people who attended a recent commemoration of the 48th anniversary of the execution of 24 Soviet Jewish writers and artists.

At the event held at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, Kovenska was accompanied at the piano by her husband Lev Kogan, who had worked alongside many of those who were murdered.

Some audience members told the singer after her performance that they were transported from the land of their birth, Russia, by her performance.

Now a resident of Israel, Kovenska was visiting her daughter in Toronto.

Kovenska, who brings dramatic flourishes to her singing, was a stalwart of both the Yiddish and Russian theatres, and later of Habima Theatre in Israel.

She spoke with great emotion of her association with Solomon Mikhoels, Yiddish theatre director, who was murdered by the NKVD, the Russian security arm, in what she said was set up as an automobile accident.

Her singing was a fitting climax to an evening in which every facet of the contribution of Soviet writers and artists to Yiddish culture was covered.

Speaking of the murder of the 24 people in a Lubianka prison in Moscow on Aug. 12, 1952, Bernie Farber, a son of Holocaust survivors, said the purge by Stalin set off a series of events which ultimately led to the development of the Refusenik movement, and to a resurgence of Yiddish culture.

Stalin's fear of Jewish intellectuals led to the closing of the Yiddish Theatre, Yiddish newspapers and Yiddish schools, said Farber, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Actor and veteran Yiddish teacher, David Newman, read two poems by Itzik Pheffer, and brought tears to the eyes of many when he recited *Mein Kaddish* by the late Peretz Miransky, a Toronto Yiddish poet and writer.

Another highlight was the reading by Ellie Moidel, a Yiddish teacher at University of Toronto, of a translated version of Pheffer's *I am a Jew*. She also read a poem by David Hofshteyn who visited Palestine in 1923, and later wrote about how proud he was to be a Jew when he returned to Russia.

Her final contribution was to read a letter composed by a group of 80 Moscow Jews in 1970 – at the height of Soviet power – appealing to the conscience of world Jewry.

A resident of the Vilna ghetto and a well known author, Norman Shneidman, professor emeritus at University of Toronto, hailed the contribution to Yiddish culture of writers from the Pale of Settlement.

The Soviet Jews who emigrated to Israel have changed the political landscape there, said Shneidman, and the influence of Refuseniks is still to be felt in the Yiddish revival in Russia.

Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum brought greetings from Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

Ethel Sum Cooper, chair of the committee for Yiddish, UJA FEDERATION, and members of the Kultur Gezelshaft, planned the memorial.

CHABAD TELETHON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

L'Chaim: To Life! A Life!

Sir Anthony Hopkins
Elliott Gould
Edward James Olmos
James Caan
Jon Voight
Steve Allen
Bob Saget
Melissa Gilbert
Regis Philbin
Wayne Newton
Michael Douglas
Estelle Getty
Lainie Kazan
Sid Caesar
Lois Nettleton
Jan Murray
"They are lamplighters who guide us through the darkness and whose love for all of humanity knows no bounds"
Fyvush Finkel
"Chabad takes care of kids who want to get straight. We must support them."
Whoopi Goldberg
"The world has seen many changes... unfortunately homelessness, hunger lost souls, drug abuse still remain... and so does Chabad's resolve to do as much as is humanly possible to help those in need."
Bob Hope
Martin Sheen
Whoopi Goldberg
"Be they black or white, Jew or Christian, Chabad does not judge why they have lost their way. Chabad is there to help them regain their truth."
Jon Voight
"The Chabad telethon is most important to me"
Regis Philbin
"The Chabad organization devotes its time to reaching out and helping women and children in need. Its non-sectarian drug rehabilitation program has one of the highest success rates in the nation."
Sir Anthony Hopkins
Sara Gilbert
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We thank all applicants in advance, but will only contact those qualifying for interviews.

Harbord Collegiate grads plan to hold 50th anniversary reunion

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Harbord Collegiate Institute holds a special place in the hearts of thousands of Jews who graduated from the high school, which was once the hub of Jewish teens in Toronto.

On Oct. 5, at Le Parc Banquet Hall, the Harbord graduating class of 1950 will be marking its 50th anniversary at a reunion party and dinner, which will bring together former graduates now living throughout North America, England and Israel.

The following morning, these alumni will be honoured at an awards assembly in the Harbord auditorium followed by a luncheon.

Murray Rubin, a member of the 1950 graduating class and a retired pharmacist, is the chair of the planning committee. He told *The CJN* that many graduates are excited about the reunion.

"It was Alan Borovoy, head of the Civil Liberties Association and a graduate of the 1950 class who suggested the reunion," Rubin says. "He felt that there were many in our graduating class who have never seen each other over the years."

Members of the 50th Harbord reunion planning committee are, standing from left, Henry Petroff, Esther (Brown) Moss, Mildred (Schelew) Silverstein, Hannah (Banky) Brown, Doreen (Wengle) Friedland, Peter Miller and Harold Landis. Seated are Annie (Finkelstein) Allen, Murray Rubin, chair and Lillian (Zeldin) Cooper. Missing are, Nita (Ceifets) Chusid, Ralph Shiff, Norman Latowsky, Howard Warner, Helen Klingman, Phyllis (Sandler) Platnick and Sam Brown.

For the reunion, Helen Klingman, a graduate and retired principal, compiled a historical background of Harbord Collegiate and recorded some of her recollections in an essay titled *Memories of Harbord Collegiate*.

She notes that from the late 1920s to the mid-1950s, 90 percent of Harbord's student population was Jewish, mainly with roots in eastern Europe.

"Many graduates of our class are prominent names in business, law, medicine, science, architecture and other disciplines."

She describes some of the unique features about Harbord, including the Harbord Club, a network of more than 2,000 alumni who provide scholarships to current students and keep members informed on the activities of graduates.

Klingman notes that along with high academic standards, Harbord boasted outstanding sports events, as well as the zany Oola Boola club, the Brotherhood of the Lost Parabola and the famous extra-curricular annual production of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

"The five years we were at Harbord were meaningful and memorable," says Klingman. "The students [were] very politically aware."

It was during the era of this graduating class that many families had to deal with the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust, with some survivors attending Harbord.

"This was a momentous time when Israel was declared a state. Yet with all of these intense historical events, there was also an opportunity for us to learn, to laugh, to enjoy a unique camaraderie and to make lifelong friends," says Klingman.

Rubin says he was able to locate most of the students of the 1950 graduating class, "but there are some 15 or so that we cannot find." Rubin adds that the graduation reunion is open to guests of the graduates.

If you were a member of class of 1950, you can contact Murray Rubin at 416-483-0985, fax 416-483-4693, or e-mail him at murray.rubin@sympatico.ca.

The Harbord Collegiate Web site for the 50th reunion is at **http://www.harbordci.web.com/** .

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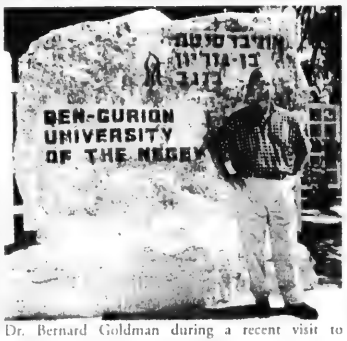


Dr. Bernard Goldman during a recent visit to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

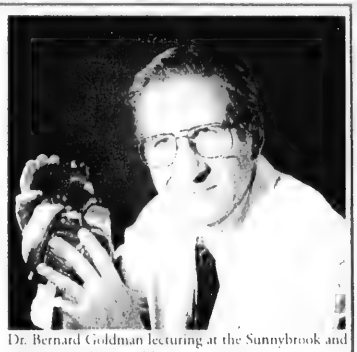
The Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

and

The Sunnybrook Foundation

invite the community to join in honouring

Dr. Bernard S. Goldman


Dr. Bernard Goldman lecturing at the Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre.

Thursday, October 26, 2000, 6:30 p.m.

Sheraton Centre Grand Ballroom, 123 Queen Street West

The Dr. Bernard Goldman Tribute
Thursday, October 26, 2000
Sheraton Centre Toronto

Dr. Bernard Goldman is to be honoured for his lifesaving and outstanding worldwide contributions to heart surgery and the treatment of cardiovascular disease.

As a University of Toronto professor, Bernie was asked by the Ministry of Health and the University to head a new cardiac surgery unit at Sunnybrook in 1989, which he personally supervised from ground zero and which has gained a wonderful reputation for clinical excellence and academic productivity. He was a key figure in the development of the new Schulich Heart Centre.

Surgeon-in-Chief at Sunnybrook & Women's since 1998, Bernie has devoted countless hours over many years to the education and training of students, surgical residents, and postgraduate Fellows from Ben-Gurion University, other Israeli institutions and many other countries. Last year in Jerusalem, his former trainees came together from all parts of the country to express their appreciation and present an award in his honour.

Highlights of his career include involvement in the early days of heart transplants and international leadership in cardiac pacing.

He has been at the forefront of coronary bypass surgery since its inception with emphasis on the surgical management of unstable angina. He has lectured and performed surgery in Israel, Europe, Japan, and across North America to demonstrate innovative valve reconstruction. His contributions have raised the level of cardiac treatment in Canada, Israel and other world centres.

In his support of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Bernie continues a family tradition. His father, the late Philip Goldman, was a founder of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University and a President of the Toronto Chapter.

It is especially fitting that proceeds from the event will establish the Dr. Bernard S. Goldman Endowment Fund for Cardiovascular Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre.

As Dinner Co-Chairs, we look forward to your presence at this great event honouring an eminent Canadian.

Yours very truly,

Dr. Martin Barkin, Chair
Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre

Ellie Tesher
author/journalist
and sister of Dr. Bernard Goldman

Barry D. Lipson, Q.C., President
Toronto Chapter, Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University

Honourary Chairs
Judge Rosalie Abella
Irving Abella, C.M.
Bluma Appel, O.C.
Dr. Wilfred Bigelow, O.C.
Edward Bronfman, O.C.
Michael Budman
Dr. Rivka Carmi
Leslie Dan, C.M.
Ephraim Diamond, O.C.
Anne Golden
Sen. Jerry Grafstein
Don Green
Milton Harris, O.C.
Dr. Wilbert Keon, O.C.
Murray Koffler, O.C.
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Bryan Vaughan, C.M.

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To participate in the Tribute to Dr. Goldman, please call 416-665-8054, fax 416-665-8055 or e-mail canbgu@idirect.com

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Aug. 28, is deadline for Sept. 7 issue and Tuesday, Sept. 5, is deadline for Sept. 14. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Aug. 24

SENIOR HEALTH CARE

Terrace Gardens Retirement Residence, 3705 Bathurst St., invites the public to a health forum – Year 2020, Health Care For Seniors – featuring **David Young**, **Steven Handler**, **Joseph Minkowitz**, **Dan Leder** and **Ettie Goldenstein**. Moderator is **Fran Wolfe**. Admission free. Call **Sharon Rosenblum**, 789-7670.

Sunday, Aug. 27

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth hosted by **Alex Gelcer**. All welcome to listen or tell, 7:30 p.m., Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave. $4. Call 699-8914.

GARAGE SALE

Nagillah chapter, Jewish Women International, is holding a garage sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 252 Spring Gate Blvd., Thornhill (Yonge & Clark area). Call **Norma**, 657-8763.

SUMMER FEST

Family Shul Summer Fest, 5-8 p.m., Chabad Flamingo, 8801 Bathurst St., Thornhill, featuring barbecue, band, basketball tournament, face painting. Call 905-763-4040.

TOWN & COUNTRY TOUR

Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation and *Gardening Life Magazine* present the third annual Gardens of Inspiration Town and Country Tour featuring four gardens, including the Max Tanenbaum Rooftop Garden at Princess Margaret Hospital, and three ornamental kitchen gardens, 8:30 a.m-4:30 p.m. Transportation by luxury coach. Cost is $150 and all funds raised support the psychosocial oncology program at Princess Margaret. Call 946-4574.

JEWISH DISCOVERY PLACE

End of summer bash at Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum, includes jewelry making, face painting, games, clown show, singing and dancing, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission $2. Call 636-1880, ext. 456.

Monday, Aug. 28

JERUSALEM YOUTH BAND

Jerusalem Youth Band conducted by **Albert Piamenta** will perform at 8 p.m., Congregation Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. (1 block north of Bathurst and Glencairn). Tickets, $10 at the door, $8 students/seniors.

Wednesday, Aug. 30

ARTHRITIS TREATMENT

Arthritis Society presents a discussion on new and future treatment options for rheumatoid arthritis, featuring **Dr. Edward Keystone**, 7:30-9 p.m., The Old Mill, 21 Old Mill Rd. Admission free, but seating limited. Reply, 979-7228.

And What Else Is New

CRAFT AND GIFT SHOW

Na'amat Craft and Gift Sale, Monday, Sept. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Bayview Village Mall, features jewelry, pottery, ceramics, floral arrangements, furniture, textile art. Includes draws, clowns, face painting. Admission and parking free. Call **Ruth Jacobson**, 493-1089 evenings; 636-5425 days.

PARENTING ADHD CHILD

Comprehensive parenting series for parents of children who have been diagnosed with ADHD. Learn what it is, coping strategies, about medication and other treatment, and how to become an advocate for your

Continued on page 21

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Dr. Steven Gallinger
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Knowing Your Risk - Prevention and Detection
Dr. Robin McLeod
Head, Division of General Surgery, Mount Sinai Hospital; Professor of Surgery and Health Administration, University of Toronto; and Senior Scientist, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute

Living with Colon Cancer - Personal and Family Challenges
Dr. Mary-Jane Esplen
Head, Program of Psychosocial and Psychotherapy Research in Cancer Genetics, Department of Psychiatry, Mount Sinai Hospital and the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute; and Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto

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Moderated by: CTV Health Reporter Avis Favaro | Sponsored by: Pharmacia and Upjohn

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What's New

Continued from page 20

child. Begins Sept. 27. Register early. Call **Teena**, 638-7800, ext. 212.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service presents the following groups: Mothering Your Teenage Daughter discusses setting limits, encouraging independence and issues such as sex, drugs, etc., begins Oct.; Younger Persons' Bereavement Group discusses living alone, parenting alone and other changing relationships, begins Sept. 19; interactive social skills group for parents and children to help kids become more comfortable in social situations. Children learn to express feelings appropriately and develop strategies to cope with bullying and teasing, Oct. 16 and 17.

Group for recently separated/divorced people to deal with being single again, loneliness, anger, begins Oct. 12; living with your teenager – learn how to set limits and identify the line between independence and freedom, begins Sept. 27. To register for above groups call **Teena**, 638-7800, ext. 212.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional heimish minyan welcomes all non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz**. Sunday morning minyan, 8:30 a.m., 60 Rockford Rd. (behind Rockford Road Public School). **David,** 256-1600.

ISRAELI ARTISTS GROUP

Israeli Artists Group of Toronto,,a non-profit organization of visual artists, presents an exhibit by **Beca Rind**, Bathurst Jewish Centre, Rachel's Restaurant until Nov. 7. Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

ANNUAL CONCERT

Annual concert presented by 55+ department of adult services, Bathurst JCC, Monday, Sept. 25, 2 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre, Aelita and Friends, Around the World in 90 Minutes. Tickets on sale now at information desk, Bathurst JCC. Reserved seating $12.

JEWISH FOLK CHOIR

Toronto Jewish Folk Choir invites anyone who can sing and follow music to its first rehearsal, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m., Morris Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Ability to read music desirable, but not required. Call Howard Kaplan, 593-0750, or Winchevsky Centre, 789-5502.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays, 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Registration of new members continues. Aug. 24, dinner at Bais Burger, 6 p.m.; Aug. 31, sing-along. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club Casino Rama, Aug. 30; Line dancing every Tuesday morning through August, 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club, Painting classes every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. **Lena**, 785-5773.

LZA Seniors: Dance classes Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Senior's Cultural Club weekly meetings continue Tuesdays 10 a.m. in boardroom. Call **Libby**, 782-2059 or the office, 630-9444.

If you're a senior living with osteoporosis, register for the fall session of POWER, a 7-week wellness program that covers exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes start in September at Baycrest Centre (785-2500, ext. 2395), North York General Hospital Senior's Health Centre (756-6050) and Yee Hong Centre (321-6679). Registration fee is $30. Class size limited.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W., 225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets every Tuesday 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Aug. 29 is a summer party. **Anna**, ext. 110.

Experience the powers of therapeutic touch with **Florence Baum**, therapeutic touch practitioner, Sept. 12, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in synagogue. Call **Joan**.

Hearing Aid Checkup with **Barry Katz**, to clean, do battery and listening checks, and provide suggestions, Tuesday, Sept. 12, Wellness clinic. Call ext. 131 to book.

Movie, *Fatal Attraction*, Aug. 27, 2 p.m. Members free, non-members $1.

Gala dance party with live band, Thurs. Aug. 24, 7-10 p.m. Members $6, non-members $8.

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave., 785-2500.

Computer Lab Tuesdays 10 a.m. to noon. Register at service desk in person. Call **Mara**, ext. 2275.

Instructional beginners bridge course with **Ed Danziger,** Mondays 10 a.m. to noon, beginning mid-September. Mara, ext. 2275.

Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.. Reserve at service desk. Mara, ext. 2275.

The Wellness Education Group presents Infection Control with **Lillian Kariko**, infection control co-ordinator, Baycrest Centre, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1:30-2:30 p.m., assembly room. Members free, non-members $2. Call ext. 2267.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., 636-1880.

Registration being taken for fall programs. Hotline, ext. 23, Sundays 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Thursday, noon-8 p.m., until Sept. 1. New program book at information desk.

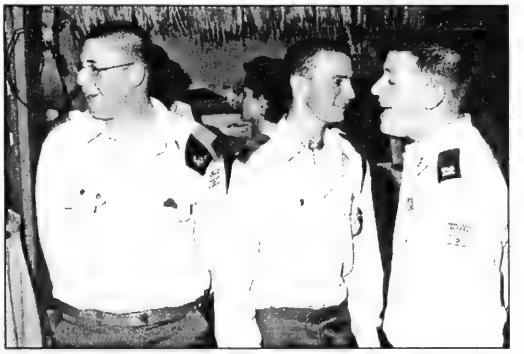
55+ department of adult services fall programs include ballroom dancing, current events, drama, painting, needlecrafts, beginners and intermediate bridge, folkdancing, choir, yoga, line dancing, lunch n' learn. Register now. **Janet**, ext. 259.

Limited spaces for Tuesday-Thursday Tic Tac Two, a 9:15-11:15 a.m. for pre-nursery children. Judaic programming, music, circles, free play. Parents can exercise while children play. Babysitting available for those with infants, ext. 248.

Limited nursery school spaces for September-June program. Enriched program includes Hebrew, Judaic activities, fun centre and music specialties, ext. 248.

Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum has 10 interactive exhibits for parents and children to enjoy together. This week it's Shabbat week. Sing and dance to some Shabbat songs on Monday, join in and listen to the story of Shabbat and our noble sages on Tuesday, make a challah cover on Wednesday and play the Manna from Heaven game on Thursday, ext. 456.

JUDAISM IN Y2K: A program at Beth Torah Congregation featured Susan Jackson, who discussed How Judaism will Cope in the New Millennium. Pictured are, from left, Jack Wasserman, program co-chair; Jackson; Abe Goldberg, program sponsor; Mollie Rothman, program co-chair.



GALA DINNER: The Toronto branch of the Association for Soldiers of Israel recently held its annual dinner dance. Guests of honour were five active service officers, three of whom are pictured above. The event was co-sponsored by Steeles Memorial Chapel, co-chaired by Wilf and Mary Shiff. Proceeds support the programs of the Canadian Zionist Cultural Association.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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On Campus

Birthright trip in the works for physically disabled

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Eli Shupak is looking for other young Jewish adults between the ages of 18 and 26 who have physical disabilities and have never been on an Israel experience trip.

He's hoping that a total of at least 19 from across Canada will identify themselves as potential participants in a Birthright Israel trip to run next February, because the Canada Israel Experience Centre, for the first time, is offering 20 Birthright spots to people with physical disabilities, and 20 spots for people to accompany them.

Shupak, a 1999 Ryerson Polytechnic University journalism graduate, has a condition known as Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Because of his weak muscles, he uses a motorized wheelchair and the services of an attendant, on call in his apartment building, to get him out of bed and ready for the day, as well as to help him prepare meals and get him into bed at night.

To write articles on his computer, he uses a specially designed, small keyboard that doesn't require hand strength. He worked on contract at the Toronto *Star* earlier this year, and is interested in sports reporting or writing about disability issues.

Last year Shupak was among almost 1,200 young adults accepted to the Birthright Israel program, but when his physical needs became known, organizers realized they couldn't accommodate him, said Adam Minsky, national director, Canada Israel Experience.

"I was disappointed, obviously," said Shupak. "I've always wanted to go to Israel. I didn't know if it was possible."

He is grateful for Minsky's efforts in arranging the upcoming trip. He suspects most people would have said, "It's too bad [physically disabled people] can't go, but life goes on."

"We felt terrible," Minsky said. "We decided we'd have to come up with a program that would accommodate people with physical disabilities. Right now the challenge for us is trying to identify these people."

And he has to do that soon. "We want to know by the beginning of September whether we have a critical mass [of people]." Thus far, four potential participants in addition to Shupak have been identified. (Regular applications for Birthright Israel are due Oct. 5.)

The participants with disabilities would be integrated with other Birthright participants as much as possible, Minsky said.

Shupak recalls Minsky explaining to him that he didn't want him to be isolated if the rest of the group left to see something that was not wheelchair accessible, and that he didn't want Shupak to feel he was holding back others if they decided not to do something because he couldn't be part of it.

Minsky credits Shupak for bringing the issue of physical disabilities to the Canada Israel Experience Centre's attention. "Eli's a remarkable guy. It was fantastic that he came and approached us. It served as a wake-up call for us, realizing how much the opportunity would mean for him."

Growing up at Bloorview Children's Hospital (now part of Bloorview MacMillan Centre), Shupak had minimal social interaction with other Jews his age. The only other Jewish child he remembers was non-verbal.

Eli Shupak

He studied with a tutor for his bar mitzvah, which was held at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, and has attended holiday services at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, where his mother is a member. The synagogue is wheelchair accessible, but Shupak's inability to turn the pages of the prayer book while he is wearing a heavy suit jacket is still an obstacle.

A sports fan and wheelchair hockey player with about a dozen trophies, he has travelled only once in his life. Shortly before his 18th birthday, he visited San Diego and Los Angeles as a beneficiary of the Children's Wish Foundation.

On that trip, his wheelchair broke, proving how challenging travel can be for those with physical disabilities.

Whatever additional costs there may be to accommodate Birthright Israel participants with physical disabilities, "we're going to have to make sure it happens," said Maxyne Finkelstein, executive vice-president of UIA Federations Canada.

For further information, call Minsky at 1-800-567-4772 (1-800-567-ISRAEL) or 416-398-6931; or e-mail him at aminsky @ujafed.org.

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Coast to Coast

Project Shatz launched

MONTREAL — The Council of Hazzanim of Montreal has launched a program to teach laypersons how to lead Shabbat services in a traditional manner through an instructional recording on compact disc.

It's called Project Shatz, which is short for the Hebrew "shaliach tzibur," as the person who leads a congregation in prayer is referred to.

This recording follows on the runaway success of the council's first such instructional project on leading weekday prayers two years ago. More than 3,000 CDs were distributed across Canada.

"Often people find themselves in a position where, because of their knowledge of Hebrew or musical ability, they are approached to act as the shaliach tzibur, yet they may not be familiar with the traditional chant or *nusach* and its appropriate melody, pronunciation and delivery," said Cantor Arie Subar, president of the council and producer of the recordings. "It is hoped that people listening to a qualified shatz will have a model to emulate and will also gain more from the service, even if they are never asked to lead."

Israeli-born Subar, who has been a cantor in Montreal for 36 years, sings the prayers on the 71-minute recording. Stephen Glass, musical director of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, was a consultant on the project.

A shatz may be called upon to lead prayers in a number of settings: in the synagogue when there is no cantor, at a shivah house where the mourner is not capable of leading the prayers himself, at a simchah, or in an area where there is no shul.

Small Jewish communities were especially interested in the first recording, Subar noted. For instance, a Halifax chaplain who serves eight communities in the Maritimes found the recording particularly useful.

Subar, who is cantor at Congregation Beth Ora, said young people are the main target of the project, but anyone may ask for a copy of the CD, free of charge. The recording has been sponsored by the Paperman family.

Project Shatz is endorsed by the Rabbinical Council of Canada, Quebec region; the Montreal Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Education Council of Montreal, and the Association of Principals of Jewish Schools.

For a copy of the Shabbat services instructional recording, write to 2510 Noel St., St. Laurent, Que. H4M 1S3, or phone 748-8838.

Israel erred on int'l court

Continued from page 1

One positive result from the meeting is the desire by some young Canadian lawyers to form local IAJLJ sections in Toronto, Montreal and other Canadian cities, he added. The organization's Web site is: www.iajljtoronto.com.

The conference addressed a broad range of topics, including human rights, democracy, commerce, crimes against humanity, electronic anti-Semitism, and the way in which Jewish and Israeli issues are portrayed in the international media. Participants also heard from Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin, who discussed recent legal developments in the Jewish State.

While Beilin suggested Israel may yet sign on to the ICC, Cotler and Shestack said Israel might have influenced a different wording of the treaty had it participated in pre-agreement discussions.

They were referring to an Arab proposal that Israeli critics believe enlarged the nature of the offences covered under the treaty to specifically target the transfer of Israeli civilians into West Bank settlements.

Had Israelis "worked with the ICC process, they could change the language…[and would have] removed the extension of language that makes it look like it applies to Israel," Cotler suggested.

Shestack, former U.S. ambassador to the UN Commission of Human Rights, said the United States opposed creation of the ICC because it was concerned its peacekeepers could be charged as war criminals by the country's international opponents. Shestack, a past president of the American Bar Association (ABA), said the ABA is "strongly in favour of the United States signing" the treaty.

During a question period, Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats of Israel's Bar-Ilan University said she was concerned that by enlarging the universal jurisdiction over war crimes, "people can be prosecuted wherever they go around the world…I fear the fact that states are getting a parallel universal jurisdiction," she said.

In earlier remarks, Cotler noted that on July 7, Canada became the 14th country to ratify the ICC treaty. Sixty states must ratify the treaty before the ICC can be created. Cotler predicted the ICC might be in operation by 2002.

Summing up recent developments in international human rights law, Cotler said it has become "the new secular religion of our time."

In addition to creation of the ICC, other recent developments include the 1998 Rwanda war crimes trials; the 1998 finding that rape constitutes a war crime; the 1999 British case against former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet; and the 1999 indictment of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

"More has happened in the development of international criminal law and human rights law in the last two years than in the previous 50," he said.

Despite those changes, "we are witnessing a counter-revolution in human rights, where the criminal violations of human rights have not only continued unabated, but have become the paradigmatic crimes of the 1990s," Cotler continued.

He pointed to gross human rights violations in Sierre Leone, the Congo and Chechnya as examples.

He called for "a culture of human rights as an antidote to a culture of hate" as well as efforts to "break down walls of indifference" to human rights violations.

In addition, he said the international community must adopt a "doctrine of humanitarian intervention and an end to the "culture of impunity" which leads despots to believe they will get away with their crimes.

Coast to Coast

Montreal CJA campaign to aid Ukrainian Jews

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Montreal community is being asked to help alleviate poverty among Jews in Ukraine and to encourage the youth from the area to emigrate to Israel.

The $1-million campaign, known as the Kievskaya Project, is a highlight of this year's Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA).

About 105,000 Jews live in this region around Kiev, and many of them, especially the elderly or families with sick or disabled members, are living in abject conditions, CJA canvassers were told at the project's launch last week.

CJA calls them the poorest Jews in the world. According to a video that was shown, they are so poor, especially those outside the urban area, that they do not have enough to eat, their homes are slums, and they cannot afford medicine or health care.

The project's co-chair Marc Gold said that when he visited Kiev last year he was "totally unprepared for what I saw. It transformed the way I saw the world. The poorest are living in unbelievably deplorable conditions," he said.

On the other hand, however, he found reason for optimism, at least, for the youth. Many have discovered their Jewish heritage through the work of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), he said, and, with help, have a chance at a better life in Israel.

"There was this dichotomy of the despair of the older generation and the hope of the youth," he said.

Gold noted that his grandfather had come from a small village near Kiev and came to Montreal to escape anti-Semitism and improve his lot. He said he felt a sense of personal connectedness with Jews in the Ukraine today.

His co-chair, David Sela, has more immediate ties with this project. He was born in Ukraine in 1960 and his family was assisted with food packages from the Joint Distribution Committee. JAFI help them make aliyah when he was 13. The family then moved to Montreal 20 years ago.

Sela admitted that initially he thought the poverty of the people he was introduced to by JAFI on a recent visit to Kiev was "staged."

"Conditions were bad in the country I left 27 years ago, but they weren't that bad," he said.

Then he went off on his own and talked to people as a fellow Ukrainian. "I find out this is the truth."

While there is no longer official anti-Semitism, Sela said, "Everyone knows what happens to Jews in a collapsing economy."

Twenty thousand Jews from Ukraine made aliyah in 1999. A total of 350,000 Jews still live in the country.

Money raised by the Montreal community will go, first of all, for food and medical packages to be delivered to homebound seniors; to send children to Jewish summer camp; to provide meals at a soup kitchen; and to purchase equipment for the disabled, like wheelchairs and hearing and visual aids.

Larger projects include providing home care to the isolated, covering the costs of Shabbat and holiday celebrations at a synagogue, scholarships for university study in Israel, training local Jewish leadership, and opening social services or Jewish education centres in outlying areas.

Gold said the need is particularly great outside Kiev, where JAFI and the JDC are running humanitarian and educational programs.

The Montreal's involvement with Kievskaya began last year when $415,000 was raised through the Directed Plus program of CJA. This initiative allowed donors to specify how a portion of their gift, if it represented an increase over the previous year's contribution, was spent. One category was for the rescue of Jews in the former Soviet Union and their resettlement in Israel.

With that money, a Chesedmobile was bought. This van brings food, medical supplies and Jewish reading material to those in outlying areas. Gold said it cost $90,000 US to buy the vehicle and to staff and stock it for one year.

Sophie Alloul, a young Montrealer who worked as a counsellor at a Jewish summer camp in Ukraine this year, related how grateful the kids were for the opportunity to learn about Jewish history and traditions. For many it was their first exposure to Judaism.

Over 250 kids attended the camp this summer, but there may be up to 1,000 in the area who could not go because of lack of money, Gold said. It costs $360 to sponsor one child's camp stay.

Another testimonial was heard from Barbara Malov, 20, who attended the camp as a teen and was sent by JAFI to Israel to finish high school. She has since made aliyah and is studying at Ben-Gurion University.

She said JAFI changed her life. "I learned that being Jewish is not something to be teased about. That it means having a language and tradition and Jewish friends."

Avi Pazner, world chair of Keren Hayesod, attended the launch. "This is not made up, this is how our brothers and sisters live [in Ukraine]. What more noble venture could we be engaged in than saving our brothers and sisters."

He suggested that if world Jewry had been more organized, there might not have been a Holocaust.

"We may be preventing a future cultural or even physical future tragedy for these people," Pazner said.

The overall goal of the 2000 CJA, which will be kicked off Aug. 28, is a record $37 million.

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Coast to Coast

Politicians, listen to the people!

Atlantic Canada has not been an especially welcoming place of late – at least for politicians. Joe Clark, has had a devilish time in his twin efforts to win the Nova Scotia byelection and return to Ottawa with some semblance of a caucus in place. Even mainstream pundits like Hugh Windsor are raising doubts about Clark's prospects of achieving either goal. Nova Scotians are frustrated and in a surly mood, as is what's left of the Tory caucus.

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

Speaking of surly and frustrated, just look at the Mi'kmaq of Burnt Church, N.B. Their lobster-fishing protest has given fisheries minister Herb Dhaliwal a "pincer" of a migraine. The frustration of the native fishers is outstripped only by their incredulity that the government still doesn't understand that theirs is an issue of principle, not lobster tails.

Even Stockwell Day didn't escape the wrath of the Maritime storm. In between accepting the never-ending stream of Tory defections to Canadian Alliance ranks, he spent a week trying to control the damage caused by a CA executive who dismissed Atlantic Canadians as lazy, "pogey" seekers.

Although unacceptable and dangerous as a precedent for the future, the recent pie incident involving Prime Minister Jean Chrétien reflects an almost desperate frustration of those who feel that their voices are not heard, that decision-makers have abandoned a commitment to public, participatory debate.

Clark's unwillingness to listen will cost him twofold. First, he chose to ignore advice that turfing a popular MP would only breed resentment in the riding. Second, and far more important, he refused to listen to otherwise trusted advisors who knew that his were not the qualities needed to resurrect Tory fortunes.

These are examples of a worrying trend in federal politics.

One is reluctant to turn to American politics for insight, but in his acceptance speech at the Democratic party convention, Al Gore got it right. The basic theme throughout his long address was his ability and track record of "listening to the people."

In the end, a failure to listen may simply cause people to stop talking, or at the very least, to shop around for someone who will.

Politicians, take notice!

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הפרק הישראלי של הסרט מראה עולים חדשים מרוסיה ביומם הראשון בישראל. והדבר שצד את עינו של הבמאי יותר מכל הן רמות הרעש וההמולה כל רגע ביממת. זהו הרעש שהישראלי הרגיל כבר איט שומע, ורק מי שבא לארץ הקדש בפעם הראשונה נתקף בפאניקה. והעולה החדשה זרה מגדירה את ישראל: "חשבתי שאמצא כאן יהודים שמדברים אידיש, אבל מצאתי רק ישראלים". שווה בהחלט ללכת.

נשיא חדש

למרות שאני בן להורים יוצאי פולין ומבחינה פוליטית רואה את עצמי נאמן למחנה המציאותיים- מה שנרשב בחוגים מסוימים לשמאלני, בכל זאת אני מדה באשמה: שמחתי, ואולי קצת יותר כאשר משה קצב נבחר לנשיא מדינת ישראל ושמעון פרס חזר לשורה שנייה ביציע. נכון שעל תנייר וגם על מסכי הטלויזיה ובעיקר על מסכים במדינות נכר פרס חרבה יותר מקובל ורצוי. גם בטרקלינים נוצצים של שועי עולם שמעון היה המועמד המועדף. אך מה שטוב לגויים לא תמיד טוב ליהודים, ובעיקר לישראלים. לכן בבתי הקפה של קריית גת, אופקים ובעיקר בקרית מלאכי, ניצתון קצב על יקיר האומה גרם להרבה אזרחים שסבלו מקיפוח שנים רבות להרים את הראש בגאוה ולהרגיש שגם לתושבי המעברות ועירות הפיתוח יש עתיד במדינת ישראל החדשה. ומה שטוב לישראלים חשוב יותר ממה שחשוב לגויים.

ולי אין ספק שקצב יהיה נשיא אחוד ונערץ לא פחות מקודמיו המיוחסים. ובעניין פרס: רק לפני עשר שנים זכה מידי רבין לתואר חתרן בלתי נלאה, ורבין כזכור לא היה רכלן. אז נכון שמאז צבא של יועצי תדמית הצליחו לארגן את האיש באריזה חדשה וכשרה, אך אנשים לא משתנים אחרי גיל שבעים. גם לא פרס.

יורם פירוצקי

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From *The CJN* files

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See Page 36

Israel taking wait and see approach with Palestinians

By DALIA SHEHORI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Barak said at a recent cabinet meeting that Israel is waiting to see if the Palestinians can show negotiating flexibility.

"We have yet to hear from them about the openness and willingness to discuss ideas that came up at Camp David, particularly those relating to Jerusalem," Barak said.

"In the next few weeks, we'll know whether Arafat is inclined toward an agreement or an impasse."

Israel wants peace and the Palestinians should realize that an agreement is in their interests as well, Barak added.

Turning to the stalled negotiation track with Syria, the prime minister expressed measured optimism.

Ehud Barak

"The door is still open" for talks with Damascus, Barak said, "and if the Syrians are willing to discuss issues seriously, they will be met with openness from our side."

Barak praised the work done recently by several government ministers who have explained Israel's Camp David positions to various world leaders.

The warm reception given to these Israeli ministers, Barak said, contrasts "with the response that Arafat has met in his travels, which demonstrates the international community's dislike for unilateral actions."

Barak added that the UN Assembly meetings next month will be an opportunity for Israel to reap the dividends of the diplomatic efforts ministers have made in recent weeks.

Jerusalem is indivisible, Katsav tells Germans

By AMICHAI ALPEROVICH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

BONN — President Moshe Katsav has firmly rejected any possibility of dividing Jerusalem or granting authority in the city to Palestinians or to any international body.

In an interview with the German newspaper *Bild,* Katsav said: "Jerusalem has been the capital of the Jewish people for three thousand years. The city must remain as such without being divided. Jerusalem is holy to Christianity and to Islam, but these religions also have holy places that are outside the State of Israel. The places that are holy to us, the Jews, are located only within Israel."

The president added: "When the Old City of Jerusalem was under Arab rule, Jews were not allowed to visit the holy places such as the Western Wall. Only since all of Jerusalem came under Israeli rule in 1967 have the members of all religions been given access to the holy sites. We will continue to guarantee freedom of religion in Jerusalem."

Moshe Katsav

With regard to the peace process, Katsav said: "I truly believe that we will reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians. There is no alternative to peace other than war and violence."

Katsav also expressed his opinion about the burgeoning radical right in Germany. "There is a duty to fight with all one's strength against the trend of resurgent neo-Nazism. We Israelis must also learn from the past. Israel must be a safe haven for Jews from throughout the world."

More Jewish families moving into Muslim quarter

By NADAV SHRAGAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspapert Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Two Jewish families will soon move into the Beit Varsa site in the Muslim quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem.

The enclave has been renovated over the past year to enable it to accommodate three additional Jewish families. Two families have already been living at the site.

A fifth Jewish family is expected to settle at Beit Varsa in another two months bringing the total number of Jewish families settled in this part of the Muslim quarter to 15. All told, close to 60 Jewish families live in the quarter today, and if a number of yeshivot and other religious facilities and Jewish-owned stores are counted, about 1,000 Jews live, study and work in the Muslim quarter.

1,000 Jews live, study and work in the area

Most Jewish families and Torah institutions in the Muslim quarter are located on Hagai Street, which runs between the Damascus Gate and the Western Wall. For months, exploratory excavation work has been done in the quarter's Beit Hatzelem area, close to Herod's Gate, as preparation for a construction project, which the haredi Ateret Kohanim group wants to sponsor.

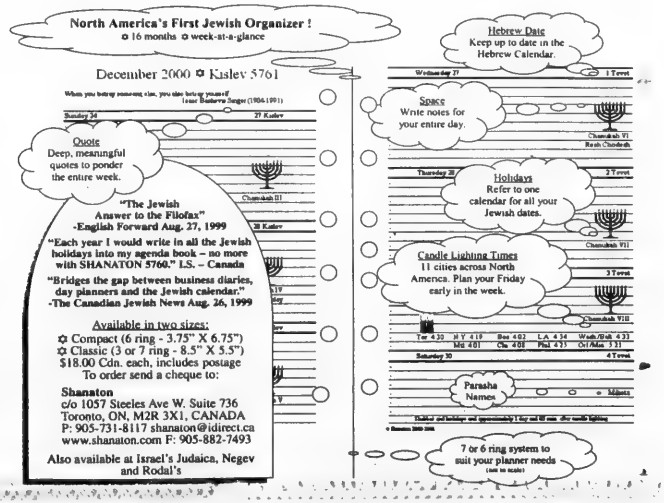
This project, which is now under preparation and has yet to be submitted to the Jerusalem municipality's planning authorities, would create housing for another 20 Jewish families.

In recent weeks, the Jerusalem municipality has authorized the construction of an additional floor at Beit Gavriel, a Jewish structure in the Old City's Christian quarter. When the new floor is built, four new Jewish families will settle at Beit Gavriel.

The municipality also recently gave the green light for expansion work at Beit Hatzelem, to accommodate more Jewish residents in this Muslim quarter enclave.

Speaking for Ateret Kohanim, Mati Dan told *Ha'aretz* that Israeli proposals to put the Muslim quarter under some form of Palestinian sovereignty has stirred consternation among various Jewish groups. These proposals, he said, will be resisted, not only by Jewish residents of the Old City, but by the vast majority of Jews who recall that this Old City quarter once had a mixed Jewish-Arab population, with thousands of Jews living in it up to, and after the 1929 riots.

Speaking against Palestinian sovereignty, Dan asked rhetorically: "Have they murdered, and also inherited?"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Hamas leader says PA foiled 175 terrorist attacks

By JOSEPH ALGAZY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Gaza-based leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, claims the Palestinian Authority foiled 175 terrorist attacks on Israeli targets last year. This disclosure came in an extended interview with Yassin published recently in the Christian weekly *A-Sinara*.

Yassin said Hamas guerrillas remain active and are prepared to strike against Israel. But they haven't carried out terror attacks as a consequence of security co-operation between the PA, Israel and the United States.

The recent lull in Hamas activity shouldn't be mistaken for an indication that the Islamic resistance group is in retreat, Yassin warned. Events will soon prove that the Taibeh-based cell, which was involved in a shootout with security officials in early March 2000, was not the last Hamas military group, he claimed.

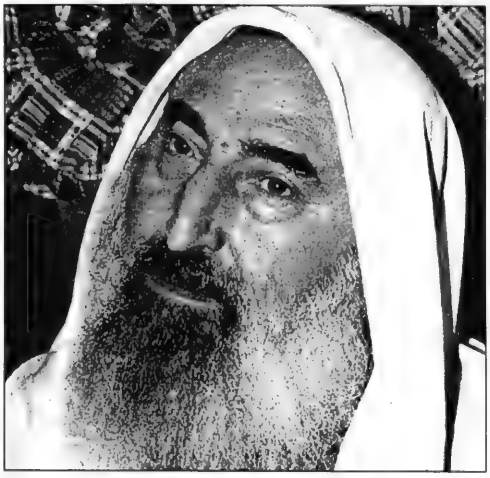
Yassin charged that the Palestinian Authority, in collaboration with Israel, keeps Hamas activity under surveillance. PA security agents quickly dispatch Hamas secrets to Israeli counterparts.

"Every word which I utter to my wife, in my own home, gets to them [the PA, and Israel] on the very same day," he said.

Yassin said 1,000 Hamas men are incarcerated in Israeli prisons and another 300 are confined in PA jails.

He warned that if Yasser Arafat compromises with Israel on Jerusalem "it will be political suicide on his part." Hamas cannot condone any agreement with Israel, since it doesn't recognize its existence, he added.

Yassin praised Palestinians who dwell in Israel and have helped Hamas operatives carry out terrorist strikes. He called on "all Palestinians to take part in the bitter, long struggle" of militant resistance against Israel.



Sheikh Ahmad Yassin

Jewish settlers could become hostages, PA official warns

By AMIRA HASS
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A senior Palestinian official has warned that if Israel blockades the West Bank and Gaza following any unilateral declaration of independence, Jewish settlers there will be treated as hostages.

Ahmad Abdel Rahman, general secretary of the PA cabinet, said that if an agreement is not reached between Israel and the PA, "we will begin implementing our sovereignty and the conflict will reach a new level."

He added that "the Israelis who are present on Palestinian territory will become hostages. Israeli settlements will be isolated and will face a real threat. If the Palestinians are placed under siege, they will have the right to do everything in their power to remove it."

'Conflict will reach a new level'

In recent days, there has been an escalation in the war of words between Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Palestinian officials have been emphasizing that a negotiated settlement and declaration of a state are not "something to be haggled over like in the market."

Abdel Rahman expressed doubts about Prime Minister Ehud Barak's intentions in the negotiations.

He added that Israel and the United States are busy giving the impression to the world that Palestinian efforts internationally have failed, when, he claims, Palestinian positions were received with understanding and support from world leaders.

Suspect held over '92 and '94 Buenos Aires bombings

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd

WASHINGTON — A Pakistani citizen arrested in California for visa violations is suspected of having been involved in the attack against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992 and the bombing of the Jewish Community Centre there in 1994.

The man, Muhammad Abas Malik, was arrested last week and is being held by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in San Pedro.

The head of Argentina's intelligence agency said Malik is wanted for questioning in relation to the investigation into the two bomb attacks. The total number killed in the two attacks was 115.

Argentina's Supreme Court prosecutor is now expected to fly to the United States to question Malik. The Argentinian intelligence chief said information on Malik arrived through Interpol.

The American authorities agreed to hold Malik in custody for further interrogation. Argentinian authorities said that if necessary they will ask the United States to extradite Malik.

Auschwitz disco stirs outrage

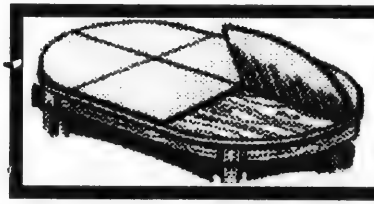
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — An international Jewish human rights group has expressed outrage at plans approved by the local authorities in Oswiecim – the location of the Auschwitz Nazi death camp – to build a disco in a building used by the Nazis as a workhouse for slave-labour prisoners of Auschwitz.

"It is difficult to put into words the level of rage felt by the victims of the Nazis and world Jewry at both the owners of the discotheque and a political establishment in Poland that would validate the mocking of the victims of Auschwitz," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

The site of the proposed disco is roughly two kilometres from the former death camp, but adjacent to an international centre for young people visiting and learning about Auschwitz, the Holocaust and the Nazi genocide.

Oswiecim Mayor Adam Bilski was quoted by Polish media as saying there is no legal basis to deny a permit as the site is not within a protective zone around the camp.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American Jews nervous Lieberman will bring out closet anti-Semites

By BRIAN SEIDMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Al Gore and Joe Lieberman after their nominations.

NEW YORK — Nervousness is tempering the initial euphoria over the selection of a Jew on the Democratic ticket for the White House.

"Here comes this event, and we're unable to celebrate unencumbered by anxiety," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

While he said the anxiety has not reached "panic proportion," the "buzz" reaching the ADL is that many Jews are worried about a rise in anti-Semitism after Senator Joseph Lieberman, an Orthodox Jew, was chosen as Al Gore's running mate.

Foxman said he was surprised at how insecure many in the Jewish community appeared. He said he had expected to see more confidence in the American people's acceptance of Jews.

"Anti-Semitism is there. It hasn't disappeared," Foxman said, but stressed that the rate of anti-Semitism is "the lowest it's ever been."

A 1998 ADL survey found that the number of Americans who held strong anti-Semitic views had dropped to 12 percent from 20 percent in 1992 – and from 29 percent in 1964.

But despite lower levels of anti-Semitism, hate groups focused their vitriol on the Connecticut senator during the past week. Before the advent of the Internet, many of these people would have been content to write anonymous letters to the editor of their local newspaper or confine their comments to like-minded people meeting in basements and bar rooms. Now, they have an international audience.

"The idea of Orthodox Hebe Lieberman being a heartbeat away from the presidency makes me want to retch," wrote one contributor to the Internet message board of Stormfront, a white supremacist group.

"We already have a Zionist-occupied government, but now the Clinton-Gore administration has brought it out of the closet," wrote another.

Lieberman, addressing the issue of anti-Semitism, told CNN talk show host Larry King last week, "I'm sure there are some anti-Semites out there. But you know, this people, the American people, are so tolerant, they're so open, I'm just convinced that they're going to vote for me or against me not based on my religion, but based on how they judge me as a person and whether they think I can do this job, and I can't ask any more than that."

Foxman said he believes the American people will not let anti-Semitism affect the presidential campaign.

"We will respond when it's serious, but I believe America has come of age. At the end of the day, Joe Lieberman will be judged as an individual and not by the fact that he goes to shul or doesn't go to shul," Foxman said.

But in online message boards, the issue of how Lieberman practises his Judaism is argued even among Jews.

One contributor to the America Online Jewish Community message board wrote, "Had Lieberman been a Reform Jew I would say, great, the job is yours. However, as an Orthodox Jew he is absolutely not supposed to do various things that are going to crop up in his vice presidency.

"If he makes concessions, he is no longer Orthodox."

Some criticized what they see as hypocrisy on Lieberman's part, maintaining the importance of religion in his life, but attending meetings and other activities on Saturdays.

Lieberman has addressed that issue by saying that for the past 12 years in public life he has voted on Saturday as part of the Jewish tradition of pikuach nefesh, or saving people's lives.

The senator recently clarified his interpretation of that tradition to mean he may work on Shabbat, but only to promote "the respect and protection of human life and well-being."

The Week in Israel

Aug. 14

• Israel and the Palestinians could hold another summit sometime in September, depending on how the two sides work in the time leading up to then, Israel's acting foreign minister, Shlomo Ben-Ami said while visiting Italy. Ben-Ami was on a visit to European nations, explaining Israel's positions on peace talks with the Palestinians.

Aug. 15

• The Knesset plans to appoint a panel to investigate allegations that the nation's second largest bank, Bank Leumi, failed to hand over assets from World War II-era bank accounts to the proper authorities and that deposit boxes were later emptied of their contents but not returned to their owners. Colette Avital will head the Knesset investigation.

• The finance minister announced a cut in sales taxes on consumer products.

Aug. 16

• President Moshe Katsav met with leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel for the first time since his election last month as president and pledged to them that he would represent all streams of Judaism during his seven-year term.

Aug. 17

• U.S. Middle East Peace Envoy Dennis Ross met with Israeli and Palestinian Authority officials for a brief round of talks, in an attempt to assess progress made since the Camp David summit last month, *Ha'aretz* reported. The officials also examined the prospects for a second summit aimed at concluding a permanent agreement.

• Israel's Sports Ministry is considering whether to allow Israeli athletes to participate in Olympic competitions in Sydney next month that are scheduled to be held on Rosh Hashanah.

Aug. 18

• Jerusalem's Old City walls are the most romantic spot in Israel, according to a survey published by *Yediot Achronot*. The archeological excavation at Caesarea came in second and the Judean desert third. *With files from the JTA*

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Israel's first ambassador to Egypt dies at 68

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israel's first ambassador to Egypt is remembered as a diplomat who helped cement the 1979 peace treaty between the two countries.

Obituary

Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who was most recently Israel's ambassador to France, died of a heart attack at the age of 68.

Praising Ben-Elissar's many years of service to the Jewish state and his role in post-peace relations wth Egypt, Prime Minister Ehud Barak said the ambassador "poured content into the new peace between the two states."

Ben-Elissar served for 10 years in the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency, before embarking on a career in politics.

Former prime minister Menachem Begin appointed Ben-Elissar director general of the Prime Minister's Office in 1977 after he joined the Likud party.

Later elected as a Likud legislator, Ben-Elissar served for two terms as the hawkish chair of the Knesset's powerful foreign affairs and defence committees.

Likud colleague Uzi Landau described Ben-Elissar as a "bitter opponent" of the Oslo accords.

Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed Ben-Elissar ambassador to the United States in 1996 and to France in 1998.

Ben-Elissar's death came just after he and several other diplomats had been recalled by Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Ben-Elissar died as he was preparing to return home, the Foreign Ministry said.

Eliahu Ben-Elissar

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Israeli girlfriend claims missing U.S. soldier is a spy

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israeli police are searching for a U.S. military officer who is missing from his base in Texas and is believed to be in the Jewish state.

A woman claiming to be the girlfriend of Jeremiah Mattysse said the lieutenant-colonel had spied for Israel. Mattysse reportedly is a convert to Judaism.

Israeli sources said Mattysse's disappearance – he did not return from a scheduled leave on Aug. 7 – was more likely related to a romantic entanglement.

In media interviews, the woman, Rivka Nir, said Mattysse, 50, sent bags of classified documents to her home. He had access to these documents while serving as head of an intelligence unit at Camp Bullis in San Antonio.

Nir, 48, said Mattysse removed the documents and deposited them in safe deposit boxes around the country.

Mattysse had been in Israel since the beginning of August – moving around disguised with a beard and wig and sleeping in a tent, Nir said.

She said he told her he wanted to seek political asylum in Syria, because "Israel will betray him, as well as other Arab countries that have relations with the U.S. and receive weapons from it."

Mattysse was reassigned with a U.S. Army Reserve group in San Antonio after an investigation was launched into a possible extramarital affair.

His disappearance is of "heightened concern" because of his intelligence background, a speaker for the U.S. Army Reserve Command was quoted as saying.

The *San Antonio Express-News* reported that Mattysse's wife, Vanda, filed for divorce March 7. An attorney for Vanda Mattysse reported that a divorce is pending.

Nir, who also has American citizenship, likened Mattysse's situation to that of Jonathan Pollard, a former U.S. naval intelligence analyst serving a life sentence for spying for Israel.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Nir said Mattysse only wanted to help Israel, and when he came to her, they "raised a cup" in honour of Israel.

But security officials dismissed suggestions of a serious security breach, and members of Nir's family said most of her claims were "fantasy" with perhaps a "grain of truth."

Israel's deputy defence minister, Ephraim Sneh, dismissed a suggestion that Israel might try to exchange Mattysse for Pollard.

"I don't think anyone is dealing with that at the moment," Sneh told Israel Army Radio.

U.S. officials formally asked for Israel's help in locating the errant officer in a meeting last Friday with Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who immediately agreed. The military attaché to the U.S. Embassy interviewed Nir over the weekend as part of the effort to locate Mattysse.

The incident was splashed across all of Israel's papers, and *Yediot Achronot* dedicated seven pages to the story.

It's never too late for refreshing strawberries

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

For me strawberry season begins at Passover and continues until I can't find them anymore at the end of the summer. I thought I might share some berry information.

Farm fresh, just picked strawberries will, of course, be the freshest and the most delicious. If you're lucky enough to have a picking farm within easy travelling distance it's an adventure I can highly recommend for the entire family. When picking strawberries, try to pick early in the morning or later in the day when the fruit is cool. Strawberries taste best when eaten within two to three days of picking. You should cover and store them unwashed in the refrigerator. Do not crowd or press them into a container. They need to breathe. Look for plump, bright red and fully ripe berries. The caps should be attached green and fresh looking. The size of the strawberry is not important. All strawberries, large and small, are equally sweet and juicy.

Almost all berries are sold by weight or volume. Container sizes vary from farm to farm: pints, quarts or larger. A pint box of medium sized berries will generally hold two cups. Two cups of berries, crushed will yield about one cup of purée.

There are several ways to store fresh strawberries. Sort and remove any bruised or damaged berries as soon as possible and use them in sauces, purées or jams. Place the berries in cool, well ventilated containers (32 to 40 degrees). The moisture content of fresh strawberries is high, so store uncovered or loosely covered. Hull strawberries and rinse gently just before serving.

STRAWBERRY CREAM PIE

1 9-inch baked piecrust
1 recipe cream filling (see below)
½ cup almonds, slivered, toasted

Filling
3 tbsp. cornstarch
½ tsp. salt
½ cup sugar
3 tbsp. flour
2 cups milk
1 egg, slightly beaten
½ cup whipping cream, whipped
1 tsp. vanilla

Strawberry Glaze
½ cup fresh strawberries
½ cup water
2 tsp. cornstarch
¼ cup sugar

For cream filling:

In a saucepan combine the cornstarch, salt, sugar and flour. Gradually stir in the milk. After combining the ingredients place the mixture over a medium heat, stirring constantly, and bring to a boil; reduce heat and cook and stir till thick. Stir a little (2 to 3 tbsp.) of hot mixture into egg; return the egg mixture to remaining hot mixture.

Bring just to boiling, stirring constantly. Cool, then chill. When cool, beat cream filling well then fold in the whipped cream and vanilla.

For Pie:

Toast almonds until lightly browned, then sprinkle over the bottom of the cooled piecrust. Fill crust with chilled cream filling. Halve 2 cups of the strawberries. Pile atop filling.

For Glaze:

In a saucepan crush ½ cup berries; add the water; cook for 2 minutes; sieve and return liquid to the pan. In a cup mix the sugar and cornstarch together, gradually adding the mixture to the berry juice.

Cook, and stir till thick and clear. Cool slightly; pour over halved strawberries. Keep refrigerated till serving time. Serves 6.

STRAWBERRY ALMOND MUFFINS

½ cup butter, softened
¾ cup sugar
2 eggs
½ cup milk
1½ tsp. almond extract
1½ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup whole wheat flour
1 tbsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
2 cups strawberries, chopped
¾ cup slivered almonds

Preheat the oven to 375 and line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners. In a bowl of an electric mixer or food processor, cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, and blend until fluffy. Mix in the milk and the almond extract. In a separate bowl, sift the flours, baking powder, and salt.

Add the flour mixture to the milk mixture and blend until just combined. Fold in the strawberries and almonds. Fill the muffin cups to the top and bake for 30 minutes, or until golden brown. Makes 12 muffins.

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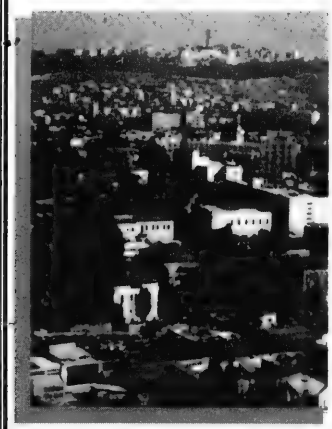

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Israeli youth choir to perform at Royal York in Toronto

By VIVA PRESS
Special to The CJN

JERUSALEM — The Sheba Choir began with six shy Ethiopian children.

Now, the choir, an ensemble of Ethiopian-Israeli youths, will perform in Canada for its first time later this month.

The choir was formed just over 10 years ago, and has since become an institution in the Israeli music scene. It has also made its mark in Jewish communities around the globe.

"Being invited to perform overseas is very exciting for the children," Dalya Meidan, manager of the choir, told *The CJN*. "They are extremely polished performers and enjoy themselves most when the audience is warm and receptive."

The choir is made up of Ethiopians aged 12 to 17. Their repertoire consists of Ethiopian folksongs with an Israeli twang.

The kids perform often in Israel – having recently taken part in the annual Israel Festival in Jerusalem in May. Going overseas is usually reserved for school holidays, so as not to interfere with the choir members' school educations.

Meidan said the tours are set up so that the children can easily make up missed schoolwork. The city of Netanya (where a majority of the kids live), has even set up tutors to help the kids with missed schoolwork.

The group began in the late 1980s when Israel Television was producing a special program about Ethiopian Jews. One of the producers asked musician/composer Shlomo Gronich if he would help out. So, Gronich came to the studio and met 40 children. After persuading them to sing for a bit, he chose six of them.

Gronich sang together with them for the TV program.

These six became the seed of the Sheba Choir. Gronich and the group continued to meet after the program. He wrote new songs, and slowly their repertoire grew.

The choir's first songs included *The Journey* and *The Stork Song*, which were composed by Gronich. Poet Chaim Idissis set the lyrics.

It was an awkward task for Gronich, despite his having written music for theater, ballet, pop, and rock because he did not know much about Ethiopian music. At that time he sent the children home with tape recorders and asked them to bring back examples.

The kids, as well as their sold-out audiences, think Gronich has done a good job. *The Stork Song*, tells the story of large flocks of storks which migrate every year over Jerusalem and then pass over Ethiopia.

Tradition has it that Jewish children in Ethiopia would sing a song to the storks: "Oh stork, oh stork, how is our city of Jerusalem?"

The song mixes Amharic with Hebrew. While the second song, *The Journey* is not related to traditional Ethiopian music, it has become the most popular song of their repertoire, and has been adopted as an unofficial hymn by the Ethiopian community.

It tells the story of the Jewish exodus from Ethiopia, about their trek over the deserts of Sudan, and the hardships and fears they faced during Operation Moses. The children involved in the choir feel they are contributing to the Ethiopian immigrant community in Israel.

The Sheba Choir

Meidan hopes that this desire to play a role in the community remains.

"In five years, the youngest children today will be the oldest children in the choir. Today, almost all of the choir children were born in Ethiopia. In five years we will probably have a majority of children who are sabras," Meidan said. "We sincerely hope and desire that there will be as much interest in this unique community then as there has been until now, and that the sabra children will feel pride in their heritage and will want to showcase their community for the world."

The choir will perform on Aug. 28 in Montreal at The Medley, 1170 Rue St. Denis, 514-345-2600; in Toronto for the UJA FEDERATION's Campaign 2001 community launch on Aug. 30 at the Royal York, 416-631-5700. Both shows are at 8 p.m.

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SCHOLAR STUDIES TROVE OF IMMIGRANT ESSAYS

Jocelyn Cohen, a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota, is studying a trove of 1942-era essays she found in the archives of the YIVO Institute, in which hundreds of Jewish immigrants explained why they came to America.

YIVO, formerly known as the Jewish Scientific Institute, had sponsored an autobiography contest to encourage the public to record important details of their life experiences for future generations. They received some 233 responses, mostly written in Yiddish.

Many of the essayists intrinsically understood the historical value of their experiences, appreciated the opportunity to put them into words and lauded the organization for its foresight in attempting to preserve the historical record.

One woman, however, wrote to the institute that she doubted anyone would seriously listen to her. "I am a symbol of my people," she wrote. "All the tragedies of my people are reflected in me. I have tried all my years to speak to you. You don't want to hear me."

Max Weinreich, the organization's research director, responded, in part: "If many Jews tell us their life-stories, then we'll understand the sources of their sorrows, and we might find a better remedy for them. We would want the same from you. We will certainly believe you. We might learn important things for others from your life.

"We suggest therefore that you should indeed write your life story. Write everything which troubles your heart, and describe your entire life from childhood to this day; write as if you were writing to a friend."

Cohen reports about her find in a recent issue of *Jewish Culture News*, the newsletter of the New York-based National Foundation for Jewish Culture (NFJC). She indicates that similar essay contests had also produced results in the 1920s and 1930s. The NFJC's Web site is located at www.jewishculture.org.

* * *

At the Galleries

• The Nathan Shiff Gallery, 1252 Danforth Ave., presents previously unshown works and old favourites of Nathan Shiff (1945-1999). The medium is abstract acrylics on canvas and watercolours. Aug. 29 to Sept. 23. Reception Sept 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. 416-463-8957.

• The Israeli Artists Group of Toronto is hosting a series of exhibits showcasing the works of its members. An upcoming show features paintings by **Beca Rind**. Rachel's Restaurant, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. Now through Nov. 7.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• Among eight works included in the Factory Theatre's upcoming season is the premiere of *Zadie's Shoes*, written by **Adam Pettie**. The play centres around Benjamin, who gambles away the money necessary to send his girlfriend to Mexico for critically needed health treatment, but finds unexpected hope in the neighbourhood synagogue. Jan. 2 to Feb. 4, 2001. 416-504-9971.

• **Allen Kaeja**, artistic director of the fringe Festival of Independent Dance Artists, has announced his retirement from the festival after the current season. A co-founder of fFIDA, he had been with the festival for 10 years. He intends to devote more time to Kaeja d'Dance, a company he founded with his wife, Karen.

• Pop and jazz singer **Rosemary Clooney** returns to Roy Thomson Hall, backed up by **Big Kahuna and the Copa Cat Pack**. She performs Thursday, Oct. 5, at 8 p.m. Tickets are from $49.50 to $79.50. 416-872-4255.

• The Toronto engagement of *The Sound of Music* has been cancelled due to the pullout of actor **Corbin Bernsen**. In other cities, the show has been postponed. Refunds are available at Pantages Box Office or at the Ticketmaster hotline at 416-872-2222.

Eye on Arts
By Bill Gladstone

Neil Simon play at Leah Posluns Theatre

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Neil Simon's plays are as successful in Budapest as they are in North America, says Zed Pitkin.

"I think it may have something to do with the universal spirit of Jewish humour," said Pitkin.

Pitkin, 42, will direct Neil Simon's play *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, at the Leah Poslun's Theatre on Sept. 2.

He has teamed up with Lance Brass, 21, who will produce the play.

Brass, who was a student at Forest Hill Collegiate, said this will be the first time the play will be presented in Canada.

"I can't understand why *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* has never been done in Canada," said Brass. "It's incredible, full of laughs, a typical Neil Simon play."

It ran on Broadway in 1993 to good reviews, with Nathan Lane in the lead, he said.

A total of 600 actors auditioned for the nine parts – seven men and two women, said Brass.

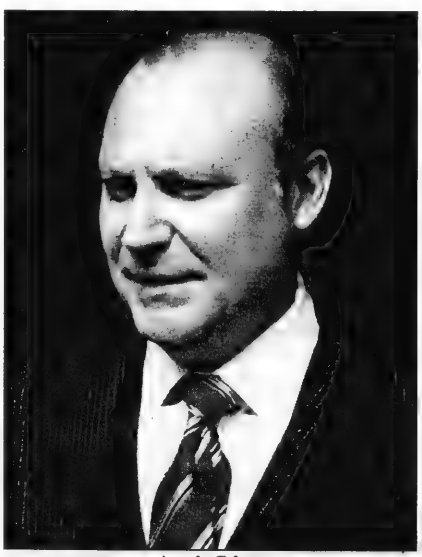
"I had the first auditions in my office but later we had to use the Tarragon Theatre. It's unbelievable the amount of talent we have in Toronto."

The cast, all Canadians, includes Angelo Celeste in the lead role of Max Prince, and actor Lou Israel. Celeste is also in Atom Egoyan's new short film, *The Line*, to be shown at the upcoming Toronto International Film Festival.

Pitkin directed Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* and *The Sunshine Boys* in Hungary. He was attracted to *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* by the beauty of its language and its comic lines.

Pitkin's grandfather perished in the Holocaust, along with several other family members. His parents, Joseph and Helen, still reside in Dunajska Streda in Hungary.

Both Brass and Pitkin have produced or directed plays in Toronto, Brass at St. Michael's Theatre and Pitkin at Ryerson's Studio Theatre.



Angelo Celeste

Brass said he selected the Leah Posluns theatre because he thinks it is a beautiful space. He is also planning to produce *The Sunshine Boys* there in December.

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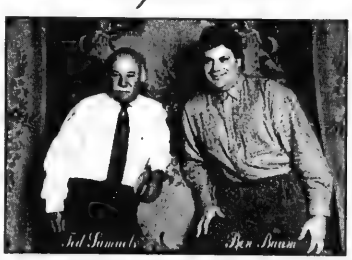

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Arts & Travel

Photo exhibit of thoroughfare at Koffler Gallery

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Most people who know Bathurst Street experience it by driving, a local photographer points out.

The conglomeration of postwar strip malls interspersed with apartment buildings, nondescript shops, many with second floor living quarters, and cars pulling in and out of parking areas makes the corridor from Eglinton Avenue to Sheppard Avenue look like a throw-together mistake.

But through the lens of his talented eye and his camera lens, Toronto photographer, teacher and curator Viv Ingelevics has created a series of photographs that, as individual scenes, are pleasant and colourful images of the street.

His stop-action photos depict scenes that most of us rarely view or explore.

Combined, the photos, exhibits and audio track create an evolving historical view of the street.

In conjunction with Ingelevics' works and the historical documentation of the Bathurst area, several exhibitions by youngsters are on display until Oct. 31.

An exhibition of Ingelevics' documentary through colour photographs, titled Bathurst Street, is on view in The Koffler Gallery, Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., until Sept. 3.

Ingelevics, who grew up in the Bathurst-Eglinton area, says he became interested in Bathurst Street in his childhood, when many of the buildings were new.

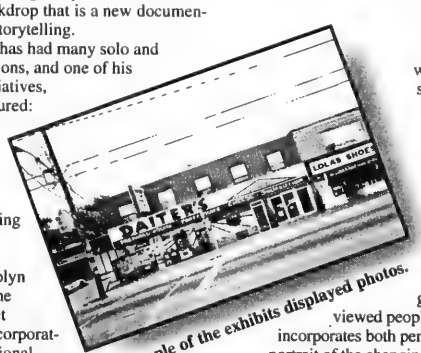
The 27 strip malls and buildings of this postwar modernist era, Ingelevics says, tell the story of the migratory waves and form a historical backdrop that is a new documentary form of storytelling.

Ingelevics has had many solo and group exhibitions, and one of his curatorial initiatives, Camera Obscured: Photographic Documentation and the Public Museum, is presently touring Canada.

Curated by Koffler's Carolyn Bell Farrell, the Bathurst Street exhibit has incorporated some additional artistic elements to complement Ingelevics' photos.

There are a series of black and white graphic street rubbings and stampings of manholes and street markings created by six of Ingelevics' students and former students at the Ontario College of Art and Design.

And in an ongoing oral history gathered by the artist, we hear the voices of a number of individuals who speak of their recollections and experiences in the Bathurst area.



An example of the exhibits displayed photos.

They are also at the Koffler Gallery, with some pieces on view in the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre lobby.

Grade 11 students at Sir Sandford Fleming Academy, under the guidance of teacher Jessie Gordon, photographed Bathurst Street and worked with their images to create patterns, panoramas and whimsical impressions of this culturally diverse area.

Another display, Photographic Montage, was created by grades 5 and 6 students at Temple Sinai Religious School. Teacher Susan Schwarz, who documented shopkeepers and their businesses in the area 30 years ago, took her students to the same businesses. The students photographed and interviewed people, and the project incorporates both periods, presenting a portrait of the changing face of Bathurst Street.

There is also a display of creative miniatures by the BJCC Summer Centre Camp art project. Under the guidance of instructor Valentina Andrei, children ages eight to 12 designed and built the models, which are also on view at The Koffler Gallery.

Gallery hours are Sunday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Gallery tours and hands-on workshops are available. For more information, call 416-636-1880, ext. 268.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

1 Z	2 E	3 H	■	4 M	5 I	6 T	■	7 B	8 U	9 S	■	10 J
11 O	12 B	13 A	V	E	■	14 A	S	A	■	15 I	T	O
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23 S	■	24 R	I	O	■	■	■	■	■	■	25 I	N
26 D	E	P	27 E	N	D	E	■	28 N	29 C	30 E	■	■
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LION KING:Students from United Synagogue Day School recently attended a performance of the Lion King to raise funds for the school's science program.

Travel Talk

By Bill Gladstone

COMPANY SPECIALIZES IN BAR AND BAT MITZVAH TOURS FROM CANADA TO ISRAEL

Network Tours is a Toronto-based travel wholesaler specializing in bar and bat mitzvah tours to Israel, which its managing director, Gary Unsworth, describes as "a niche or specialty market that is very big – it's a sleeping giant."

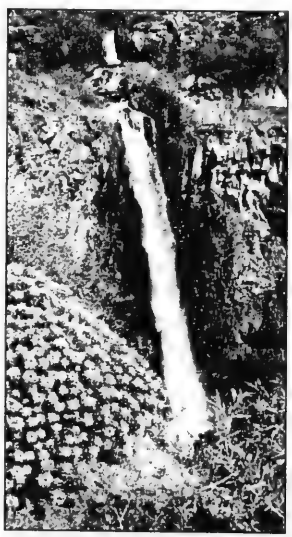
According to Unsworth, an average of 1,000 families in Ontario and Quebec book bar and bat mitzvah tours to Israel each year. Some years the number may be as high as 1,400 families, he says. His definition of a family? A group of four, 10 or even 15 related people. Indisputably, that adds up to considerable traffic.

"Last week alone, 27 families called for information," he reports. "The tours are very popular."

Network Tours' 15-day itinerary includes hotels, meals, extensive touring (with a desert safari and camel rides and other adventures for young people), entrance fees, entertainments and, of course, a religious ceremony at Masada (unless a family opts for a service at the Western Wall, or another location instead).

Network Tours funnels the bar- and bat-mitzvah trade into select time periods, allowing families to benefit from large-group discounts. "By combining dates, the families can take advantage of lower rates," says Unsworth. "It reduces the price considerably."

The company's price sheet shows how reductions increase as group size gets larger. For example, a family of four (two adults and two children in two rooms) pay $8,769 US when travelling with a party of 15, $8,279 in a party of 30, and $7,869 in a party of 40.



Gamla Falls [Isranet photo]

The prices do not include air fare, but Network Tours claims it can get special fares from El Al. The itinerary dates are: Dec. 24, 2000 to Jan. 7, 2001; Mar. 11 to 25, 2001; July 1 to 15, 2001; July 29 to Aug. 12, 2001, and Dec. 23, 2001 to Jan. 6, 2002.

The tours can be booked through any travel agent in Canada, and Unsworth stands ready to advise any families needing assistance. Call him at 416-789-4350 if you have questions about planning a bar or bat mitzvah celebration in Israel. (Collect calls accepted.)

Detailed tour brochures are available through travel agencies.

* * *

Israel Notes

• Video cameras at the Gamla Nature Reserve allow visitors to eavesdrop on the nests of Griffon vultures on the Golan Heights. The birds, which have a three-metre-wide wing span, nest on cliff ledges. The site of an ancient Jewish revolt against the Romans, Gamla boasts the ruins of what is believed to be the world's oldest synagogue.

• Visitors seeking an e-mail connection in Israel may visit any of the country's many cyber-cafes. Rates are as low as $3 an hour or as high as $15; some places charge by the quarter-hour. Many hotels feature computer kiosks in the reception area where, for a fee, guests may log on, surf the Web, and send and receive e-mail.

• Last year some 50,500 Canadian tourists visited Israel, a figure the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO) claims is a new record. "There's no doubt the papal journey encouraged Canadians to share the Israel experience," says IGTO director Arie Shevi-Shibi, who is hoping that 60,000 Canadians will visit Israel during this year. IGTO, 416-964-3784.

* * *

Morocco at the Jewish Museum: Morocco – Jews and Art in a Muslim Land opens Sept. 24 at the Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., New York. The exhibition focuses on the multicultural art and traditions of more than 2,000 years of Moroccan-Jewish life. Until Feb. 11.

Drink and Be Merry: Wine and Beer in Ancient Times, an exhibition that explores 5,000 years of drinking culture in the eastern mediterranean and Near East, continues at the Jewish Museum through Nov. 5. 212-423-3271.

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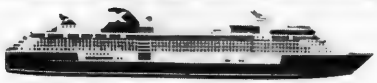
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New carbon monoxide poisoning treatment launched

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A simple mechanical device assembled from components available in a scuba diving store has proven highly effective against carbon monoxide poisoning.

All it took was the imagination and talent of Toronto Hospital anesthesiologist Dr. Joseph Fisher and his youthful assistants at a tiny lab in the Toronto Hospital General Division.

Carbon monoxide is an odourless colourless gas, which, when inhaled, combines with the hemoglobin in the red blood cells to prevent the delivery of oxygen to the body.

In the early stages of carbon monoxide poisoning, the only symptoms may be headache, nausea and fatigue. If the carbon monoxide is not eliminated from the body, coma and death can occur.

Even if the patient survives, there may be serious neurological and psychological symptoms. If a woman is pregnant, the effect to the fetus may be catastrophic.

The only treatment now is to give 100 percent oxygen, either in a hyperbaric chamber, of which there are only three in Ontario, or by mask. The idea, Fisher told *The CJN*, is to salvage as much as possible of the brain, heart and other vital organs before they are irreparably harmed by oxygen starvation.

Fisher's technique evolved from his research into the way in which the brain controls the diameter of the human breathing tubes.

Dr. Joseph Fisher

Looking for clinical applications, Fisher decided to use the research to try to find a way of treating carbon monoxide poisoning that would be more effective than the oxygen mask.

Fisher's apparatus is a simple valve that provides a mixture of oxygen and carbon dioxide to the body. The mixture "works with the physiology of the body to eliminate carbon monoxide up to three times faster than oxygen alone," he said.

Because it is portable, compact, small and inexpensive, Fisher said, it can be used right at the scene of a poisoning incident, by paramedics, ambulance personnel or firemen. "People don't have to wait for transport – they can be treated right away, so more tissue can be salvaged."

The technology, which is currently being developed for commercial use, has other applications too, such as the resuscitation of newborns, treatment of stroke patients and alleviation of fetal distress.

Fisher has gathered around him a cadre of young university students, who work with him in his research. One student, Josh Rucker, won first prize for presenting Fisher's invention at the convention of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine in San Francisco.

Fisher said he became interested in treating carbon monoxide poisoning when his own parents were victims, after fumes from a car that had been left running in the garage entered their house.

He knows the grim statistics: Carbon monoxide poisoning is the commonest cause of death in the world, he said, responsible for between 40,000 and 70,000 emergency room visits a year. That is not counting symptoms that are not recognized as being carbon monoxide related.

It is an even bigger problem in the Far East, he said. "In Korea, for instance, it is usually warm. People deal with an occasional cold snap by burning fossil fuels indoors – creating carbon monoxide."

Fisher is looking forward to the time when his device is in universal use. In the meantime, he has one piece of advice: use carbon monoxide detectors.

Don't test drivers by age: CARP

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Drivers should be monitored by their driving and health records rather than their age, says the president of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP).

The Ontario government's program, which requires drivers over 80 to be tested on their road knowledge and vision every two years, smacks of "ageism and sexism," Lillian Morgenthau said.

But John Hastings, Ontario deputy minister of transport, defended his department's policy for drivers 80 and over and said the government does not intend to change it.

Under the program, no road test is required, as it was every year prior to 1996.

Hastings said CARP's recommendation that the ministry should restrict licences for drivers who have medical concerns or have been charged with driving offences, regardless of age, "is worth exploring."

The restrictions, CARP has suggested, would prohibit driving on highways or after dark.

The CARP recommendation was endorsed by Evelyn Shulman and Anne Schlifer, co-chairs of the Jewish Association of Seniors.

"It's a little frightening to see people on the road who should not be driving," said Shulman. "But I'm 80 and a fairly good driver. My daughter says I drive with authority."

Though she is not 80, Schlifer said she voluntarily gave up her licence for six months because of retinopathy (an eye problem) until the condition was corrected.

"It is stupid to test people because they are 80," she said. "What about the younger drivers who cause accidents? Anyone with physical or mental problems that affect their driving should not have licences," she said.

Hastings said the Ontario government's program testing seniors every two years is "working well" as can be seen in the literature, which, he said, indicates that since 1996, there has been no increase in the number of accidents caused by drivers over 80.

In addition to the road knowledge and vision tests, those over 80 must take part in a discussion with a counsellor and other drivers. The counsellor can ask for a road test as a result of the discussion or if a medical report raises any problems, Hastings said.

Also all drivers in their 70s who are convicted under the Highway Traffic Act must, by law, take a road test.

The government's driver program for seniors is the most stringent in Canada, he said, adding that doctors are taking "very seriously" their responsibility to advise the ministry if they believe someone should lose a licence.

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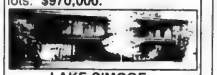

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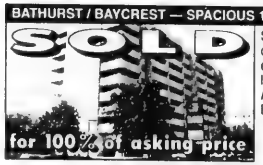

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416-633-1166 or 416-723-4000

PRIME BATHURST & SHEPPARD PROPERTY
This 3 bdrm. sidesplit home has hardwood floors and new broadloom. It is freshly painted and backs onto a park. The home also has a separate entrance to a fin. bsmnt. Call **CONRAD CASTELLINO, Homelife/Bayview Realty Inc. 905-889-2200.**

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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Thornhill - Clark/Hilda. Move in condition.Near shul. $259,900. No agents. Call 905-882-5533.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst S. of Steeles, modern 3-bdrm home, fin. basement, $2000. +, 665-4043

Sheppard/Wilmington 3 bdrm, 2 bath, appl. Parking. Fin. bsmt & yard. 416-638-0044.

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125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Ft. Lauderdale - Sunrise. 2 bdrm. 2 bth. condo. Water view. Fully furn., pkg., golf, tennis, clubhouse, Call 416-222-6767.

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Bath/Steeles, Lux. Townsgate condo. 2 bd., 2 bth. Prv. sale. $229K. Miriam 905-882-9251.

45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

Skyrise condo wanted by private buyer, prefer lower floors. 416-457-5381 leave message.

62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Young female, professional, looking to share accom. with mid-20's female. Non smoker & responsible. Call 416-712-9489.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

Bath/Centre-Newly reno. bsmt. apt. non smkr. Fem. pref. Steps to Promenade. 905-709-0523, day, 905-762-9529, eves.

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125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

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140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Palm Aire - Boynton Bch., 2 or 3 bd., 2 bth. Clean, attr. Mid Dec. for 3 mo. 416-222-3143.

160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

Furnished 3 bdrm. luxury suite avail. 1 wk during Nov. $700u.s. Bus. 011-972-8-936-2674, Home 011-972-8-926-4875, e-mail efrat001@bezeqint.net

205 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE

Thornhill - Arnold Ave. Potential for 2 or 3 lots. 905-881-6965

230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Private Jewish elementary school seeks part-time dynamic teacher for computer technology. Fax resume to principal: 905-771-1807.

Qualified Teacher or ECE for after school program (4-6pm) in Thornhill. For info: 783-5751.

Secretary, part-time/full-time for synagogue. Phone & computer skills required. 595-5723.

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Chef (general) - for a strictly Kosher outlet in Toronto with 5-7 years of kosher cooking experience & some experience in Israel, with skills to develop new & upgrade traditional kosher foods of all levels. $18/hour. 40 hours/week. Please fax resume to: 416-398-3964.

Exp. secretary for Jewish boys school. Ref. Mon-Thurs. 4-7p.m. Fax resume 789-3797.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RECEPTIONIST required by The Canadian Jewish News for a busy switchboard/front desk position. Excellent English and interpersonal skills essential. Computer skills are an asset for other administrative duties. Please fax resume to: (416) 391-0949, attn. Carol Jamieson.

Developer & coordinator of programs for Jewish outreach organization. Part-time. Send resume to CJN Box #7300

Mature web literate person. Non-smoker. For E-bay trading business. Call John 633-2223.

Innovative Downtown Ketubah company seeks dynamic, articulate, quick learner for part-time customer service position. Excellent English communication, Mac/Windows, Hebrew reading/writing required. Fax resume to: 416-963-9129.

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PROGRAMMER: ENTRY LEVEL
Position in a social service agency. Experience with children necessary. Send resume to:
Program Director
Bloor JCC,
750 Spadina Ave.
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2 or
Fax. (416) 924-0442
No phone calls please

Are you passionate about judaism? Keen to work with children? Committed, creative, motivated? Opportunities for assistant and supply teachers are available. Send or fax your resume to Holy Blossom Temple Religious School, 1950 Bathurst St., Toronto, On. M5P 3K9. Fax#416-789-9697.

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255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Family, 2 yng children, reqs live-in care-giver. Positive attitude & exp. with infants & toddlers a must. Willing to sponsor. Call 905-709-3303.

Filipino speaking responsible experienced, loving, full time, nanny req'd for 2 children, 5 & 2. References. Rick or Reisa at 782-8879 eve. or weekends.

Nanny 3 days. Exp. Ref. required Bath/Eglinton. 782-8191.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Bringing People Together Introductions: Min. 1 engagement per mo. Ruth Friedman 905-731-5204.

Bringing People Together. It only takes one match to light a fire. Call Ruth **905-731-5204.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazel Tov to **Pesa & Moishe Katz** on their 51st anniversary. Wishing you health & happiness always. With love from your children, Reisa & Ricky, Judy & Howard & grandchildren, Robyn, Corey, Alan & Robbie.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

• CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.

Early 40's widow w/ 19 yr. old son, slightly physically challenged would like to find male companionship, 43-50, Young Israel, Modern Orthodox background. CJN Box # 7299.

Vivacious, attractive lady, 50, seeking a single, honest *mensch*, 45-65 for long-term. Surely there is one out there. 905-303-4908.

We want our father, a widower of 2 years, to be happy again. So, if you're a trim, cultured, good natured senior, love bridge, travel & going for walks, please call 416-636-6844

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
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North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Collector is buying old, used, photo equipment (cameras, lens, flashes, filters). Please Call 905-660-7385.

Service Directory and Classified Advertising deadlines are 8 days prior to the issue date, by 4pm. Early deadlines are possible due to holidays and office closings.

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330 OBITUARIES

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SILVER, Henry (Hank) - on Aug. 2, 2000.
SHPRUKHMAN, Betya - on Aug. 3, 2000, late of 10 Tangreen Crt.
NEAMTAN, Solomon - on Aug. 5, 2000, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
MENDELOVITZ, Malka - on Aug. 6, 2000, late of 10 Elise Terrace.
SZABO, Dov - on Aug. 6, 2000, late of 6200 Bathurst St.
AGAI, Anna - on Aug. 7, 2000, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
BLOOM, Doris - on Aug. 7, 2000, late of 110 Promenade Circle.
KORN, Anne - on Aug. 7, 2000, late of 89 McCallum Dr.
KICHLER, Szaja - on Aug. 8, 2000, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
ZAJDMAN, Golda - on Aug. 8, 2000.
GORFINKEL, Jacob - on Aug. 9, 2000.
BIREN, Lillian - on Aug. 10, 2000, late of 1101 Steeles Ave. W.
TARATUTA, Sophia - on Aug. 11, 2000.
ZELICOVICI, Zigmund - on Aug. 12, 2000.
KORN, Aron - on Aug. 13, 2000.
NAISTEIN, Esther - on Aug. 14, 2000, late of 131 Torresdale Ave.
STAUB, Anton - on Aug. 14, 2000.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

KATZENELL, David - on Aug. 3, 2000, late of 6200 Bathurst St., #602.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEBREW DASIC BURIAL
TRADITIONAL GRAVESIDE SERVICE

LANDA, Lloyd - on Aug. 2, 2000, late of 145 Marlee Ave., #1502.
LIPTON, Harold - on Aug. 2, 2000, late of 55 Skymark Ave., #2502.
BRONSTEIN, Luba - on Aug. 4, 2000, late of 330 Spadina Rd.
KOSOWER, Goldie - on Aug. 4, 2000, late of 350 Lonsdale Ave., #114.
CONSARELLI, Maddalena - on Aug. 6, 2000, late of 2305 - 1900 Sheppard Ave. E.
FOX, Jason - on Aug. 6, 2000, late of 1990 Whites Rd., Unit 9.
GROSS, Dinah - on Aug. 6, 2000, late of 145 Cumberland St., #2008.
LURIE, Albert - on Aug. 6, 2000, late of 37 Warwick Ave.
ORZY, Alyce - on Aug. 6, 2000, late of 240 Heath St. W., #703.
WEINBERGER, Regina - on Aug. 6, 2000, late of 1 Clark Ave. W., #603.
CHECHICK, Goldie - on Aug. 7, 2000, late of 322 Betty Ann Dr.
YALOWSKY, Morry - on Aug. 7, 2000, late of 137 Regina Ave.
STARKMAN (Lefton), Sylvia - on Aug. 9, 2000, late of 1 Northwestern Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK & RITA BERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 27th, 12:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Grand Order of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DARLENE GAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 27th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Shaar Shalom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAM GOLDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 27th, 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Ostrowitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BRYNA MELMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 27th, 10:30 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Bathurst & Finch
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GOLDIE FISHMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 10th at 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Beth Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
CHAIM (CHARLES) LAIMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 3rd at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst South of Steeles
Chevra-Shas Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LEIBEL (LOUIS) SUGAR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 27th at 1:45 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Chevra Shas Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MRS. RUTH ORCH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 27th, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Labour Zionist Alliance Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LOUIS STEINBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 27th, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ZIVIAN SWIMMER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 27th, 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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SEEKING SOULMATE
Single Jewish female, 50 yrs, free spirited, wide variety of interests, seeks male, good sense of humour, enjoys life and self confident. **AD#1456**

PET LOVER
Single Jewish female, slim, attractive, 5' 1", brown hair, brown eyes, friendly, outgoing, university educated, professionally employed, enjoys movies, the theatre, travel, spending time with her dog, seeks male, Jewish, single, 35-41 yrs, with similar interests and qualities **AD#1183**

LOOKING FOR YOU
SIngle female, 5' 8", creative, active, adventurous, youthful, elegant, feminist, seeks emotionally available male, 50-58 yrs, a mensch to enjoy the arts, nature and much more **AD#1218**

EASY ON THE EYES
Professional Jewish female, 5' 7", blue eyes, intelligent, sensitive, -selective, sensuous, keeps fit/active, non smoker, social drinker, carries no personal baggage, enjoys theatre, travel, and lives life to the fullest, seeking male who shares emotions, to share life together **AD#1600**

COSMIC LOVE
Jewish female, 5' 6", slim, fit, pretty, intelligent, spiritual, creative, holistic, loving, friendly, dancer, artist, writer, therapist, deep, humourous, joyful, seeks fit, romantic male, 33-53 yrs, who's in an ecstatic natural state of joy and love, and wishes to share it with someone **AD#1414**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single mom, Russian origin, one 15 yr old son, professional, enjoys art, movies, music, nature and travel, positive, creative, attractive, sincere, seeks male, intelligent, sincere, creative, responsible, loving for long term relationship. **AD#1431**

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, intelligent, attractive, creative, red hair, loves the outdoors, canoeing, art galleries, travel, Latin and Ballroom dancing, seeks male, 35-50 yrs, non smoker, good sense of humour, university educated, emotionally secure. **AD#1219**

A LOT TO OFFER
Separated female, attractive, young, 46 year old teacher, has 2 teenagers, caring, intelligent, athletic, good natured, fun, enjoys tennis, working out, movies, theatre, dancing, dining, walks and quiet evenings, seeks male, 40-50 yrs, with similar interests. **AD#1430**

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP
Attractive youthful single Jewish lady, 62 yrs, 5' 5", fit, fun loving, warm cultured, well travelled, sports enthusiast, enjoys music, movies, seeks gentleman, 57-70 yrs, tall, slim, non smoker, sense of humour, emotionally/financially stable, with similar interests, for friendship or future relationship. **AD#1602**

COMMUNICATION IS KEY
Separated female, 41 yrs, 5' 1", light brown hair, brown eyes, pretty, young looking, honest, nice, humourous, enjoys travelling, outdoors, walks, swimming, sports, movies, music, theatre, bowling, mini golfing, believes communication, friendship and trust are important in a relationship. Seeking male with similar interests. **AD#1486**

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, warm, loving, 2 small children, seeks male, family oriented, down to earth, good sense of humour, loves children, for friends first relationship. **AD#1056**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sincere, compassionate, traditional, enjoys music the theatre, dining and dancing, long walks, seeks male, elegant, classy, for loving monogamous relationship. **AD#1104**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish mom, 42 yrs, 5', petite, professional, non smoker, active, caring, sincere, fun loving, humourous, enjoy arts, dancing, dining, outdoor activities, walks, canoeing, hiking, seeking male, 37-48 yrs, fit, intelligent, caring, sincere, stable, good natured, non smoker, similar interests **AD#1258**

COMMITMENT
Professional Jewish female, 49, passionate, caring, enjoy teaching school and aerobics, movies, dining out, theatre, seeking Jewish male, 49-62 yrs, who's caring, fit and affectionate, for a committed relationship **AD#1262**

GOOD FRIENDSHIP
Attractive professional female, 50's, young looking, slim, warm hearted, humourous, independent, enjoy theatre, ballet, dining, shopping, quiet evenings, walks, travelling, cooking, playing bridge, scrabble, seeking white Jewish gentleman, tall, slim, independent, established, warm, caring, no head games, for good friendship. **AD#1336**

LET'S TALK
Female, seeks male, emotionally stable, with sense of humour, who enjoys travelling and the theatre. **AD#1213**

FRIENDS AND COMPANION
Single Jewish retired professional female, intelligent, honest, kind and loving, with variety of interests, seeks male, 63-75 yrs for friendship and companionship. **AD#1277**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Divorced Jewish female, 35 yrs, with children, intelligent, attractive, fun loving adventurous, financially stable, enjoys walking, travel, dining and dancing, seeks male 35-50 yrs, traditional values loves children for friends 1st relationship. **AD#1134**

PRETTY PETITE
Single female, semi-retired, pretty, petite, independent, good sense of humour, intelligent, seeks male, 65 yrs, for friends first relationship, leading to future possible commitment. **AD#1153**

FRIENDSHIP
Attractive single mom, honest, kind, sweet, works a lot, enjoys all sports, movies, dining out and quiet times, seeking preferably a single dad, employed, honest, kind and fun, for friendship. **AD#1157**

BE MY SUNSHINE
Attractive single Jewish female, 5' 5", straight brown hair, brown/hazel eyes, fit, non smoker, kind, good natured, emotionally stable, seeking single traditional Jewish gentleman, 45-50 yrs, around 6', established, handsome, exciting, honest, funny, caring, non smoker, children welcome, to share life. **AD#1045**

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, 5' 8", blonde, slim, fit, attractive, vivacious, outgoing, friendly, enjoys dancing, being outside, seeking male, tall, slim, fit, Jewish/family values, attends Synagogue, friendly, outgoing, down to earth, enjoys relaxing, hanging out, doing fun things, who's respectful and caring. **AD#1257**

MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP
Female, 62 yrs but looks 50, European background, owns business, exceptionally attractive, elegant and sophisticated, seeks gentleman, 65-70 yrs, who's also sophisticated in all aspects, professional or businessman, who knows how to treat a lady for a meaningful relationship. **AD#1272**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Divorced Jewish female, 44 yrs, 5' 9", smoker, seeks male for dining and dancing, and outdoor activities. **AD#1454**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Widowed female, 66 yrs, young, seeks gentleman mensch, 65-72 yrs, who's young in spirit, clean looking, enjoys movies, watching TV, quiet evenings and appreciates a real nice lady. **AD#1421**

SERIOUS COMMITMENT
Down to earth and outgoing female, 38 yrs, seeks down to earth and outgoing male, 38-48 yrs, who enjoys dancing, dining out, movies, and different interests, to eventually develop a strong serious relationship **AD#1555**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, attractive, affectionate, active, cuddly and bubbly, caring, compassionate, seeks male, 68-74 yrs, good sense of humour, thoughtful, caring to share life's joys **AD#1099**

ROMANTIC PARTNER
Single female, young 50'ish, attractive, 5' 9", professional, warm, caring, fun, loves the outdoors, music, seeks tall Jewish male, adventurous, intellectual, with good sense of humour **AD#1378**

PASSION FOR LIFE
Divorced Jewish professional female, 5' 4", slim, pretty, shapely, caring, warm, own home, enjoys theatre, movies, dancing, cottages, and winter south, seeking established, sincere male, 60+, non smoker ,who loves life, laughter and enjoys all that life has to offer. **AD#1312**

JEWISH VALUES
Single Jewish female, 31 yrs, 5' 8", attractive, fit slim, never married, seeking tall Jewish male, keeping kosher, funny intelligent, articulate, good communication skills, who enjoys outdoors, family events, meeting people, will accept/respect me and value out times together **AD#1248**

LET'S SETTLE DOWN
Single female, lives in Toronto, outdoorsy, sports, oriented, workout, enjoys cottage/country life, boating, sailing, dining, out, family and horse back riding, seeking male, to meet, talk, get to know, to settle down, and have a family **AD#1495**

SPORTS ENTHUSIAST
Retired female, in early 50's, 5' 4", red headed, new to Toronto, non smoker and enjoys sports. **AD#1156**

UNIQUE TREASURE
Traditional Jewish female, with teenage son, 5' 5", straight brown hair, brown hazel eyes, attractive, fit, good natured, emotionally stable, non smoker, seeking tall, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 45-50 yrs, 6' , exciting, honest, sensitive, humourous, emotionally stable, non smoker, to share life. **AD#1410**

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Widowed Jewish female, 5' 2", 118 lbs, with green eyes and enjoys life, seeks male, who's fun, sensitive and secure. **AD#1553**

LET'S COMMUNICATE
Single professional female, 31 yrs, non smoker, energetic and well travelled, seeks male 25-40 yrs, who's down to earth, communicative, outgoing, emotionally mature, fit and non smoker. **AD#1452**

SOCIAL PROFESSIONALS
The Jewish Health Alliance, a social and professional network for Jewish mental health providers, intends to host various events to foster dialogue between practitioners for networking and socializing. Please leave your name and number. **AD#1379**

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Single female, 40 yrs, professional, 5' 5", blonde hair, hazel eyes, intelligent, caring, compassionate, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, family life, fine wine. Seeks male honest, sincere, witty, with a good sense of humour, to be her best friend and soulmate. **AD#1279**

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FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single Jewish male, 40 yrs, 5' 8", husky build enjoys the theatre, movies, dining and dancing, travel, music, long walks, good conversation, seeks female, 28-39 yrs, single mom's okay too! with similar qualities **AD#1567**

OLD FASHIONED VALUES
Single male, 47 yrs, conservative looking, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, old movies, country drives, seeks female, late 40's, to early 50's, does not have to be slim, single mom's okay, very down to earth **AD#1327**

MUST WANT FAMILY
Divorced Jewish male, 53 yrs, good brain, good heart, good looking, former, real estate broker, now writing a book, have no children, but would like to, seeking female who can and wants to start her own family, the old fashioned way. **AD#1573**

NO STRINGS
Single male, late 50's, physician, enjoys music, reading, working out, seeks female, 30-40 yrs, attractive, quiet, cultured, for long term mutually satisfying relationship with no strings attached **AD#1006**

FOREVER YOUNG
Single male, 6' , handsome, energetic, easy goin, athletic, enjoys dining and dancing, athletic events, seeks female, single or single Mom's, slender, attractive, 38-52 yrs, 5' 4" or taller for possible relationship. **AD#1164**

COMPANION FOR LIFE
Single male, happy, very fit, caring, successful professional male, enjoy travel, and all the arts, seeking an attractive, 40'ish, female, who has done her homework, emotionally and physically for a life time companion. **AD#1517**

READY AND WAITING
Divorced male, Jewish, Toronto born, no children, generous, speaks 2 languages, writer, seeks female, young with similar interests, and qualities, who is ready to start a family. **AD#1266**

CULTURED SCHOLAR
Single male, 54 yrs, 5' 7", lawyer, aridite, kablist, financial whiz, fit, world traveller, violinist, poet, seeks slender female, gracious compassionate, attractive, intelligent, emotionally, and financially stable, for permanent relationship. **AD#1522**

WHAT A CATCH
Single male, Jewish, 34 yrs, 5' 10", 165 lbs, slim fit, handsome, humourous, warm, down to earth, honest, sexy, sincere, financially, secure, romantic, enjoys dining and dancing, romantic evenings, seeks female Jewish, petite romantic, warm loving, for possible long term relationship **AD#1025**

BEST IS YET TO COME
Single male, 54 yrs, original fiddler on the roof, nice, kind, traditional values, educated, successful, good sense of humour, handsome athletic, enjoys outdoor activities, travel, dining and dancing, seeks female with similar interests and qualities. **AD#1061**

SERIOUS INTENTIONS
Single male, 46 yrs, professional, 5' 8", medium build, down to earth, sincere, easy going, seeks female, 35-45 yrs, intelligent, sincere, honest, good sense of humour, no head games please, for possible long term relationship. **AD#1476**

GREAT RELATIONSHIP
Attractive retired male, 76 yrs, widow for 2 years, seeks non smoking, nice young female, for great relationship. **AD#1047**

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY
Single male, 5' 9½", 150 lbs, small-medium build, blue eyes, in reasonable physical condition, an amateur musician, with strong interest in music, conservation, environment, nature and social sciences, seeking female with small-medium build and similar interests **AD#1204**

A GREAT CATCH
Single male, 34 yrs, 5' 7", 175 lbs, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, fit, workout, educated, multilingual, employed on internet, in Canada and abroad, enjoys studying, writing, reading, travelling, outdoor activities, anything cultural/historical, seeking female 20-30 yrs, attractive, smart, stable, ambitious, enjoys travelling, having fun. **AD#1460**

LET'S TALK
Single Jewish male, educated professional, tall, witty, smart, loves the arts, theatre, movies, music, dining, dancing, and many other thing, seeking Jewish female, children and pet are okay **AD#1011**

MUST WANT CHILDREN
Divorced male, with no children, working on my first book, speaks English, Yiddish, fairly generous, involved with volunteer work for many years, seeking female, young enough to start a family, and must want to have children, for true happiness **AD#1071**

LIFE AND LAUGHTER
Single Jewish male, a vegetanan, tall, slim, romantic, sensitive, with a sense of humour, seeking female, 43-55 yrs, who's health conscious, and would like to share life and laughter **AD#1376**

LET'S TALK
Male, 70 yrs, 5' 10", 190 lbs, in good physical condition, seeks communicative female to develop a relationship with. **AD#1020**

WAITING FOR YOU
Single male, seeking female, nons moker and non drinker, for serious long term relationship. **AD#1200**

HEART TO HEART
Single, unattached and unincumbered, seeking female, who's intelligent, with high integrity, pleasant disposition, without sense of ownership or assumed expectations, for open heart to heart communication. **AD#1360**

LET'S TALK
Single male, 34 yrs, not shy, loves exercise and conversations, seeks female with similar qualities **AD#1334**

ORTHODOX PREFERRED
Single Jewish male, late 40s, 5' 10", great blue eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, compassionate, with a great sense of humour, enjoys theatre, long walks in the park, bowling, tennis, cooking. Seeking single or wedowed female, intelligent, 32-45 yrs, with similar personality and interests. **AD#1097**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single male, Shoma-Shabbas, professional Jewish educator, warm, caring, handsome, and eclectic, seeking Jewish observant, female, who's spiritual, with jois de vive, for love, marriage and children **AD#1245**

SUMMER ROMANCE
Divorced male, Jewish, 37 yrs, handsome, athletic, 5'10", no children, condo owner, enjoys tennis, squash, movies, reading, dining and dancing. Seeks female, Jewish, 32-42 yrs, slim, attractive, for possible long term relationship **AD#1160**

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 36 yrs, 5'7", blonde hair, never been married, fun loving, easy going, happy, with good sense of humour, enjoys sports oriented, activities, and going out to movies. Seeking female of similar age. **AD#1422**

LOVING GENTLEMAN
Single male, tall, youthful appearance, active, fit, loving, considerate, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks amiable female for companionship and friends first relationship. **AD#1086**

HEART OF GOLD
Single senior gentleman, tall, youthful active, thoughtful, loving non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks female similar for companionship **AD#1244**

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, non-observant Jewish male, widow, 50 yrs, professional, no kids or other dependants, very fit, works out 4 times a week Seeking female, 45-50 yrs, with very similar attributes, for a relationship **AD#1241**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, professional accountant, enjoys sports, long walks, dining and dancing, keeping fit, movies, reading travel Seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1445

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Divorced male, 44 yrs, Toronto born and raised, 5'10", smoker, lived in Israel for 11 yrs, variety of interests, seeks female, sexy, attractive, adventurous, fun loving, for romantic relationship. **AD#1375**

LET'S TALK
Caring nature, semi-retired, 67 yr old, professional male, non-smoker with many interests and hobbies, seeking easy going, down to earth female, who's slim, attractive, and fun to be with **AD#1094**

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Semi-retired male, 5'11", 165 lbs, slim, blue eyes, healthy, attractive, casual, romantic, enjoys intimate restaurants, sea, sun, walks on the beach sports, swimming, tennis, 60's music and kissing, seeking attractive female, caring, humourous, financially secure, physically and emotionally fit. **AD#1524**

POSSIBLE ROMANCE
Single male, 48 yrs, 5'10", 175 lbs, attractive, friendly, outgoing, romantic, passionate, straight forward, open-minded, employed, enjoy movies, dining, walks in parks, sporting events, golf, cuddling and watching TV. Seeking female with similar qualities and interests, for friendship and perhaps romance. **AD#1623**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Separated male 50 yrs, 5'10", 175lbs, physically fit, handsome, romantic, passionate, affectionate, easy going, enjoys movies, dining and dancing, long walks, cuddling, meeting new people. Seeks female similar qualities and interests. **AD#1388**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single male, 46 yrs, non observant Jewish professional, eclectic tastes, enjoys art, music, country roads, the bush, blading, tennis, photography. Seeks female, inquisitive, life loving, socially conscience, open minded to love, laugh and enjoy life with. **AD#1038**

WANT FAMILY LIFE
Single conservative Jewish businessman, 48 yrs, 5'8", 145lbs, good looking with short dark hair and moustache, spiritually educated and family oriented, enjoys cycling and swimming, seeking Jewish female 35-40 yrs, who wants to have children and a family. **AD#1370**

SPECIAL SENIOR DOLL
Single retired male, living in Toronto and Florida, seeking female, 65+, who's good looking, slim, and must have a good sense of humour, for meaningful relationship. **AD#1080**

LOVE WAITS
Single male, 5'7", Greenish blue eyes, handsome, poor starving writer, reliable, enjoys sports, swimming, tennis, very down to earth, ready to start a family. Seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. **AD#1195**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 34 yrs, seeking female with professional status, intelligent, good conversationalist, who enjoys movies, sports, dining, dancing, walks, reading, having fun and tender moments. **AD#1190**

Have Questions?
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The Canadian Jewish news

Sports & Leisure

Young horses give trainer hope for the future

By HARLAN ABBEY
Special to The CJN

FORT ERIE, Ont. — The Sam Son Farm of the late Ernie Samuel may be among the most prominent in Canadian horse racing today, but the Fishman racing family has been involved in the sport a lot longer.

Stan Fishman, now training a stable at Fort Erie, pointed out that "my father, Morris, was riding races in Cuba at the age of 14; he lied about his age. He was quite a talented man, a Golden Gloves boxing champion who turned to training after his days as a jockey.

"In 1947, he trained Canada's Teddy to win the Canadian Championship, now known as the Rothmans."

Stan's brother Donald won the Dr. Fowler Award in 1958 as an outstanding student at the Guelph Veterinary School and is one of the top veterinary surgeons in Canada, as well as a breeder of thoroughbreds.

Fishman follows in father's footsteps

"I was a riding counsellor at Jewish Camp New Moon as a teen," Stan Fishman remembered, "and my wife Merle [Cabesky] was a counsellor there too. I always was a part-owner of a horse or two while dad was training, but I wound up managing the Paddock Tavern on Bathurst until 1984.

"I missed the horses and being outdoors, and then I took up training. I think the best horse I trained was Kid Sherkin, who lost by a nose after a thrilling stretch run to Derby Wish, who won over $1 million [US]. I had him nominated for the Louisiana Derby but he got sick and was never the same.

"The next-best horse was Patermagant, who I claimed for $20,000 in June, and in October won the $100,000 Wonder Where Stakes by five lengths – only to be disqualified!

"From such a high to such a low in such a hurry," Fishman said.

Patermagant was bred by Fishman's brother Donald.

Stan Fishman is training at Fort Erie for the first time in many years.

"We have a couple of nice two-year-olds and it's easier to get stall space at Fort Erie," he explained. "Also, the track surface is kinder and the surroundings are more relaxing. There are good restaurants for when my wife visits on weekends, and the country air is better for the horses, for me and for my ace groom, Kent Smith."

A third generation of Fishmans has also entered racing, but as owners and not as "hands-on" horse lovers.

The Fishmans have high hopes for a two-year-old colt, A Stroke of Luck, who has the nickname "Fuji" because he has the same white star marking on his forehead as Fusaichi Pegasus, the Kentucky Derby winner recently syndicated as a breeding stallion for some $70 million.

"I gave him the nickname before Fu-Peg won the Derby," Fishman pointed out.

The other two-year-old prospect is Roast Beef; Dr. Donald Fishman picked both at an Ocala, Fla., auction. Fuji is owned by Stan Fishman's son Elliott, a stock broker, and partners who include Darrin Cudmore.

The older horses in the Fishman stable include No Execution, owned by Dave Tomlin and Tony George; Canada's Coleman (named for the late, great sports writer), owned by Uri and Erik Fishman (Donald's sons) and partners; Bittersweet Symphony, owned by Harold Swartz; and Jack Stork, owned by Barbara and Stanley Mourin.

With race purses being increased greatly because of income from the slot machines at Woodbine and Fort Erie, "horse racing is now an up-and-coming business. It's the best time to make a profit racing since I can remember," Fishman said.

What keeps Fishman coming to the track before 6 a.m. every morning?

"When you have young horses, you have hope," he answers. "Fuji and Roast Beef are beautiful horses, with good conformation and good breeding. They could turn out to be superstars."

SETTING SAIL: **Four hundred young people recently set sail on the Sea of Galilee in a makeshift armada of hand-made rafts. [Israel Sun photo]**

HIGH FLYER: **Alexandr Averbukh of Israel recently won the pole vault event at the National Athletics Championships in Tel Aviv with a leap of 5.85 metres (19.188 feet), which places him sixth in the world. [Israel Sun photo]**

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Volleyball tryouts set

TORONTO — Final tryouts for Maccabi Canada's senior volleyball team will be held on Sept. 3 and 4 at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., beginning at 9 a.m.

George Shermer, head coach of the team, will make his final team selections based on the two-day workouts. The team will represent Canada at the 16th Maccabiah Games in Israel, which will be held in the summer of 2001.

For more information, contact Shermer at (416) 785-6677.

Stories that touch the heart

By ELI RUBENSTEIN ALEC GELCER

Double jeopardy

Some years ago, after a bar mitzvah, I was approached by an elderly woman. She proudly pronounced to me that she hadn't belonged to a synagogue in over 45 years.

It didn't take much prompting for her to reveal her story. In the 1930s, as a young woman, she lived in downtown Toronto, near Kensington Market.

Her husband, who was very active in a small shul he helped establish, suddenly died, leaving her alone with two small children.

Unaware of the workings of synagogues, during the High Holy Days she appeared at the small shul, and went to her customary seat, with her two small children in tow.

No sooner had she sat down, when the shammas (one of those involved in the daily running of the synagogue) began to berate her in a harsh voice heard by all: "Who do you think you are? You think you're someone special? You think you can just walk in here and take a seat, without a ticket? No one without a ticket is allowed to be here!"

The woman was too startled to respond. Overwhelmed with embarrassment over her failure to obtain tickets in advance, but even more by the public humiliation she was subjected to, the widow bundled up her children and frantically raced herself and them out of the small shul.

"And since that time I never returned," she continued. "Even when the president called me to apologize for what happened, I could not forgive. It was like all the work my late husband had done for the shul never happened.

"When that man yelled at me, I felt as if they were burying my husband for a second time.

"And," she continued, "you know what?

"I wouldn't even let my children attend Hebrew school, or allow my son to have a bar mitzvah. I knew that was wrong, I knew I was denying them something they should be having, only because of what had happened to me. Still, I was too upset to even consider ever again involving myself or my family with the organized Jewish community."

The above story is about the misuse of power, about how a few words spoken in anger by someone in a position of authority can have far reaching and devastating consequences.

But the story is also about how victims sometimes compound their suffering, by never being able to release themselves from the pain of their wounds.

The thoughtless man who publicly insulted the woman probably forgot about the incident a week after it transpired, if he even dwelled upon it at all. But his victim was still haunted by the incident 45 years later, and recalled it, with all the pain and hurt feelings, as though it had happened to her yesterday.

If we cannot forgive others for their misdeeds (and, indeed, sometimes there are those who do not deserve our forgiveness), then we must at least bring ourselves to a place of healing. Otherwise, we suffer twice: during the original injury and forever after, as we endlessly dwell upon the injustice we so unfairly received at the hands of another.

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2 cups coarsely chopped cooked chicken
5 oz can water chestnuts, chopped
1 cups cubed peaches
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/2 cup toasted slivered almonds
2/3 cup mayonnaise
1/2 tsp. curry powder
1/4 tsp salt
1 tsp. soya sauce
6 large melon wedges (cantaloupe, honeydew or cassaba)
lettuce

Combine chicken, water chestnuts, peaches, celery and almonds in a medium bowl.
Blend mayonnaise, curry powder, salt and soya sauce. Pour over chicken mixture and toss lightly to blend. Chill.
Set melon wedges onto lettuce on serving plates. Spoon chicken mixture onto melon wedges. Makes 6 generous servings.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My cousin, with whom I am very close, is about to make a huge mistake and there doesn't seem to be anything I can do about it.

Sherri, who is 29, has recently purchased a home on her own. You would think a person with the brains to save enough to buy a home at that age would have some smarts wouldn't you?

This home needs work. She is about to hire a guy to do all kinds of renovations without a written contract. He is very charming and has promised her the world, however without anything in writing she'll be lucky to get a fraction of what he promised.

I'm a lot older than Sherri and have been around the block a few times. I am trying to get her to learn from what I've been through, but she is determined to prove she can do it all on her own. How can I let her go through with this?

Experience Counts

Dear Experience Counts,

Ever heard the saying "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink?" You are doing your best to be a good friend to Sherri by "leading" her though your experiences and mistakes. However most people need to learn life by creating and solving their own problems.

As a cousin and close friend, it is very hard for you to sit idly by, when you feel in your heart that this guy is a rip-off artist who is about to make your friend his next masterpiece.

Maybe you can at least talk to her about withholding a percentage of his payment until the job is done, but without a written contract they would probably end up battling it out in the courts.

It is very hard to stand by and watch someone close to you do something that you know in your heart is wrong, but you can only tell her about your own experiences and hope that some of what you say will sink in. Be there for her no matter what she decides and, if necessary, to pick up the pieces when it's all over. Maybe this guy will surprise us both and live up to his word?

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.

The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"FIGHTING WORDS"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

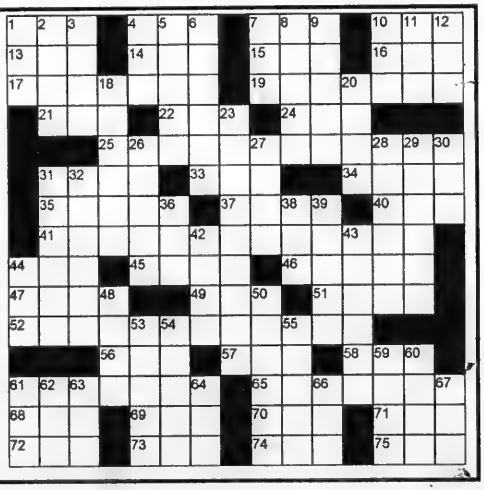
Across

1 *Lo ___ Haderekh* (Ahad Ha'am Essay)
4 Harvard rival
7 Ralph Kramden's place
10 Nehemiah "neighbor"
13 Madison, e.g.
14 ___ rule (generally)
15 California magistrate
16 Adolf's mistress
17 With 19-across, 1991 conflict
19 See 17-across
21 Specter of PA, e.g.
22 Bouncer's demand
24 *Carnaval* site
25 1947-49 conflict
31 Baseball manager Gaston
33 Mystery man
34 Enjoy the tub
35 Scrap a shuttle flight
37 A pop
40 Parisian's one
41 1956 conflict
44 Auction cry
45 17-across weapon
46 *nouveau* ___
47 Small bills
49 Drunkard
51 Minnesota of pool
52 1973 conflict
56 The Beatles' "___ Got A Feeling"
57 See 4-down
58 Ship letters
61 Root vegetables
65 Didn't go together, as colors
68 In the past
69 Ending for Japan
70 Common street name
71 Methuselah's claim to fame
72 With 73-, 74-, and 75- across, 1967 conflict
73 See 72-across
74 See 72-across
75 See 72-across

Down

1 Get with a laser
2 At any time
3 Roll-call response
4 With 57-across, cocktail type
5 "That's not what ___!"
6 Bike type
7 The Coen brothers' "The ___ Lebowski"
8 180 on the road
9 Not liquid or gas
10 Sammy Davis, Jr., for instance
11 Eggs, to a biologist
12 ___ mitzvah
18 Show contempt towards, in a way
20 Enemies
23 Use the allotted area
26 Dunn and Ephron
27 Brandeis headache
28 Zero
29 Film festival city
30 Scrape (out), as a living
31 De Niro movie about Ace Rothstein
32 In the same place, in citations
36 part of XXX or OOO
38 Lifesaving letters
39 Mediterranean port
42 Brink
43 He flew too close to the sun
44 *Heder* attendee
48 Fatty part of a chicken
50 Drew by copying
53 Harvard, Yale, etc. (with "the")
54 Coke competitor
55 Novelist Cather
59 *Major Barbara* writer
60 Computer game maker
61 Tit for ___
62 "I'm disgusted!"
63 Fish eggs
64 Ruth Westheimer subject
66 Spielberg ex-Irving
67 ___ *Forverts*

(Answers are on page 38.)



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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

Wiesenthal Centre names director of development. *Page 5*

Outspoken Morton Shulman led a varied life. *Obituary* *Page 14*

On Campus

Ryerson journalism student named new editor of *Afterword*. *Page 17*

Health & Lifestyles

Help your child cope with back-to-school stress. *Page 28*

Sports & Leisure

Players gearing up for hockey season. *Pages 38*

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King Abdullah speaks in Tel Aviv

Jordan's King Abdullah visited Tel Aviv last week in an effort to boost the peace process. He took time out from his meeting with Prime Minister Ehud Barak to lay a wreath in Kikar Rabin. The king told the prime minister he is opposed to Israeli sovereignty over any part of the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem. *[Israel Sun photo]*

Khatami meets Iran's Jews

Promises 'Islamic mercy'

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEHRAN — Iranian President Mohammed Khatami met Iranian-Jewish community leaders last Thursday in a bid to ease the anxieties of his country's Jewish minority after the conviction of 10 Jews last month for spying for Israel.

Khatami met with a group of 40 Jews, including the wife of one of the convicted men, and promised to defend their rights, said Iranian Jewish lawmaker Morris Motamed.

"It was the first time that a 40-member Jewish group was meeting an Iranian president. We discussed the situation of Jews in Iran and the president said he was obliged under the constitution to defend the rights of all Iranians, including Jews," Motamed said.

Iran's constitution recognizes the rights of Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians and assigns them a total of five seats in the country's 90-member parliament. Motamed, who holds a seat representing the Jewish community, said the group also discussed the case of the Jews jailed on espionage charges.

Appeal ruling expected by Sept. 5

"The president said the case had nothing to do with religion and that the suspects were both Jews and Muslims. He said he hoped that Islamic mercy will be considered after the appeal has been finalized," Motamed said.

The country's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has the right to grant pardons after the appeals process is exhausted.

The trial – and televised confessions by two of the defendants – alarmed the Jewish community, who felt the spotlight put the whole group under suspicion.

Iranian Jews, the largest such community in the Middle East outside Israel, have lived in relative tranquillity for more than 2,000 years. The Jewish community numbered about 100,000 just before the country's 1979 Islamic revolution. Now there are about 25,000 Jews.

Motamed will travel with parliamentary speaker Mahdi Karrubi to New York next week to attend an inter-parliamentary meeting. He said he would remain to accompany Khatami to the annual UN General Assembly meeting in September.

Hossein Ali Amiri, the judiciary chief of southern Fars province where the men were tried, said the appeals court would issue its judgment by Sept. 5.

Poverty among Jews

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Poverty among Jewish Canadians is as prevalent as it is in the general population, according to a new study.

One in six – or about 17 percent of all Jews in Canada – is poor, mirroring the ratio among all Canadians, finds the study by Carleton University professor Allan Moscovitch.

The study, its author says, should go some way toward exploding the stereotype that all Jews are rich, as well the belief among many Jews themselves that their co-religionists are all well off.

Carleton University professor's study

"What the study shows is that for Canadian Jews, poverty is as relevant as in mainstream society," said Moscovitch, a professor and former dean of social work at Carleton. Admitting the existence of poor Jews "is something we've shied away from. The myth of Jewish wealth has been widely accepted in the Jewish community," he told *The CJN*.

For many people, he writes, the finding may be "surprising," because "it does not accord with the widely held view outside and inside Jewish communities across Canada that the entire Jewish population is well off financially."

Continued on page 16

Greater Toronto Area

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'Blunders' result in three IDF deaths –

The News in Brief

CANADA

Headstones Buried

WINNIPEG — Several dozen people gathered at the Hebrew Sick Benefit Association Cemetery here recently to bury 40 tombstones that had been smashed beyond repair. Traditional Jewish prayers for the dead were recited by Rabbi Alan Green. Some 300 headstones were smashed a year ago in what was described as the worst incident of vandalism at a Jewish cemetery ever in North America.

Zbar Promoted

TORONTO — Morris Zbar, formerly assistant deputy minister at the provincial ministry of correctional services, has been promoted to deputy minister of correctional services. Zbar is a former vice-president of planning at UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto.

Moscovitz Honoured

OTTAWA — Hadassah-WIZO of Canada will honour Jason Moscovitz, chief political correspondent for CBC's *The National*, with a scholarship in his name at Carleton University's school of journalism. The event will take place at the group's national launch Sept. 7 in the Senate's Aboriginal Room. Also that day, Ottawa's acting mayor will declare September Hadassah-WIZO Month.

ISRAEL

Picture Published

JERUSALEM — New satellite pictures of Israel's nuclear reactor were published on the front page of the daily *Yediot Achronot* last week. Israel has never admitted manufacturing nuclear weapons at the reactor site in the southern Negev, but the pictures, taken from the Federation of American Scientists' Web site, clearly show the weapons facility.

Gas Discovered

JERUSALEM — A natural gas reservoir has been discovered off the southern Israeli coast. The reservoir near Ashdod is believed to contain quantities capable of supplying Israel's natural gas needs for some 20 years.

Olympics Conflict

JERUSALEM — Israel's sports ministry is considering whether to allow Israeli athletes to participate in competitions that would fall on Rosh Hashanah at the summer Olympic Games in Sydney, which begin in mid-September. Two of the finals are reportedly in competitions where Israeli athletes have a chance of winning a medal.

WORLD

Canadians at JTS

NEW YORK — Aubrey Glazer of Toronto has graduated as a rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary here. He plans to return to the University of Toronto's Centre for the Study of Religion to pursue a doctorate. As well, Harold Wolfe of Toronto has been named to the board of overseers at JTS.

Truman's Letter

WASHINGTON — Wartime President Harry Truman wrote two letters in July 1945 backing German reparations for Jewish Holocaust survivors. But the letters were never sent to the State Department, according to the Reuters news agency.

Dr. Laura Uninvited

NEW YORK — A controversial Jewish radio personality was uninvited from an international conference on Jewish medical ethics. Laura Schlessinger, known as "Dr. Laura," was reportedly removed from the program, scheduled for February 2001, because of her earlier remarks that homosexuality is a "biological error" and deviant behaviour.

Suspect Arrested

NEW YORK — The United States arrested a Pakistani national who could be linked to the still-unsolved bombings at two Jewish sites in Argentina in the 1990s. U.S. sources confirmed they arrested Mohammad Abbas Malik for being in the United States illegally. Meantime, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, on a visit to Buenos Aires, pledged to increase U.S. assistance in the investigation of the bombings of the Israeli Embassy and the Jewish community centre in the Argentine capital.

Citizenship Stripped

NEW YORK — A U.S. appeals court has unanimously affirmed a 1999 lower court decision stripping an admitted SS concentration camp guard of his U.S. citizenship. Romanian-born Michael Negele, 80, most recently of St. Peters, Mo., served at Sachsenhausen in Germany and at Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia. He entered the U.S. in 1950 using a visa obtained by concealing his Nazi past.

Swindler Said Alive

LOS ANGELES — A man convicted of swindling Holocaust survivors may be alive after faking his death in 1993, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Lucian Ludwig Kozminski, himself an Auschwitz survivor, may have defrauded as many as 3,000 survivors and their heirs out of reparations money.

Rabbi Presides At Gay Marriage Ceremony

VANCOUVER — This city's Jewish community is abuzz with the news that a local rabbi officiated at a lesbian marriage ceremony.

Rabbi David Mivasair, spiritual leader of Or Shalom Synagogue, presided over the Aug. 13 nuptials between two Jewish women, Rahel Bailie and Emma Hamer. A few days earlier, the women's application for a marriage licence had been rejected by the provincial vital statistics office, but the couple wanted a religious service nonetheless.

Rabbi Mivasair conducted the service, beneath a chuppah, at a rented hall.

At Or Shalom, the synagogue's group e-mail was buzzing with discussion over whether a rabbi should have conducted the service.

But Rabbi Mivasair defended himself in an article in the synagogue's bulletin, *Keren Or*, saying that in his interview for the position five years ago, he explicitly stated that he would be open to blessing same-sex marriages.

He also explained that his decision to preside over the ceremony was a personal one and did not reflect his synagogue's policy.

Rabbi Yitzchak Wineberg of Chabad Lubavitch said Rabbi Mivasair's actions were "a tragedy," and that he "will have to answer to his maker."

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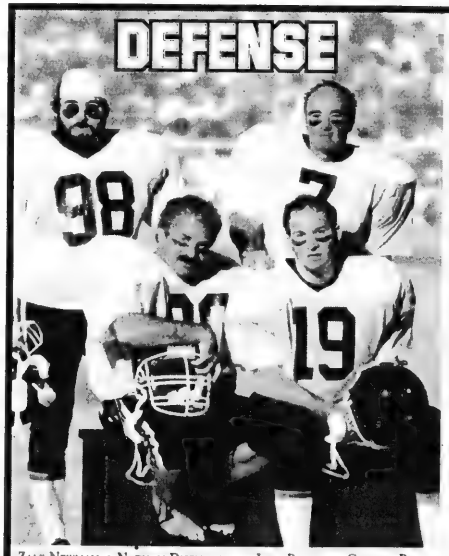

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Peterborough Jewish community comes to life

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

PETERBOROUGH — The Beth Israel Synagogue will be rededicated on Sept. 24, in celebration of the rejuvenated Jewish life here.

It cost $250,000 to renovate the synagogue, three times what the original Beth Israel cost to build in 1964, said community elder Isidore Black, 85, son of Philip Black. Philip was the first rabbi of Peterborough, and one of its pioneers.

Feature

"We have more Jews living here than ever before, but the number of active families is smaller than before, a situation which I believe is not unlike what is happening in other communities our size," said Isidore, who retired from operating a clothing store in 1989.

"We have scientists, doctors, lawyers, professors, you name it, but not all are active Jews. We have only about 10 families who are active in the synagogue, but there may be as many as 100 Jewish families here."

If anything, the community is stronger and more united than ever, having survived a possible fragmentation and sale of the synagogue, said resident Margo Gillman, an active member.

"Perhaps other communities can benefit from what we did," she said.

The synagogue has a mailing list of 40 families and keeps in touch with another 20 families in neighbouring communities.

Women are being called up to the bimah for the first time, said Gillman, whose son, Stephen, is one of five Peterborough teenagers who have just returned from an outreach program in Israel.

Black is impressed by the energy and commitment the new, younger members are displaying and gives a lot of credit to Dr. Mark Siegal and Ron Molnar, co-presidents of Beth Israel.

Indeed, it has come a long way from the time the late Rabbi Abraham Fine and his wife used to heat the community's mikvah with hot water from a coal stove. Rabbi Fine was the combined rabbi, Hebrew teacher and shochet.

Isidore and Belle Black. His grandfather, David Florence, was one of the community's first Jewish settlers.

The late Louis Sukloff, the first Jew to be bar mitzvahed here in 1911, rode his bicycle from house to house collecting 50 cents from each family to pay Rabbi Fine $35 a week.

But with a growing family, Rabbi Fine could not make ends meet and went into business for himself.

Now, the community will celebrate its rededication with more bar and bat mitzvahs in the year ahead than it has ever had, under the guidance of Hebrew teacher and co-ordinator Paula Baruch Houpt, a mother of four children, whose oldest child is one of her students.

Among the volunteers who help out with the teaching are former students who pass the Judaic torch along.

"We have Jews of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform persuasion in our congregation

Continued on page 23

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Greater Toronto Area

History at every turn

The stories of past Jewish life are as plentiful in the rich, verdant valleys of northern Italy as the countless outcroppings of towns and villages from the luscious, leafy green hillsides that crest gently upward toward the Alpine mountains.

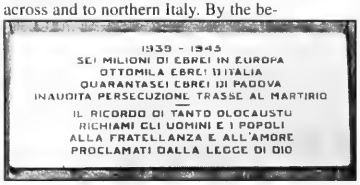
Two Canadians recently went on a visit to the area in search of some of those stories. They found a multitude.

From the editor's desk

The Jewish presence in Italy predates the destruction of the Temple. In the first century of the common era, there was a significant Jewish population, estimated by historian Solomon Grayzel to have been around 100,000, mostly living in the south, centred around Rome and Sicily.

Grayzel records: "When the Palestinian academies revived under the Mohammedans, in the seventh and eighth centuries, the south Italian Jews benefited therefrom and for a while led in Jewish learning in Europe. Naturally the Jews of north Italy were the first to take advantage of the learning of their neighbours, and invited scholars to come and settle among them. Several important books in Jewish literature were written by Italian Jews around the year 1000... From the [north Italian] city of Lucca came the learned Calonymos."

In fact, learned Jews came from all across and to northern Italy. By the beginning of the Renaissance, Jews were already contributing in significant scholarly, artistic and financial ways to the flowering of the arts and sciences in places such as Florence, Venice, Milan, Pisa, Bologna, Mantua and Padua, setting a new course in European history that would introduce the first great light in the intellectual and material advancement of humanity after the Dark Ages.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IL RICORDO DI TANTO OLOCAUSTO
RICHIAMI GLI UOMINI E I POPOLI
ALLA FRATELLANZA E ALL'AMORE
PROCLAMATI DALLA LEGGE DI DIO

Evidence of past Jewish involvement in the history of northern Italy can be found with virtually every turn in the road. Often, it is no further away than a glance upward at a wall or a mural.

In Cividate Camuno, a town of about 2,600 in pretty, far northern Valle Camonica, a fresco was recently discovered in a room attached to a main "downtown" building. In the fresco, what appears to be two Passover scenes are depicted – a seder and a seder preparation.

Rafi D'Angeli

In Bienno, a town near Cividate,but slightly larger – about 3,500 – the wall behind the main council table in the council chamber of the City Hall boasts a large mural painting of the story of Purim that features Esther (Hester), Mordechai (Mardocheus) and Achashverosh (Asverus Rex).

In Soncino, one can see and touch the original printing press on which the first ever Hebrew-language Bible was printed in the late 15th century, even in the very same building in which it was originally housed.

The city of Padua holds special interest for anyone familiar with the inspiring works and writings of the members of the famous Luzzatto family. (Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovits wrote last week in *The CJN* about Samuel David Luzzatto; coincidentally Elliott Malamet wrote about Moshe Chaim Luzzatto – the Ramchal – in the same issue.)

The first Jews appear to have arrived there in the 12th century. The Ramchal was born there in 1707.

The university in Padua, among the first great institutes of higher learning in Europe, attracted a great many scholars and thus ensured that the city would become a centre of both secular and rabbinic study.

There were once three synagogues in Padua: the Italian synagogue built in 1525; the German one built in the same year and the Sephardi synagogue built in 1617. Today, only the Italian synagogue remains, even though it was damaged during the war. The other two were destroyed during the war years.

In its Jewish heyday some 300 years ago, nearly 1,000 Jews probably lived in Padua. Today, there are approximately 170.

Rafi D'Angeli is the chief secretary of the Jewish community of Padua. Born in Israel, he came to Padua about 30 years ago. From an office in the same building as the synagogue and nearly adjacent to the restored, modest, though starkly beautiful sanctuary, he bravely and resolutely administers the business of the small community.

But it is a difficult task.

The future is uncertain for this once storied Jewish community. There are too few Jews to sustain a Jewish school, although a handful of children are enrolled in Talmud Torah studies on Sunday afternoon.

Alas, Jewish life in Padua appears now more archival than animated.

—MBD

SEE JN

CLASHES OVER TAX AVOIDANCE: Israeli Border Police arrest a young Palestinian last week in eastern Jerusalem street when clashes broke out following a raid by tax officials on Palestinian shops whose proprietors have refused to submit tax payments to authorities. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Wiesenthal Centre names director of development

Avi Benlolo

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — After seven years as a campaign associate and director of young leadership at the UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto, Avi Benlolo is transferring his fund-raising and leadership development skills to the Canadian office of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

Benlolo, 29, was recently appointed the centre's national director of development for Canada. Leo Adler remains as director of national affairs.

Benlolo will be responsible for major gifts, special events, leadership development and office operations, as well as representing the centre in Canada.

Although the centre has operated in Canada for more than 20 years, "it needs to be put on the Canadian Jewish charitable map," Benlolo said. "It needs more marketing, and a strategic plan must be put into place."

Part of Benlolo's plan of attack is to highlight the centre's activities, both domestically and abroad.

The centre is involved in a number of worthwhile international ventures that Canadians will likely support, he suggested. One, a Museum of Tolerance, is planned for Jerusalem. Another is the centre's efforts in Asia to educate local businesses about the inappropriateness of using Nazi symbols to market consumer products.

On the domestic scene, Benlolo aims to develop both "high level" and "grassroots" supporters for the centre. He pitches "the need to ensure the vitality of the future of Canadian and international citizens" and opposing anti-Semitism wherever it rears its head.

The centre is participating in several programs and events designed to increase its public profile. On Sept. 27, along with several other Jewish organizations, it will sponsor a national ceremony in Ottawa to honour Canadian survivors of the Holocaust.

On Nov. 13, the centre will present the Toronto gala premiere of *Seeds of Peace*, a film that combines historical narration with stories about Israeli early days. The event will be chaired by Gerry Schwartz of Onex Corporation. On June 4, 2001, the centre will present a concert event featuring the works of composers who perished in the Holocaust.

Benlolo attended Tel Aviv University, the University of Toronto and York University. He completed a master of arts degree in sociology and his master's thesis focused on resistance in Nazi concentration camps.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre is dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust, opposing modern hatemongers, fostering tolerance and promoting educational outreach. Its main office is in Los Angeles, where it boasts a roster of glamorous supporters from the entertainment industry. It maintains offices in L.A., Toronto, New York, Florida, Jerusalem, Paris and Buenos Aires. Benlolo said that while the centre's Canadian operations have been centred in Toronto, he hopes to expand its supporter base to other Canadian cities, perhaps eventually opening offices outside Toronto.

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Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital honours Anisman

TORONTO — The Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital recently held their first dinner draw honouring longtime community volunteer David Anisman.

David Anisman and Noreen Azoulay.

David Brown, national president of Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, made a special presentation to Anisman on behalf of the international and Canadian Friends and praised the project chair saying that for the past 30 years he has led by example.

"He gives willingly and generously to many causes. He has raised his family and inspired his friends through his actions," said Brown. "David does not only give generously, but convinces others to give as well. Through his efforts he helps his friends perform one of the most important mitzvot. That of giving tzedakah."

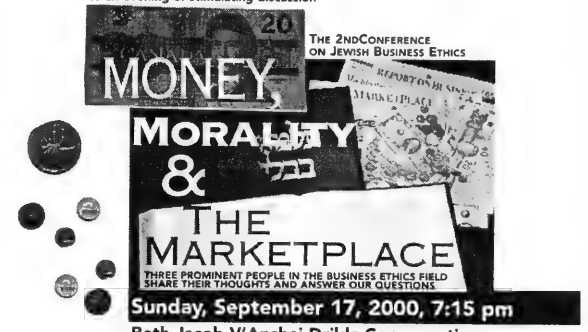
Brown also announced that a plaque has been erected in the hospital's lobby, acknowledging Anisman's support.

Chaim Fachler, Laniado Hospital's international fund-raising director, announced the government of Israel would be matching all funds raised at the Toronto event in order to speed up the expansion of Laniado, the only hospital serving over 250,000 residents in the Netanya area.

Brown also gave an honourable mention to Noreen Azoulay, executive director of Canadian Friends, stating that she and Anisman were a powerful team, having worked together for the past eight years on various fund-raising efforts for Israeli causes.

Toronto councillor Michael Feldman served as master of ceremonies.

The entire community is invited
to an evening of stimulating discussion



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Greater Toronto Area

Steve Ain marks 30 years as a Jewish community professional

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Over the past three decades, Steve Ain has seen "huge changes" in the federation world, both in terms of the magnitude of operations and the roles assumed by major donors.

"To give you an idea of the extent of the growth, in spring 1967, before the Six Day War, the Toronto UJA campaign raised $2 million," Ain said recently in his office at UIA Federations Canada, where he has served as a part-time consultant since his June retirement as the organization's executive vice-president.

"The kind of money that comes through the Toronto federation [now] – between the UJA annual campaign, supplementary giving and Jewish Toronto Tomorrow – you're talking about a $50 to $60 million-a-year business."

Another significant change, he noted, is that 30 years ago the largest donors were also the community decision-makers.

"Today these types of people are still stepping forward in terms of their financial contribution, but most of them don't either have the time or inclination to lead the governance of the community. There are very few who make key decisions. Now it's people who are extremely knowledgeable about community affairs, but who don't necessarily have influence within the philanthropic leadership."

Steve Ain

In addition to his consulting role at UIA Federations, Ain is serving as a part-time consultant to United Jewish Communities (UJC) – the New York-based organization resulting from last year's merger of United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations and United Israel Appeal of America – where he works with large-city federations.

His two consulting roles, which occupy about 3½ days per week, were preceded by a stint as interim chief operating officer of UJC when he juggled his New York duties with those he held as executive vice-president of UIA Federations.

Ain began his career in Jewish communal service as a youth worker with what was then known as central region of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) in Toronto. At age 22, he was fresh out of the University of Toronto's school of social work. The "only person in the place under age 50," he had "longish hair" and was a guitar player who was "seriously into" folk music.

Helped organize demonstrations against Soviet premier in '71

At one point he was chastised for appearing on television in shirtsleeves with his tie undone, when he was involved in organizing demonstrations against then Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin, who was visiting here in 1971.

Ain returned to his hometown of Montreal in 1974 to become CJC's assistant national director. He returned here in 1978 to open the Canadian office of the Council of Jewish Federations, then joined Toronto Jewish Congress (now UJA FEDERATION) in 1980, first as budget director, then campaign director of United Jewish Appeal, and as executive director of the Toronto Federation in 1985.

In 1992, he became executive vice-president of United Israel Appeal of Canada, which merged with the Council of Jewish Federations of Canada in 1998 to become UIA Federations Canada.

Ain's late father Joe, who was in the construction business, was a federation president and campaign chair in Montreal, and his mother, Fay, has been involved with Canadian Women's ORT. They met at a Young People's Socialist Wing meeting.

Ain, also, was politically inclined, although his priorities have shifted, he indicated. When he worked with students, dealing with "ferocious" anti-Israel rhetoric on campus, Ain didn't want to spend his time "organizing dances or movie nights so we should show *The Graduate*," he recalled.

"Today I feel very differently. I would support anything that would bring Jewish boys and girls together, because in a way, the issue of intermarriage and continuity has superseded a political crisis in Israel."

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Israeli soldier makes surprise visit to parents

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It was a surprise Goldie and David Dacks will not forget.

At 7 a.m. on a recent Monday, their son Michael, who they thought was in Israel doing army duty, appeared at their door.

"My first thought was that he got kicked out of the army," Goldie said.

Michael, however, was part of an Israeli radio program about Jewish communities around the world.

The program – produced by Galei Tzahal, the Israeli army radio station, and the Jewish Agency – chose two soldiers – the other one was from Moscow – whose parents were not living in Israel, to go home and surprise them.

"They recorded our reaction at the door, and I honestly cannot remember what I said; it was all so amazing," Goldie said.

They also recorded Michael's trip to Camp Shalom and Camp Ramah, where he talked to campers and counselors about Israel, what they feel their connections are to the country, and how Judaism and Zionism play a role at camp.

Michael, 24, a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, first visited Israel three years ago, and did his last year of university at Hebrew University.

Michael Dacks in Israel

"I loved the country, and learned the language quickly. I decided I just wasn't ready to go on to law school although I had won a scholarship to the law school at Western," Michael said.

He made aliyah in December 1999, and after a two-day try-out period joined the 101st Paratroop Regiment, which was started by Ariel Sharon in the '50s as a counter-terrorist unit against the Arabs coming from Jordan and attacking Jewish settlements.

"It's a historical unit, and I'm proud to be part of it," said the soldier, whose induction ceremony at the Western Wall was in May.

As a grandson of Holocaust survivors, joining the army means a lot to him. "During the Holocaust Jews were defenceless, and now they are not. I'm happy to be part of it all.

"It's not just an adventure, although it does beat wearing a shirt and tie," he said.

Although his Israeli colleagues cannot understand why he would leave the comforts of his North American home to join the army, "they do think it is cool that I'm there. It also [impresses] them to see Jews from around the world coming out to help them," Michael said.

Dacks does not know of any other paratroopers from Toronto, but there are several from other parts of Canada.

His home in Israel when he is not on duty, is at Kibbutz Ramat Rachel in Jerusalem, where he has been adopted by a family for the duration of his stay.

Na'amat celebrating 75 years in Canada

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — On the 75th anniversary of Na'amat Canada, Norma Barkin recalls one of her favourite and most meaningful wedding gifts – a life membership to the organization.

The gift was given to her on her wedding day in 1956 by her mother-in-law Faigel Barkin, a founding member of Club One, the organization's first club in Canada.

Barkin, a life member of Club Beersheba and a past Toronto president, said that through the years, the organization "has given me a sense of the importance of Israel and the Labour Zionist philosophy. It has also taught me not to be part of the 'me' generation – that it is important to give and to care."

Na'amat began in Israel in 1921 as Moetzet Hapoalot (Council of Working Women) to deal with women's issues within the pioneer society. The founders believed in social justice, co-operative living, equality of opportunity and shared responsibility.

The organization, which now has about 3,000 members across the country and about 900 members in Toronto, came to North America in 1925 as Pioneer Women. In the same year, clubs were formed in Toronto, Winnipeg and Montreal.

Its mission is to enhance the status of women, children and families in Israel and in Canada by providing financial support for such things as technological high schools, day-care centres, legal aid services, domestic violence counselling centres, shelters and vocational retraining, as well as educational programs.

After 75 years, said Barkin, "our goals remain the same, and we attract the same caring, committed women. Na'amat has its own magic; it's something intangible that defies explanation. There is a thread that just keeps going. We've made long-lasting friends that have become like family."

Ruth Mirsky, whose mother-in-law Sylvia Mirsky founded Chadera, the organization's second club in Canada, has also been a member since the day she got married.

"Being a member of Pioneer Women was part of my wedding contract," Ruth said jokingly.

Lorraine Levene, executive director of Na'amat Canada Toronto for 25 years, said she has watched the younger generation of Na'amat members grow up with the same dedication as their mothers.

"Three years ago, a group of about 22 young teenagers formed Club Aviva, and they have been active, dedicated fundraisers. Some of these girls' mothers have joined Na'amat because of their daughters," Levene said.

Another past Toronto president, Louise Cornblum, whose mother Gertrude Fein was also a member of Club Chadera, said, "My mother was educated in Canada, and Sylvia [Mirsky] needed her for her English skills. She was president of the chapter for 10 years; I've been involved all my life, and now my daughter belongs. It gives purpose to our lives."

Cornblum and her husband Murray "spiritually" adopted the first child in the organization's Growing up with Na'amat campaign, which was introduced in 1960 by Sylvia Mirsky.

"I met the boy at a Na'amat centre on my first trip to Israel. He was needy and in emotional pain; he haunted me. He needed hugs; to me, adopting a child is sending hugs," Cornblum said.

In recognition of its 75th anniversary, Na'amat has already broken ground for an addition to the Na'amat Canada Technological High School in Hadera it had built in 1989. "When we first built the school after raising $1 million, we intended it to have a student population of 225. Now there are 430 students, and we turn away 100 a year, said Levene.

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A soft voice, but a heart that screams hate

Last Sunday, the *New York Times* featured a page 1 article about the 64-year-old spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin. In unembellished, one might even say, understated tones, the journalist, John F. Burns juxtaposed the meek appearance of the "small, wizened, straggly bearded man in a wheelchair" with the man's violent teachings "sketching a future of unremitting warfare until Israel is wiped from the map."

The headline over the article aptly encapsulated the juxtaposition described by Burns: "As Mideast Talks Peace, Soft Voice Calls for War."

In a fitting irony of journalistic relevance, the article appeared on a weekend in which there was a great deal of news concerning radical Islam-inspired terrorism.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, Israeli security forces clashed with Hamas operatives near Nablus; a number of casualties ensued, including the death of three Israeli soldiers.

A day before, a report appeared in western newspapers that a group of Islamic extremists with possible links to Osama Bin Laden had been been uncovered in Auckland, New Zealand, plotting what appeared to be an attack against a nuclear reactor in Sydney.

Earlier in the week, a joint Israeli-PLO security operation swept up 23 persons involved in the planning of terror actions inside Israel. One of the men captured was a member of Hamas; he was said to have trained in a camp in Pakistan run by Osama Bin Laden.

Murder and misery towards the "other" are the lessons that men such as Sheikh Yassin and Bin Laden teach. And while it may be true, as the *New York Times* headliner wrote in the case of Yassin, that they speak with a "soft voice," their hearts scream a cold hatred.

The "other" in their sermons is almost always the Jew, the Jew who turns toward Jerusalem during his daily prayers, the Jew for whom Jerusalem is and has been, for 2000 years, the focus of religious and national dreams, and especially the Jew who is embodied in the restored, sovereign state of Israel.

But as the Jewish community knows – and most people in the United States as well – if the blood-lusting of the sheik and of his colleague hiding somewhere in Afghanistan is aimed first at the Jews, it will soon be aimed at the West too.

Canada has a role to play in constantly condemning the exhortations to violence by these twisted teachers and in preventing, wherever and however possible, both the financing and the execution of the acts they inspire.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO

On July 1, in the city of Shiraz in Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Court convicted 10 Jews on the false charge of spying for Israel. They were sentenced to between four and 13 years imprisonment. Each one must be remembered. They are: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Nemati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr.

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New Israeli historians deny history

The new historians in Israel ruinously reconstruct Israel's founding account of patriotism, heroism and sacrifice, and question Israel's very legitimacy as a Jewish homeland. They also ignore the threats to Israel's survival in the 1967 war. Instead, we are treated to an account that speaks of re-entering Jerusalem in 1967, as merely one more scene in just one more battle in which Israeli soldiers capture an outpost.

Gone are pictures of the paratroopers, kissing the Ancient Wall, with tears flowing down their faces. Gone is the emotion of a people whose very soul has been nurtured and sustained through the heartfelt prayer, "L'shanah haba'ah b'Yerushalayim."

After a 19-year division of the city (1948-67), when the Jews could not approach their Kotel, the unification was understood by them as a homecoming to their ancient capital.

Where are the educators who should cry out against the injustice done by failing to preserve our sacred history?

We know that many young Israelis, including educators, are cynical, but there are parents and grandparents who can attest to the truth of the struggle, the selflessness, dedication and great sacrifices that led to Israel's independence.

What will happen when these witnesses are gone?

The aim of education must be to inspire the young generation to appreciate the values and accomplishments of their national heroes. It must also instil a sense of pride in their national history and identity.

I agree that history must be studied with all its unsightly warts and grim realities, but history cannot be manipulated to fit with current political moods and agendas. It is the denial of our history.

Lily Kutner
Toronto

* * *

Yarkon river still polluted

As your Aug. 10 editorial pointed out, the bridge collapse at the 15th Maccabiah opening ceremonies in Israel three years ago was followed by much buck-passing as to who bears responsibility for the tragedy.

The buck-passing has apparently stopped, now that the World Maccabi Union (WMU) official who organized the ceremonies has been convicted of causing death by negligence and two other top WMU officials have resigned their posts.

Considering that at least some of the deaths and injuries were caused by the poisons that pollute the Yarkon River, it seems scandalous that those who let it become a cesspool of toxic wastes have not been charged as well. As if to add insult to injury, nothing has changed in the three years since the tragic event; the Yarkon remains as polluted as ever.

Eddy Kaplansky
Haifa

Advising about Judaism

Jennifer Fox writes (*CJN*, Aug. 10) that, as the cultural/religious ambassador of Judaism in Halifax, she feared giving her non-Jewish friends there at times wrong answers to their questions about who and what is a Jew. In this regard, I answer my enquiring friends, Jewish and non-Jewish, in Ottawa positively.

I tell them that anyone who observes the seven do's and don't's in the Ten Commandments and volunteers financial support for Jewish causes is a Jew. The first three commandments are a preamble proclaiming the oneness of the Author – monotheism.

Opposed to monotheism is polytheism. It features no behavioural criteria and can result in the wilful conduct of "Handsome is as handsome does."

The monotheism of the Jew mandates "noblesse oblige," noble behaviour in accordance with the aforementioned do's and don't's which, when rolled into one commandment, constitute the rule of conduct we call the golden rule.

"Do not unto thy fellow men what is hateful to thee; this is the whole Law [of God]; the rest is commentary" states Hillel who was one of the most revered Jewish spiritual leaders and who lived during the latter part of the first century BCE and the beginning of the first century CE. I have no doubt that he influenced the Jewish preachers, Jesus included, of that time.

And so I theorize that God is the Ultimate Idea that inspires observance of the golden rule.

Lionel Metrick
Ottawa

* * *

The founder of Supersol

In Rabbi Gunther Plaut's column, "Saluting Charles Bronfman," (*CJN*, Aug. 10) he states: "He [Bronfman], together with his friend the late Ray Wolfe, introduced the first supermarket to Israel and thereby initiated a new era in Israeli marketing."

While Bronfman served on the board of directors of Supersol, as the new supermarket chain was named, he most certainly was not the prime mover and shaker behind it. That was my father, Bertram Loeb, who brought the IGA food franchise to Canada and was the chairman and CEO of M. Loeb Ltd. It was on a Bonds Mission to Israel in the '50s, when he met David Ben-Gurion, that the idea first came into being.

Ben-Gurion asked my father what he did for a living in Canada. When he replied that he ran a chain of supermarkets, Ben-Gurion dared him: "Why don't you open some here?"

Always one to rise to a challenge, that was all my father needed to hear, and the first Supersol store opened in 1957.

Naomi Loeb
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Botchki: A history lost and found

By BERNIE M. FARBER
Special to The CJN

I still recall with great fondness, as a young child, those evenings when my father returned home from our small grocery store in time to tell me stories of the old country, and the small Jewish shtetl of Botchki, where he was born and raised.

The stories were a source of joy to my brother and me. But even as children, we could feel the sadness of each tale, for the Jews of Botchki were ultimately consumed in the fires of the Holocaust. Only my father and his nephew Wellie survived.

Botchki was a small Polish town nestled in the woods of the Byeloviezh Forest in the Podlasie region, 20 kilometres east of one of Poland's largest cities, Bialystok.

It was home to 700 families, almost half of whom were Jews. For most of my childhood, Botchki was almost like a mythical village in whose woods my father played as a child and from whose memory my father drew the *bubbe mayses* which he delighted in telling my brother and me in the evenings before we went to bed.

Stories such as *Lakesh bear,* perhaps a precursor to Winnie the Pooh, stories that I have shared with my children and which hopefully will be passed on to their children.

Both my brother and I were captivated by this small shtetl of Botchki. What was life like in the Poland of pre-World War II? Electricity, running water, indoor bathrooms? Unheard of, unimaginable.

Secularism was an unknown concept to the Jews of Botchki. Orthodoxy imbued all aspects of their daily lives. And the stories he told, mostly true, some embellished, were of a people who embraced their lives, poor as they were, with gusto and religious fervour.

I remember, for example, the story of the first time the good people of Botchki saw a person of colour. As my father told the story, he was a peddler from West Africa who set up one day, unbeknownst to anyone, in the market in the centre of the little village.

I recall my father's sea-blue eyes dancing with the memories as he told us of how Botchkivites reacted to this simple peddler. While many were just stunned, some Jewish parents fearing the unknown shut their children indoors; the gentile citizens of Botchki crossed themselves and spat over their shoulders to ward off any nearby hovering evil spirit.

Then there was the time of the great fire. Tragically, much of Botchki was destroyed by the fire. I was told that my grandfather, Mordechai (after whom I am named), the shtetl miller, was a member of the fire brigade. My father described how he battled the blaze with the other villagers.

Botchki's rabbi was held in great esteem. He was consulted by the town's Jewish citizens for almost every major decision they might need to make. Interestingly, however, despite the good rabbi's wisdom, my father remembers the rabbi's son, Meryl, as being a child with very much a mind of his own and who had a great deal of difficulty staying out of trouble.

Family photo circa 1932 (counterclockwise from right) Zisel Farber (Max Farber's wife), Max Farber, sister-in-law to Max Farber and her infant child name unknown, Mordechai Farber, unknown woman, Yitzchak Farber (Max Farber's youngest son), Shalom Farber (Max Farber's eldest son).

Indeed, Meryl's antics became fodder for many stories my father told us as we grew.

Thus, Botchki and all it stood for remained firmly planted within my memory.

So much so that in 1992, two years after my father's death at the age of 92, my wife Karyn and I were drawn to Botchki when we were chosen to be leaders on the third March of The Living educational mission which brings young Jewish teenagers to Poland and Israel.

While in Poland, we took a day and with a translator in tow (with thanks to the Canadian Embassy) we made our way to the fabled shtetl of Botchki.

Upon entering Botchki's town limits I understood clearly my father's tale about how Botchki received its name. Perched on the tops of trees and high fences were a multitude of storks, in Polish known as *botch.*

As we entered the town, it was as though we were transported back in time. The streets were still, for the most part, cobblestone or dirt roads. My father's nephew, Sam Fishbain, had a picture of my father's home and this, along with crude directions from the local postmaster, enabled us to find the house in which my father and his family had lived.

I knew the house the moment I saw it. The villagers told us it had remained vacant for many years. It seems that ever since the Jews of Botchki were murdered by the Nazis, the four successive families who have lived in the home had met with tragic accidents of one sort or another. As a result, the town priest suggested that the ground under the house was contaminated by the evil eye. The house was thus condemned to be destroyed in a few weeks.

As I wandered through the house, I remembered my father telling me that his children's bedrooms were upstairs (Shalom and Yitzchak, ages 9 and 13 were amongst the 280 Jewish inhabitants of Botchki transported to Treblinka where they were murdered).

As I looked out the back window of the kitchen, I saw the railroad tracks that ran behind it and the forest beyond. It instantly rekindled the memory of my father who told us how he had one evening, during the Nazi occupation, escaped over the walls of the Botchki ghetto to try to find some food for his starving family.

Upon returning, he was scooped up with the rest of the Jews of Botchki and the surrounding villages and forced into a cattle car where miraculously he found his nephew Wellie. He searched desperately for his wife and children but was unable to find them.

In a daring attempt to save their lives Wellie and my father jumped off the moving train.

We left Botchki with heavy hearts and the realization that the Nazis had succeeded in their deadly work of making Botchki and indeed all of Poland Judenfrei.

We took a memento home with us from my father's house: the door to the oven, the source of warmth in the home once filled with joy but now filled with ghosts.

Max Farber's home in Botchki as it appeared in 1992.

With my father's death I feared that any further knowledge of the history of Botchki would be lost forever. Incredibly, this was not to be the case.

Just prior to Passover this year, I was leafing through the *Jewish Chronicle* of London. As I was browsing through its book section the title of a new publication, *Botchki,* by David Zagier, jumped out at me.

I had to get this book. On the Internet I discovered the book was only available in Great Britain. A hurried call to a colleague of mine at the British Board of Jewish Deputies secured a copy of *Botchki* which was rushed to me via international courier.

As I raced through the book hungrily reading every page my eyes welled with tears. Here was my father's story. Here were the tales – the African peddler, the great Botchki fire, stories of Meryl, the Rabbi's son, and much more.

Zagier who left Botchki in 1927, filled in the missing pieces. For example, while I knew about the great Rav of my father's shtetl I now knew his name, Rabbi Hannan.

The author also writes in vivid detail of the only pogrom suffered by Botchki's Jews in 1915. My father never told us of the morning in the late summer of that year when the Cossacks galloped into town trampling an elderly woman under their hooves.

The Jews, fearing for their lives, fled to the safety of the forest whose trees and darkness embraced and hid them.

The book has become part of my personal family history. With the passing of my father there remains only cousin Wellie, my late father's last surviving nephew.

Wellie, who never fully recovered from the trauma of the war, today lives in northern Quebec. Sadly, we rarely hear from him; his memory of those years has been washed away.

Zagier's book, however, has inspired me to make contact with him so that I might share with him this wonderful treasure.

The epilogue in the book, written by Zagier's daughter after the author's death last year, jolted me. It reads in part:

"Wellie Farber has not figured by name in this book, but was one of Dovid's English students in the late 1920's. He and one companion jumped off the transport train on the way to Treblinka and hid in the forests for the remainder of the war after which he obtained a visa for Venezuela, together with a brief transit visa for the United Sates. While there, he managed to locate my father in Washington and told him of the fate of the Botchki Jews.

"All had been transported to Treblinka on Nov. 2, 1943. So far as he knew, all had gone immediately to the gas chambers. There were no other survivors."

Cousin Wellie's companion was my father. And now, thanks to this incredible acquisition, I know the date in which my father's family, including my two half brothers, Shalom and Yitzchak perished. Now, with this newly found history, I can light a yahrzeit candle for them and all the Jews of Botchki.

Bernie M. Farber is the executive director of CJC Ontario region. He is the son of the late Gertrude and Max Farber. Max was one of the only Jewish survivors of Botchki, Poland.

Elie Wiesel in Germany

Jan. 27 of this year was observed as Holocaust Remembrance Day in Germany, and Elie Wiesel was invited to address the German Parliament. Here are some excerpts of his talks, which are translated from the German.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

As he does so often, Wiesel began with a story, one that I had never heard before: In a faraway country there lived a good king. One day his astrologers told him that the coming harvest would be cursed and all who ate from it would lose their minds.

The king had a special silo built, in which he assembled what was left over from the last harvest, and he gave the key to his closest friend and told him this: "When my subjects and their king lose their minds and become insane, you alone shall have the right to obtain proper nourishment from the silo. In this way, you will escape the curse but you will incur thereby a terribly important task.

"You will have to wander through the world, from one country to another, from town to town, from marketplace to marketplace and from person to person, and to all of them you have to proclaim: 'Dear people, don't forget that you are insane. Men and women don't forget, please don't forget that you have lost your minds!'"

This was a story by Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav. Wiesel told it because, he said, the 20th century was a period when insanity became a rampant disease, and that is why witnesses have to proclaim: "Do not forget that you were insane. Do not forget that history was its witness."

Wiesel went on to say something he has said often before: "I do not believe in collective guilt; only the guilty are guilty, only they and their accomplices. Not those who did not live then and certainly not the children. The children of murderers are not murderers, they are children."

Wiesel then addressed the president of the Federal Republic, who not long before had spoken in Israel and asked Jews for forgiveness. Wiesel now challenged the German Parliament to do the same.

"Beg the Jewish people to forgive Germany for what the Nazi Reich did in Germany's name to so many of us. Do that and your words will reverberate throughout the world. Do that and the world will know that its trust in the new Germany is truly justified."

He concluded with yet another story: An eight-year-old girl was murdered in Birkenau with her mother in 1944. She had done nothing that could have harmed Germany – yet she had to suffer a ghastly death; and even if her brother became as old as the world, he would never understand it.

That is why he quoted another chassidic master: "Dear friends, do you want to find the spark? Then look for it in the ashes."

The speaker, Elie Wiesel, was the brother.

The other side of the fence?

A local Jewish educator urged me to write about Jewish education, a topic I have avoided because my own Jewish education was an adult experience, rather than that of someone who received a Jewish education as a child.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Our three children attended both day school and supplementary schools, however, and as a parent and board member, I chalked up plenty of hours around their classrooms.

Our oldest child, Adam, entered first grade in Jerusalem in 1974. We chose the state-sponsored religious school Paula Ben-Gurion for him. The first shock I had was that Adam's teacher was "Morah Miriam." I was not used to having children call their teachers by first names. Sounded progressive to me. But then…

A few days later, Adam informed us that his school shared the premises with a non-Jewish school. How was that? The kids over the fence didn't wear kippot, so he assumed they were not Jewish. Paula B-G was in fact two schools, one religious and one secular. I have no idea what it is today, but the thought that for a whole year our son would play next to other Jewish kids and never cross the wall was, to say the least, weird.

I cite this incident (there were others) because it typifies a major division in Israeli society, the religious-secular divide that begins in elementary school and disrupts the country. Jews in Canada don't face that – or do we?

I am not asking a Torah U-Mesorah, Solomon Schechter, Peretz or Leo Baeck school to renounce its philosophical principles. We choose our children's Jewish education with the intention of exposing them to those conceptions of Judaism which we share, or at least would like our children to follow.

But I am concerned about the unspoken messages we send our children. I would like both parents and educators to consider the following questions.

Are your students taught that there is only one acceptable interpretation of a text?

Do they engage the text? If they learn Rashi, do they also hear the Ramban's disagreement with him? My kids were simply *told* the meaning of the text, with no debate.

Do the students meet with children or teens from other schools or share sports days with schools of other movements? Do the schools hold joint professional development days? What messages about Judaism's diversity are being taught?

Do the rabbinic teachers come from more than one denomination, either as regular teachers or as guests?

Does the school accommodate children with special needs, or are their parents told: "We have high standards and frankly, if Yankel doesn't measure up, don't send him here?"

There will be children in the school whose parents are gay. There will be children in the school who are gay. What message are they sent?

Is anyone watching for abused children? In my children's classes, there were kids with black eyes. Their friends knew they were beaten. Why did the school do nothing? Why did we as parents do nothing?

A great deal of discussion about Jewish education at a community level is about money – how much the federation or the board of Jewish education is giving each school.

Little time is spent on viewing children's Jewish experiences as a system, each part contributing to the whole. School, whether day or supplementary, camp, youth group are all parts of the whole of our children's education. Is anyone taking time to integrate them all? Is there as much support for a summer experience as for a day school education? There should be.

Finally, does the school make community service – gemilut chasadim (acts of kindness) a part of the school curriculum? Are teens collecting money for general causes, like AIDS, cancer and/or homeless shelters?

Do the students learn about other facets of the community and its needs?

Jewish education is more than Hebrew and text. It should open up possibilities and attitudes we may not share but must respect. Otherwise, we won't recognize those kids on the other side of the fence.

When a Luddite gets wired to the world

I have been the dean of the University of Windsor Law School for almost two months. When I accepted the position, I knew that the learning curve would be steep. After all, every university and every law school is different.

Bruce Elman in Edmonton

I knew that I would have to learn a new set of policies and procedures. I would have to familiarize myself with a new set of priorities. I knew that I would be entering the university and the law school in the middle of ongoing projects and initiatives. And, of course, I would become acquainted with an entirely new array of personalities. Frankly, I think all of that has gone fairly well – not flawlessly but fairly well.

What has been much tougher to grasp, however, is another aspect of the job – the technology.

To explain this, let me go back a bit. As my children are fond of saying, my wife Nancy and I are modern day Luddites – people opposed to new technology.

I know you will probably not believe me, but in our home in Edmonton, we have only one telephone line. We have a computer (we're connected!) but it uses the same line as our telephone. According to the children, this puts us in the category of "cave dwellers." We do not have a cellular phone, fax machine or cable modem. The only reason we have all the channels as part of our cable package is because Videotron requires us to purchase them in order to get Home and Garden Television. We could be perfectly happy with just the all-news channels, the sports channels, and HGTV. We do not have a "dish" to enhance our television viewing and we have only one working VCR.

So I move to Windsor. I have a computer. No problem. I had one of those at the University of Alberta but it didn't have Lotus notes. This is not a system for a "techno-cretin" such as me. I was given a laptop, also with notes. Then came a Palm Pilot.

The first problem is that all of these devices come with manuals. The manual for the Palm Pilot is over 200 pages long! Am I going to read all this material? Not on your life!

The second problem is that all these gadgets are useless unless they can "talk" to one another. Achieving synchronization is a task almost as daunting as splitting the Red Sea. Now add to this mix my new cellular phone with its manual, and I really have "issues." I do not think, though, that the phone has to talk to any of the other gadgets. At least, I hope not because I am having trouble figuring out how to actually make or answer a call. So, usually I just keep it turned off.

Then there are the "numbers." My family is living in Edmonton for another year and I still have some projects going on there. So I have all my old numbers but I also have new numbers – home, office, cell, fax, fax authorization, message boxes, long distance codes, phone card numbers, security codes, and even lock combinations. And there are the passwords, erroneously so called because they are not "words."

The weird combinations of numbers, letters and punctuation marks may make sense in Vulcan but not in English. They are designed to foil the person trying to break into one's systems. They are very good because I have been unable to access my systems several times already. Frankly, I am having a hard enough time remembering where the bathroom is!

So here I am on a Friday afternoon stranded, because my Palm won't "sync" with my Lotus notes.The battery on the cellphone has died. I'd like to send a fax but I cannot remember my authorization number. I can't recall the password on my laptop. I would like to get my phone messages from my home phone but I cannot exactly recollect the number I am supposed to dial to retrieve the messages. I have forgotten my home phone number altogether. Thank heavens, my furniture is late in coming from Edmonton because I am sure I have forgotten how to program my television and VCR.

Oh well, Shabbat is coming. Baruch HaShem!

The Kirshner File

Urban planning as a political exercise

When the Six Day War broke out in June 1967, Israel warned Jordan to remain on the sidelines. Beset by pan-Arab pressure and duped by Egyptian misinformation that Israel was losing the war, King Hussein ignored Israel's admonition and commanded the Arab Legion to shell the Jewish sector in western Jerusalem. He would regret this mistake for the rest of his life.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

As a result of King Hussein's miscalculation, Israel captured the eastern section of the city. And then, in the face of an international outcry, the Israeli government annexed it, creating one seemingly indivisible city under Israel's control.

I was in Jerusalem a month after these historic events, hailed by most Israelis as a golden moment signifying its physical unity after 19 years of bitter division.

In the aftermath of Israel's military victory, the narrow alleyways of eastern Jerusalem, redolent of heady spices and herbs, were clogged with Israeli and foreign tourists enchanted and intrigued by its exotic flavour. Outside the old city walls, Israeli bulldozers were busy widening and paving roads connecting western and eastern Jerusalem. To me, it was crystal clear that the status quo ante would never be resurrected again. Jerusalem, Israel's capital, had been transformed within a few short weeks.

What I did not quite realize during that memorable summer was that Israel was physically strengthening its grip on east Jerusalem, populated exclusively at the time by Palestinian and Jordanian Arabs.

Israel adopted two principles that would henceforth guide its policy in Jerusalem, according to a new book, *Separate and Unequal: The Inside Story of Israeli Rule in East Jerusalem* (Harvard University Press).

The first principle was to encourage Jewish settlement there. The second was to hinder the growth of the Arab population, write the authors, Amir Cheshin, Bill Hutman and Avi Melamed.

Cheshin, a retired Israeli army colonel, was Mayor Teddy Kollek's assistant as well as his senior advisor on Arab community affairs. Hutman was a reporter on the staff of the *The Jerusalem Post*. Melamed was Kollek's deputy advisor on Arab affairs, and Ehud Olmert's advisor on Arab affairs after he ousted Kollek in the last election. By their admission, Cheshin and Melamed had "a say" in formulating Israeli policy in eastern Jerusalem.

The logic behind it was unassailable. Whoever physically dominated eastern Jerusalem would determine its fate. Demography was thus at the core of the policy. If eastern Jerusalem was primarily inhabited by Arabs, Israel's claim to it would always be shaky. But if the majority of the its residents were Jewish, the chances of it being redivided again would be greatly reduced, if not altogether eliminated. Israel, therefore, made the Jewish resettlement of eastern Jerusalem – where Jews had lived before the 1948 war – a national priority.

In line with this objective, Israel did what it could to prevent the expansion of eastern Jerusalem's Arab population. By last year, 70 percent of greater Jerusalem's population was Jewish – 455,000 Jews compared to 195,000 Arabs. Viewed from that perspective, the policy has succeeded.

The authors claim, not without justification, that Israel turned urban planning in Jerusalem into a political exercise. Kollek's grand plan contained the elements upon which Israel's housing policy in eastern Jerusalem is still based: expropriation of Arab-owned land, construction of large Jewish neighborhoods, and limitations on development in Arab areas.

Work commenced on the first two Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem – Ramat Eshkol and Ma'alot Dafna – in 1968. Two years later, plans were approved for an additional two nighbourhoods, Neveh Ya'acov and East Talpiot. Since then, seven more Jewish neighbourhoods have been built there, for a total of 11.

Israel, in building these residential enclaves, expropriated Arab lands in several grand sweeps: January 1968, August 1970, March 1980 and April 1991. In doing so, Israel expanded Jerusalem's size from 38 square kilometres before 1967 to 108 square kilometres by 1991. Refusing to recognize Israel's administration in eastern Jerusalem, Arab landowners invariably refused to accept compensation for their expropriated properties.

Eastern Jerusalem shimmers in golden light.

By way of trying to mollify Arab public opinion, Israel sponsored two small housing projects for the Arabs of Jerusalem. However, one of the projects lay beyond the city's boundaries and Israeli Arabs were given preference over Arabs from eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Funding was also a problem. According to an Israeli report written by Reuven Merhav, a former director-general of the foreign ministry, Arabs were short-changed in terms of the level of services and infrastructure.

"The funding discrepancy created a situation in which the gap between Jerusalem's Jewish and Arab sectors grew more severe each year, as improvements were made in the Jewish sector while the Arab sector was largely ignored," the authors observe.

A few examples will suffice. West Jerusalem contains 680 kilometres of roads, while East Jerusalem has 87 kilometres. In western Jerusalem, 743 residents share one kilometre of sewage piping, but in the eastern sector, the same length of piping supplies the needs of 2,809 people. There are 700 kilometres of sidewalks in the western part, but only 73 kilometres in the east.

In retrospect, Israel has compiled a mixed record in eastern Jerusalem.

Despite its efforts to contain Arab growth, the Palestinian population has continued to rise in proportion to the Jewish population. Nevertheless, nearly half of eastern Jerusalem's population today is Jewish.

Having hoped to create the impression that Arab residents had implicitly accepted Israel's hegemony in eastern Jerusalem, the Israeli government tried to induce Arabs to vote in municipal elections. But they have almost universally boycotted these elections.

Israel, too, has been unable to reform the Arab education system. Israeli officials were under the illusion that they might be able to influence Palestinian children to be supportive of the Jewish state. But this scheme fell far short of the mark, while private schools under Jordan's auspices turned into a haven for Arab parents who did not swant their children to be indoctrinated by Israeli schools.

In summing up, Cheshin, Hutman and Melamed are critical of Kollek and his associates. For years, they outlined a vision for a stable, conflict-free Jerusalem. But in practice, they charge, Kollek and his colleagues laid "the groundwork for increased tensions and conflict."

Israel built beautiful new Jewish neighbourhoods in eastern Jerusalem on expropriated Arab lands and provided them with modern services, but allowed Arab neighbourhoods to decay. If Israel's policy had been different, they argue, tensions could have been eased and Israel would not have jeopardized its claim to eastern Jerusalem, the sticking point in last month's inconclusive Camp David summit.

It is a highly debatable point. Even if Israel had been more forthcoming toward the Arabs, I strongly suspect the Palestinians would still have been vehemently opposed to Israel's ambitions in eastern Jerusalem.

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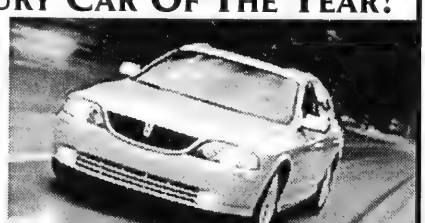

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Jewish Life

Harry Potter and poetic truth

Books
Bernard Baskin

My grandson, aged nine, has just devoured the latest of the Harry Potter books – all 750 pages. I am pleasantly astonished. Nathan is not alone. The three previous Potter books have sold 35 million copies worldwide and more than a million in Canada.

But here and there, voices are being raised in alarm and dismay. Aren't children being lured into a world of fantasy and unreality? Aren't they being transported from the realm of truth to a never-never land of illusion and fancy?

These concerns are without substance or foundation. Literature (and this has been the case from ancient days) deals not just with "surface truth" but with what might be termed "poetic truth." It insists that often behind things as they are there is another truth, a different reality, other possibilities. It opens up a world of wonder.

One of the memorable characters of fiction who champions poetic truth is Don Quixote. He is thought insane because he insists on fighting windmills that he calls giants. He attacks a flock of sheep that seem to him armed men. He releases a chain-gang of prisoners because he hates oppression in any form. He fancies himself a knight with a sacred duty to relieve distress and oppose evil. His opponents are many and powerful; they are all the sensible people who wilfully or unconsciously deny poetic truth.

Don Quixote takes up the challenge. He insists that his enemies are deranged if they deny the truth of the imagination. If what he believes is false, then it must follow that there existed no Hector, Achilles, Trojan War, or King Arthur of England, who is still wandering about the world to this day transformed into a raven, and is hourly awaited in his kingdom.

Truth at the poetic level is unpredictable and comes in flashes from time to time to everyone. But especially to those we call poets or prophets, mystics or seers. The fact that such truth cannot be proved in the scientific laboratory does not render it invalid. On the contrary, it is essential to our sanity and well being.

To deny poetic truth we would have to expunge the wealth of aggadah from talmudic and midrashic literature, eliminate mysticism from Chassidism and erase the folklore of eastern European Jewry.

Einstein maintained that what stands at the cradle of true art and science is a sense of the mysterious. He wrote: "One who knows it not, who can not longer wonder, no longer feel amazement, is as good as dead, a snuffed out candle."

Isaac Bashevis Singer believed that if there is such a thing as truth it is not obvious, "but intricate and hidden as a crown of feathers." And Abraham Heschel was sure that the beginning of our happiness lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living. "What we lack is not a will to believe but a will to wonder."

Most of the world's wise men and women are dead. But they look over our shoulders as we expound their texts. They nudge our elbows. And what do they tell us? Why, that men and women have always been sitting down to complain of the iniquity of their times and of the fast-approaching doom of the world. And that one just or brave person has always been found in time to save the city, or to carry the spirit onward. And that the race is worth running, and the game worth playing to the end, and life worth living. This is what literature is all about – including poetic truth.

I HAVE A DREAM

I have a dream, that friends will stay friends forever so that nobody feels left out or sad. They will do that by making compromises and sacrifices to make others feel better.

I have that dream!

I have a dream, that my Grade 5 teacher, Ms. Gruia, could stay with me for my whole life of school, because she makes things interesting – like if there is a boring subject, she'll make a game out of it. I find I'm learning a lot from her. I hope she hears this. Keep up the good work, Ms. Gruia!

I have these dreams!

I have a dream, that nothing horrible would happen. For example, I wish nobody would die of sickness or of accidents, only a peaceful death or of old age. I have this dream, because it has happened to my family before and I felt terrible. I don't want anyone feeling terrible.

I have those dreams!

I have a dream, that everyone would feel special to everyone, and mostly to themselves, because faith in yourself is a HUGE part of life. With no faith, there's no enjoyment in life.

I now have FOUR dreams!

I have a dream, that everyone will find a use in life, because this is the biggest part of having faith in yourself. It's more important to have a good life than a long life. This dream is the most important because it forms all the other dreams.

I have this final dream today!

Brittany Zummer, age 10

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Jewish Life

When is Rosh Hashanah?

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

When's Rosh Hashanah this year?

That question can be answered by checking your calendar. But to really understand how the dates of Jewish holidays are set and how the Jewish calendar came is a story that stretches back thousands of years and combines faith with a profound understanding of astronomy. You can begin to unravel the mystery of the Jewish calendar on the great sites on the World Wide Web.

Determining Rosh Hashanah wasn't always as easy as picking up a calendar. Originally, Jews figured their calendar – the month, the year and the festivals – by the testimony of witnesses who had observed the new moon. Later, astronomic calculation was instituted in connection with the calendar, but the Jews were not certain of its exactness and witnesses were still called on. For a very good introduction to the evolution of the Jewish calendar, go to Jewish Heritage Online Magazine **[http://www.jhom.com/calendar/index.html]**.

(I was fascinated to come across a Web site for the Karaites, the sect that follows the written Torah but rejects Jewish oral law and Jewish texts such as the Mishnah and Gemarah. Karaites still adhere to the tradition of actually witnessing the appearance of the new moon over Jerusalem and now file their reports via the Internet **[http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/3384/kknmr.html]**.)

Actually, the date of Rosh Hashanah and all the other Jewish Holidays are directly related to the date of Passover. The Torah commands us to observe Pesach in the month of "Aviv" (spring) **[http://www.jewishgen.org/mentprog/m_calint.htm]**. But with a strictly lunar calendar, the observance of Passover would slip a few days every solar year and we might eat matzah and maror in mid-winter.

To keep the seasons in line, Hillel II established in the fourth century a fixed calendar based on mathematical and astronomical calculations. Hillel's calendar, still in use, standardized the length of months and the addition of months over the course of a 19 year cycle, so that the lunar calendar realigns with the solar years. You can find a more detailed explanation at the Jewfaq Web site **[http://www.jewfaq.org/calendar.htm]**.

If only the Jewish calendar were that simple. For example, as the Webexhibits site points out, instead of the Gregorian calendar's two lengths (365 or 366 days), the Jewish calendar has six variations (from 353 to 385 days) **[http://www.webexhibits.org/calendars/calendar-jewish.html]**. And if you really want to get down to the nitty gritty of Jewish calendars with all their oddities and exceptions, then you must take a look at Remy Landau's Hebrew Calendar Science **[http://www.geocities.com/Athens/1584/]**. Landau is a master of the Jewish calendar who answers questions you never knew you had. For example, this amazing site tells you how often the Jewish calendar cycle perfectly repeats itself (no, not every 19 years but every 689,472 years.) Landau has even calculated how often the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls on a Saturday (28.6 percent).

But the Jewish calendar is far more than just calculations and computations. It governs how we act and think of ourselves as Jews.

Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh explains that time is fundamental to Jewish life and that "both the written and the oral Torah open with a distinct awareness of the significance of time. The written Torah begins with the words, 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.' The oral Torah begins with the words, 'From what time on may one recite the evening Shema?'" **[http://www.inner.org/times/calendar.htm]**

As the weeks approach toward Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Ginsburgh explains the sanctity of time and how we make use of it. To be a Jew means "to assess life and make decisions from a Jewish point of view, beginning with how one schedules his affairs in his personal appointment book. Then, and only then, can one know 'where' he is in life, and how he can succeed in bringing himself and his portion of the world to their proper and ultimate fulfilment."

Next week, the best Jewish calendars on the Web.

* * *

A belated thank you to Abie Rosenberg of Thornhill for suggesting last week's topic about Jewish sites for Palm Pilots. If you have an idea for a topic, please write to me at the address below.

* * *

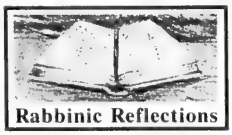
Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@home.com].

Advantages to a Jewish court

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS

One of the favourite topics of the prophets is justice. Yet the Jewish court system is almost unknown amongst Jews.

The recurring theme in the great prophets of the Jewish people is sincerity, getting our outsides and our insides in line. While doing mitzvot on the outside, the prophets demand maintaining a sincere connection to the Creator on the inside. While bringing offerings asking God for mercy, having mercy in turn with our fellow men. And over and over again, the prophets speak of pursuing justice, creating a society of justice.



The Torah portion this week commands the establishment of judges and courts in every city and region. Throughout Jewish history we have had our own systems of justice, distinct from the court system of our host countries.

In some regions in Germany and Poland, there was in fact a law that all disputes between Jews must be brought to a Jewish court, a beit din, and not to a secular court. The secular court system gave full and universal support to the beit din.

The beit din system has its own rules of procedure, its own rules of testimony and its own principles for ruling on cases. It deals with contracts, partnerships, commerce, loans, and all the variety of monetary transactions that are dealt with in the secular legal system.

The laws are developed in the Talmud and Shulchan Aruch, the code of Jewish law.

When there are disputes between Jews, there is a mitzvah to bring those disputes to a Jewish court and not to a secular court.

There is a beit din in Toronto today, as there is in all major Jewish cities. There is a beit din for divorces, for gittin. There is a beit din for conversions. In addition there is a beit din for monetary disputes of which I am the co-ordinator.

The beit din system is undergoing a change in North America. Due to the slow and expensive process of the civil courts, the alternative of going to a beit din is attractive. In addition to the religious requirement of submitting disputes to a Jewish court, there is a now the added incentive of expediency and reduced costs.

However, while the beit din here in Toronto would have 75 inquiries a year, many of which are settled without going to the beit din, with possibly 25 actual court hearings, there are many more cases that bypass the beit din and go directly to court.

Part of the reason for this is the reluctance of attorneys to refer clients to a system where they don't know the outcome. Unless a person is very well versed in Jewish law, the volume of literature and style of writing make it next to impossible for a novice to access the material and predict the outcome.

As a community responsibility, a well functioning beit din is not as dramatic or pressing as tzedakah, education, kashrut and outreach. However, I think the coming years will bring a structure and accessibility to the beit din, indicative of the maturing of the North American Jewish world.

Pursuit of justice in our own Jewish courts, is one of the truly noble pursuits spoken of so often by our great prophets.

Rabbi Tradburks is the spiritual leader at Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.

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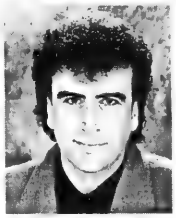
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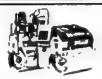

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Greater Toronto Area

Morton Shulman led varied life as doctor, MPP, investment guru

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Morton Shulman, the outspoken and high-profile doctor, cult-hero coroner, politician and millionaire investment guru, died at the Baycrest Centre hospital on Aug. 17 following complications from Parkinson's disease. He was 75.

Obituary

Shulman led a richly varied life and wore many different hats. He was a physician, coroner, MPP, investment adviser and T.V. show host. He also championed the use of the drug Deprenyl to treat Parkinson's disease.

He was not known for subtleties, and seemed to delight in upsetting apple carts. He took on governments, political parties, even the medical establishment.

Lesser known about Shulman was his faith. He didn't wear his Jewishness on his sleeve, but rather in his heart, said his daughter, Dianne Saxe.

Shulman was a member of Holy Blossom Temple from the early 1950s to the later '60s, Saxe said. She doesn't know why he left the temple; perhaps it was because he clashed with its leadership.

"He was not observant but he made a point of visiting synagogues wherever he travelled, whether in China, India or the Caribbean," Saxe recalled. "He always left a gift."

In 1966, Shulman was among the first western Jews to visit Birobidzhan, the former Soviet Union's so-called Jewish Autonomous Region, where he encountered much anti-Semitism.

He also owned a huge library of Holocaust-related books, Saxe said. "He took his Jewishness quite seriously."

Like many young doctors at the time, Shulman found that being Jewish was an impediment. Most large Toronto hospitals hired only two Jewish interns; he managed to convince East General Hospital to take on a third – him.

Shulman was born in Toronto in 1925. After graduating from the University of Toronto's medical school in 1948, he was appointed to the coroner's office in 1952, and became Toronto's chief coroner in 1961.

Almost immediately, he began making waves by criticizing the federal transport ministry for failing to require life jackets in small boats, and the provincial government for not regulating cars more. He attacked clinics, hospitals and cancer doctors he called quacks.

His public outbursts were said to inspire the 1960s television drama *Wojeck*, about a crusading coroner.

Inspired '60s TV drama

But in 1967, he was fired for accusing Queen's Park of whitewashing a probe into a hospital fire.

By this time, he was already wealthy from his investments in the stock market. In 1966, he published his first of several how-to-invest books, *Anyone Can Make a Million.*

He turned to politics, winning the provincial riding of High Park for the New Democrats in 1967. Unhappy in the back benches, Shulman clashed with party leader Stephen Lewis, and quit as an MPP in 1975.

Two years later, he was back as host of *The Shulman File*, an often outrageous tabloid-type talk show on Toronto's City-TV. A dispute with station owner Moses Znaimer in 1983 resulted in the show being dropped.

All along, he maintained his medical practice in Parkdale.

In 1983, he diagnosed himself with Parkinson's disease, and after five years of conventional treatment, he began using a drug from Europe called Eldepryl, which had not been approved in North America.

He touted the drug as a miracle, and bought into the company that held the rights to market it in North America. The drug was approved in Canada under the name Deprenyl, and Shulman soon set up Deprenyl Research Ltd. (now Draxis Health Inc.) whose profits were donated to Parkinson's research. Shulman was chair of Draxis until 1993 – the same year he was awarded the Order of Canada.

He often said he would have died in 1989 had it not been for Deprenyl.

Aside from his daughter, he leaves his ex-wife Gloria Bossin, son Geoffrey; and eight grandchildren.

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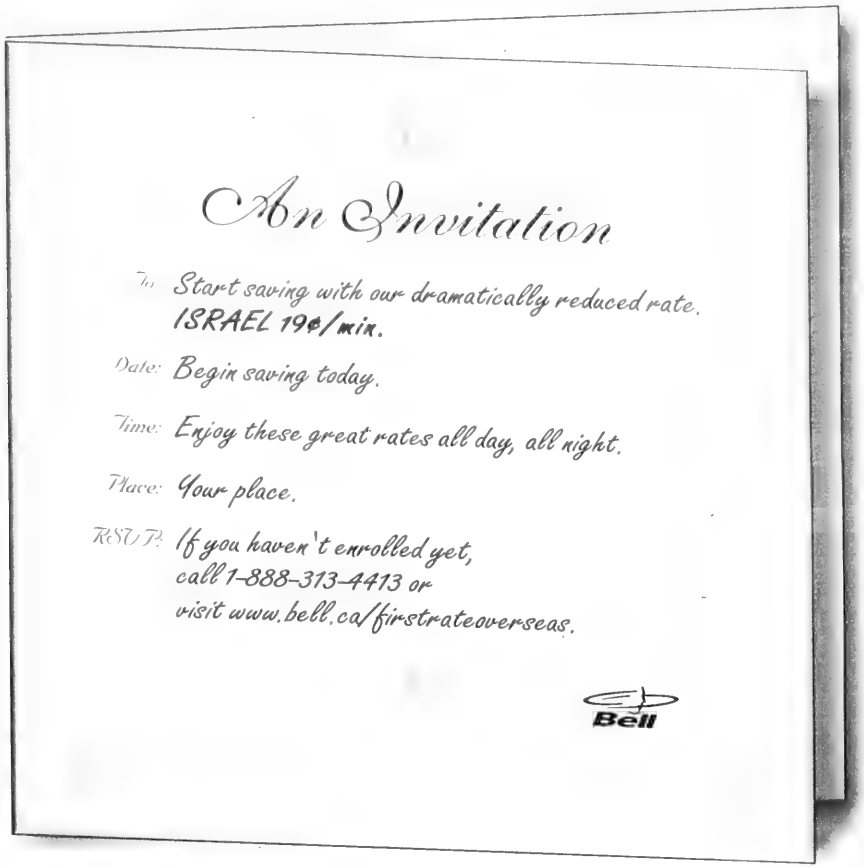
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Study finds 17% poverty level

Continued from page 1

The results also challenge Canadian Jewish organizations "to increase the resources available to aid Jews who find themselves in poverty."

Moscovitch did not look at income levels, but rather relied on the definition of poverty used by Statistics Canada and most groups concerned with the poor: Low-Income Cutoff, or LICO.

LICO is calculated according to the average amount spent by individuals and families on food, clothing and shelter. In the 1960s, when LICO first appeared, the ratio used was 50 percent of household income. Today, it is 70 percent of income.

Allan Moscovitch

Moscovitch concedes that the LICO calculation is not perfect, but it is the one used by researchers and poverty groups.

The study's overall conclusion is not new – the figure of one in six Jews living in poverty has been the standard benchmark for years – but Moscovitch does unearth some fresh, and troubling, findings.

Chief among them is that the Jewish poverty rate is no better than the general one.

Another is that it is not the Jewish elderly who make up the largest segment of Jewish poor, as commonly thought, but Jewish children and youth. Just over 16,300 Jewish children and young people live in poverty, the study found. That's 27 percent of all Jews, the same ratio as for all Canadians.

The next largest groups of Jewish poor were those aged 40 to 64, and those 25 to 39. The elderly were the fourth largest group of Jewish poor.

For his study, he relied on figures culled from the 1996 mini-census, which did not ask respondents their religion, but rather their ethnic origin. The 1991 census asked about both religion and ethnicity, but Moscovitch rejects those results as out of date.

The '96 census found 350,830 Jews in Canada, 59,520 of whom lived in households below the low-income cutoff.

Other findings of Moscovitch's study are:

• Jewish children and youth were the largest group living in poverty in every region in the country. The poverty rate for Jewish children was highest in Quebec and lowest in Ontario.

• Immigrants represented 40 percent of all low-income Jews in Canada. Most low-income Jewish immigrants arrived between 1991 and 1996. More than 20 percent of poor immigrants arrived before 1961, and they are most likely to be over 65.

• Nearly 21 percent of Jews aged 65 and over were living in poverty, compared with 17 percent of all Canadians in that age group. The poverty rate for Jews 65 and over in Ontario is "substantially" higher than for all Ontario residents. (Moscovitch stresses he did not examine incomes among the elderly. Some elderly, he said, are asset-rich, but cash-poor.)

• Canadian Jewish women were more likely to be poor than Jewish men – 18 percent of all Jewish women, versus 15 percent for men. The highest likelihood of poverty among Jewish women was in Quebec; the lowest was among men in the east.

• A large number of Jewish poor completed one or more university degrees. In fact, almost 58 percent had at least some form of post-secondary education or better. The number of Jewish poor without a high school graduation certificate was only 31 percent.

• The largest number of Canadian Jewish poor (58 percent) lived alone, either single, divorced or widowed.

• Just over 17 percent of all Jewish poor had some form of limitation or disability.

• In Quebec, which has a higher than average population of Jewish seniors, nearly 23 percent of low-income Jews were over 65. In fact, Moscovitch found that the overall Jewish poverty rate in Quebec was higher than the provincial rate.

The biggest challenges facing Jewish leadership, Moscovitch says, are in Ontario, with the largest number of poor because of the high concentration of Jews in that province; and in Quebec, with the highest rate of Jewish poverty.

A further challenge is posed by the large percentage of poor Jewish children and youth.

"Often, Jewish leadership in this country is drawn from the better off," he said. "It's very easy to forget, or not know, how other people live."

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

יִידיש לשון מוז האָבן חשיבות

פון מאָסל סיוואַק (סאַראַנסק)

חשיבות פאַר יִידיש לשון איז געווען די לאַנג מיט אַ סך יאָרן צוריק, אַבער ווי זעט עס אויס בײַם היינטיקן טאָג? פאַר מיר איז עבֿירה אויך יִידיש אין יִידיש איז אויך לשון קודש. עס איז אמת, אַז עס זײַנען פאַראַן, בלי ענין הרע, אַ צאָל פֿאַרשיידענע יִידישע שולן פאַר אונדזערע יִידישע קינדערלעך, ווו מען לערנט זיי עבֿרית אַן אַ ביסל יִידיש. צום באַדויערן איז עס, אין אַ סך פאַלן, בלויז בײַ זיי דערגרײכן די עלטער פון בר־בת־מצוה. נאָך דעם איז עס געווענליק.

דער לוקסוס פון ספּעציעלע שולן פאַר דעם צוועק, קריגן בלויז די דאָזיקע יִידישע קינדער, וועמענס עלטערן ווילן אַן קענען זיך דערלויבן צו צאָלן דעם טיירן שכר־לימוד. צום גרויסן באַדויערן איז עס אויך אַ פאַקט, אַז די מערהײט פון יִידישע קינדער אין אונדזער רייכער יִידישער קהילה, קריגן ניט קײן שום יִידישע דערציִונג. שווימט אַרויף די פראַגע: פאַר וואָס זאָל קהל ישראל ניט איינפירן אַן אונזיוערסאַל סיסטעם פון יִידישן חינוך, ווי עס פירט זיך אין אַלעמיינעם קאַנאַדער לעבן. אַן ספֿק דאַרף פאַר אונדזערע יִידישע קינדער אויך אייגנעשטעלט ווערן אַן עגלעכער חינוך וועגן.

אין אונדזערע סידורים, גלייך בײַם אָנהײב פון טעגלעכן דאַוונען, איז פאַראַן די תפילה: „אילו דברים שאין להם שיעור" אַן עס עדזיקט זיך מיט: „ותלמוד תורה כנגד כלם". אַז וואָס איז מכוח וועלטלעך יִידיש־קײט? . . . דאַרף עס ניט האָבן די זעלבע חשיבות, וואָס תלמוד תורה? . . .

מיט מײַן גרעסטן רעספּעקט פאַר טראַדיציאָנעלער יִידישקײט, מחן מיר אָנגענומען דעם פאַקט פון דער אָנט־שטייגן פון דער השכלה באַוועגונג אוך פון דעם דעמא־קראַטישן צײַטגײַסט קאָנגרעס. ווער וויסט, צי אַן זיי וואָלט מעגלעך געווען די אָנטשטייגן פון מדינת ישראל. צו דעם מח מען אויך צוגעבן די שטאַרקע אָנטוויקלונג פון אַ וועלט־ליטעראַטור אין יִידיש אַן אין עבֿרית.

אין מדינת ישׂראל קען וועלטלעך יִידישקײט פאַר־ווירקלעכט ווערן אויב עס וועט זיך דער געהערקער ווילן אַן די ניטיקע קאָמפּראָמיצע פון דער רעגידזוג. אַבער ווי האַלטן מיר וועגן דעם אין די תפֿוצות ישראל? מען דאַרף זיך גוט באַטראַכטן וועגן דעם ענין. נאָר אין אַ דעמאָקראַטיש־יִידישער קהילה, מיט אַ פאַסיקן צוגאַנג צו פלוראַליזם, וואָלט מען געקענט בר־עגעגן חשיבות פאַר יִידיש־לשון.

מיר דאַרפן נעמען אַ בײַשפּיל פון די קאַנאַדער פראַג־צוין — אַן איך מײַן דאָ ניט, חס וחלילה, סעפּעראַטיזם. איך מײַן ווי אַזוי זי פאַרטיידיקן זיערע קולטורעלע אוך שפּראַכלעכע רעכט. איך וויסן, אַז פון רעדן אַליין, וועט דאָס ניט מקרים ווערן. מען דאַרף אַריינליגן מער מי, אַרבעט אַן צחאַמאַנאַרבעט. נאָר דורך קאָאָפּעראַציע אַן גוטן ווילן פון אַלע צדדים וועט מען קענען דערגרײכן דעם ציל: צוריקבערגעגן חשיבות צו דער יִידישער שפּראַך. מיר האָפּן אויך דעם.

פון דער רעדאַקציע

מיר בעטן אונדזערע שרייבערס צו שרײבן זייערע מאַנוס־קריפטן דירעקט, מיט נרעסערע אותיות, אויף איין זײַט פון בלעטל, מיט אַ סך לידיקן פלאַץ צווישן די שורות און לאָזן פלאַץ צו קענען אַריינשרײבן די אויבעסערונ־גען. דערבײ פֿאַרגעסט נישט אייער טעלעפֿאָן נומער, טאָמער האָבן מיר וואָסערע פֿראַגן. – א.ס.

On Campus

Hebrew University sets quotas for students from low-income areas

By RELLY SA'AR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Hebrew University of Jerusalem has decided to admit students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and development towns to professional departments such as medicine, law and psychology, based on a quota system.

The high school education of these students has, until now, prevented them from competing for the limited number of places when candidates come from more prestigious high schools.

The university rector, Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson said the university intends to allocate five percent of its available places for bachelor degree studies in the select departments to candidates from such backgrounds.

About 12,000 students are currently studying for bachelor degrees at the university, and the new policy will mean that hundreds of students from low-income areas would be admitted to the facility each year. The amendment to the university's admission policy will also help it shake off its elitist image.

The last three years have seen the university set particularly harsh admission requirements, continually raising the entrance requirements in order to absorb only the top students from the country's leading high schools. The university's branch in Rehovot was also closed because the students enrolled there did not fit the image the institute wished to perpetuate.

"Raising the entry requirements was a policy that resulted from the recognition of the place that the Hebrew University must occupy in instructing the state's intellectual leaders at the highest possible level," Ben-Sasson said. "We, therefore, aspired to accept the candidates with the highest *bagrut* [high school matriculation] and psychometric [university entrance exam] scores."

The university is set to prepare a specific list of the special entry requirements for those candidates who are to be admitted under the quota. The Hebrew University will become the first academic institution in the country to open its doors to a large number of candidates from low-income areas.

Afterword gets new editor

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — One of the things Nicole Cohen learned in her first-year journalism class at Ryerson Polytechnic University is that a number of her Jewish classmates had never heard of the Toronto-based Jewish student newspaper, *Afterword*.

As new editor in chief of the quarterly publication, which has a circulation of 2,000, she hopes to increase its profile so that "every Jewish student in the country knows what *Afterword* is."

Nicole Cohen

Cohen, 20, took over from Dave Gordon, who founded the paper two years ago after graduating from York University. He will remain on as publisher.

Gordon said he was impressed by Cohen's "fresh ideas, her vision, her strength and her motivation. We found somebody who can continue making Jewish issues accessible to young adults."

"I love journalism," Cohen said over a lemonade at a downtown restaurant. "Every day I am so happy with my school and the career I've chosen. It's given me the opportunity to meet tons of interesting people. I keep learning and growing from it."

Now entering her second year at Ryerson, Cohen got her first taste of journalism as a Grade 11 student at *The Collegiate*, a "university-style" high school based at the University of Winnipeg.

In her Grade 11 journalism class, she saw a documentary on women who covered war zones. "I thought that was the most exciting thing I'd ever seen. I wanted to do that."

A native of South Africa who immigrated with her family at age 7, Cohen attended Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate in Winnipeg. Until 1993, she lived in Saskatoon, where she attended Hebrew school twice weekly until her bat mitzvah.

Before moving to Toronto in 1999, she completed a year of undergraduate studies in English and Philosophy at the University of Winnipeg. At Ryerson last year, she wrote about student activities for the campus paper, *The Eyeopener*.

Her portfolio also includes a couple of contributions to *Afterword*, and reviews and features for *buster!*, an independent music magazine formerly called *Rhig*.

Among the people she'd like to interview, Cohen mentioned philanthropist Charles Bronfman. "It's a wonderful thing he's done," she said, referring to Birthright Israel, the free 10-day trip for young Jewish adults in which Cohen participated this summer.

A former regional president of B'nai Brith Youth Organization's Red River region (Manitoba), Cohen said BBYO was her "life" for four years. In Winnipeg, she was active in her university's Jewish Students' Association.

In fact, it was at a JSA event, a ski trip to Calgary, that she met Gordon, where he was a guest speaker.

At this year's *Afterword* conference for Jewish student journalists, Gordon, 27, announced his plans to retire as editor and find a replacement who was "closer to the university age bracket."

Cohen recalls her interview with Gordon and his editorial board, consisting of student volunteers, was "really tough."

Referring to the diversity of Jewish religious and political viewpoints the paper represents, Cohen noted, "we have stories from all over the map."

She intends to continue to follow the current mandate and hopes to put her own stamp on the paper, which she said has "great content and style." One of the things she would like to do is to focus on "individual, average students doing something different or something cool."

The upcoming September 9 issue is a transitional issue, as outgoing editor Gordon passes the torch to her.

Although she knows she will have "politics" to contend with, she is "kind of excited" about the challenge.

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On Campus

Yachdav helps to forge bonds with world Jewry

By LANCE DAVIS
Special to The CJN

Being Jewish means different things to different people. But for the more than 220 participants in the recent international young leadership mission to the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and Israel, it meant at least one common thing for everyone – sharing an experience together. Hence the name of the mission, YACHDAV, jointly subsidized by UIA Federations Canada and other federations across Canada.

A group of young professionals aged 24-44 traveled together from Toronto to meet dozens of other Canadians and over 160 international participants to visit Vilnius, Lithuania, Minsk, Belarus and Israel.

As a young Jewish professional who is deeply committed to being Jewish and who as been actively involved in various young leadership initiatives, I am proud to say that this experience changed my life, as well as the lives of my fellow YACHDAV participants – for the better!

Opinion

We forged new, lifelong friendships with young leaders from across Canada and around the world, who share the common bond of Judaism and the goal of making a difference in the Jewish world. We solidified this connection by experiencing Judaism in communities that are very different from our own and grappling with the role we, as young Jewish leaders, must play in the international Jewish community.

The Canadian group comprised the largest individual contingent with about 70 participants from across the country. Now, we all have new friends throughout Canada and have learned a great deal about what it means to be Jewish in communities other than our own. The Toronto participants have already organized a number of post-YACHDAV follow-up activities and a reunion weekend involving people not only from other Canadian cities, but also from other countries. Ottawa also recently held a YACHDAV reunion.

Those of us representing the Canadian contingent demonstrated leadership, pride and enthusiasm that set the tone for the mission. We patriotically sported our cool red Roots Canada-YACHDAV 2000 hats and we impacted the other contingencies significantly.

Our destination points in the FSU demonstrated the tragic fate of our people during the Holocaust and how presently, faith can be used to ensure these communities prevail in the face of adversity.

Many of us were particularly touched as a result of interactive visits with local Jews. We saw the remaining elements of the infrastructure that at one time existed in these cities and the ways in which the communities are being rebuilt and re-energized.

We then traveled from the dreariness of the FSU to the hope and forward-looking eagerness of Israel. Through our shared experiences, we drew comparisons and contrasts between the destruction in the FSU and the thriving excitement and thrilling pace of development that we observed in our own homeland.

For many participants, YACHDAV offered us the chance to return to the Holy Land. For others, it was the first time visiting Israel. For ALL of us, it was one of the most wonderful, invigorating and motivational experiences of our lives. For me, it was simply the best!

It has been difficult for each of us to return to our daily routines, but we can rest assured that the bonds with each other and with our heritage will grow and endure. We have all learned a great deal about how to treat each other, which will assist us in developing and shaping many aspects of our personal and professional lives, today and in the future.

Lance Davis is national director of young leadership development, UIA Federations Canada.

Beth Tzedec Congregation
1700 Bathurst Street
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BETH TZEDEC CELEBRATES 2 DECADES!!

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Guest Cantor, **Cantor Benjamin Maissner**
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Guest Speaker, **Cantor Jerome Kopmar**
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Rosh Hashana
Friday, September 29, 7pm
Saturday, September 30, 9am & 7pm
Sunday, October 1, 9am

Yom Kippur
Kol Nidre Sunday, October 8, 6:30pm
Monday, October 9, 9am

Services are held at the Scott Religious Centre, York University. Kiddush will be provided.
For more information, please call Tobi at 905-764-0212.

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Heading back
to school?

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Ottawa Jew makes history as new judge

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The recent appointment of Heidi Levenson Polowin to the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, marks the first time in 37 years that a member of Ottawa's Jewish community has been named to the high ranking court.

"I had done everything I wanted to do in my career as a lawyer," said an excited Polowin, "and I see this as a logical next step, to use what I have learned over my twenty-year career and apply it."

A native of Montreal, Polowin is a graduate of Ottawa University Law School. She has worked extensively in labour and employment law and has sat as an adjudicator to hear unjust dismissal complaints on behalf of the federal government.

Polowin has also co-authored a casebook and taught employment law at Ottawa University and has dabbled in human rights, young offender matters and contract and commercial law. Most recently, Polowin was director of legal service for the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa-Carleton.

Joseph Lieff, whose brother Abraham was the last Jewish lawyer appointed to the bench in Ottawa, was happy to hear of Polowin's appointment.

"I am very pleased for Heidi and for the Polowin family," he said. "I think it is an excellent appointment and I am sure she will do well."

Polowin recently enjoyed her first day on the bench. "It is extremely challenging," she said, "but my colleagues on the bench are wonderful. It is a very collegial group."

So far, she has heard civil and family cases but eventually will hear criminal cases as well.

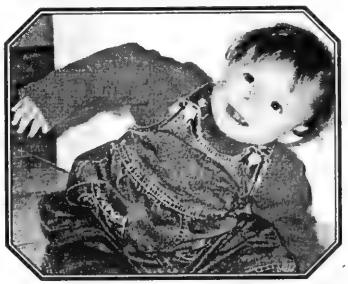
In addition to her professional career, Polowin has always found time for community involvement. She has worked on the United Way Campaign for several years, has served on the board of directors of Temple Israel and is currently on the board of directors of Jewish Family Services.

She and her husband, Steve, are the parents of Jordana and Daniel, both high school students.

Mazel Tov

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.



I'm Cailey and I'm one year old. Brother Alex, sister Sierra, Mommy Monique, Daddy Howard and the Elgin/Bisgould family wish me happy birthday.

Mazel tov to Mark Yazer on receiving your MD degree. We wish you all the best. Love, Mum, Dad and Andrea, Grandma, Bub & Zaid.

Mazel tov to Sam & Eileen Feldon on their 30th wedding anniversary, June 7. With much love from your children and granddaughter

Mazel tov to Isaak Stricker on his 90th birthday. Love, Dori, Saul, Dora & Joel, Lola & Jerry, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Tom & Debby Jacobs, Sheilah & Morton Litwin are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children, Shannon & Rick. Grandmother is Masha Weintraub.

Happy 50th anniversary to Max & Fanny Sitzer, from Leon & Debbie, William & Carole, Devone, Kerry, Stefanie, Fallon, Gregory, David, Rebecca and Israel.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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NEWS FLASH ... NEWS FLASH

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Tuesday, Sept. 5, is deadline for Sept. 14 issue, and Monday, Sept. 11, is deadline for Sept. 21. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

PLEASE NOTE

The mandate of the What's New column is to provide a community service by reporting events affiliated with or under the sponosrship of established synagogues, organizations and agencies. We regret that we cannot include private endeavours in this space.

Sunday, Sept. 3

BOOK DISCUSSION

Virginia Woolf, a Biography by **Hermione Lee** is discussed by the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, 1:45 p.m. **Ruth Goldsmith** 782-6414.

Monday, Sept. 4

CRAFT & GIFT SALE

The Na'amat Craft and Gift Sale has something for everyone, with numerous artisans, craftspeople and gift vendors participating, plus hourly draws, clowns, face painting. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bayview Village Mall. **Ruth Jacobson** 493-1089 evenings, 636-5425 days.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

DR. W. FILDERMAN LODGE

Dr. W. Filderman Lodge, B'nai Brith, monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. Program, Information Notes followed by an artistic musical movie, *Avi Hoffman Show*. 631-0634.

Thursday, Sept. 7

YIDDISH FILM SERIES

Celebration of Yiddish film series opening event at the Lodzer Centre, 12 Heaton St., features the film *Jewish Luck* (1925, Moscow). Series introduced by Lodzer member and committee for Yiddish, UJA FEDERATION chair **Ethel Sum Cooper**. 7 p.m. Reception follows.

And What Else Is New

WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women welcomes women of varying backgrounds, ages, interests to study Jewish texts together. Classes run weekly Sept. 11 to Dec. 14. Introduction to Talmud, Wednesdays 8-10 p.m., 15 Hove St.; Talmud – 2nd level, Mondays 8-10 p.m., 15 Hove St.; Analysis of Biblical Narrative and Commentary, Tuesdays, 8-9:30 p.m., 147 Overbrook Pl., and Wednesdays 10-11:30 a.m., 470 Glencairn Ave.; From Mishnah to Mikvah, Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. Nov. 1-29. Information and registration 398-1510.

HEBREW FOR PARENTS

Conversational Hebrew made easy by **Yael Lev.** Special small classes for parents with children in Jewish schools. Conversation, reading and writing schools as well as prayers, holidays and customs. Daytime or evening, all levels. Classes will start the week of Oct. 9 at various locations. For registration and information, call Yael at 225-6151.

STUDY LUNCHEON

Beth Tzedec Congregation Shabbat Study Luncheon, following services, Saturday, Sept. 9, featuring **Prof. Mark Meyerson**, department of history, University of Toronto, speaking on The Inquisitor and the Doctor. Reservations (paid) no later than Wednesday, Sept. 6. Call 781-3511. Unpaid reservations cannot be accommodated.

KADIMA CENTRE

Kadima Centre, a social recreational program comprised of varied programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Group meets at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Tuesdays for supper club 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Sundays 2-4

Continued on page 21

Jyll Rosenfeld, Fred Krohn & Jon Steil present
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Section B

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ADULT EDUCATION

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New centre: **Main Exchange Plaza,**
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Executive Director: Julius Ciss
Education Director: Rabbi Michael Skobac
Tel: 905-761-0040 Fax: 905-761-0070
E-mail: jfjciss@interlog.com
Website: www.jewsforjudaism.org
Jews for Judaism is an international educational, outreach and counselling organization dedicated to counteracting the increased efforts of evangelical Christian missionaries who are specifically targetting Jews for conversion. We provide educational programs, lectures and classes; information, literature, books and tapes as well as counselling for Jews involved in Christian belief.

KOLEL: THE ADULT CENTRE FOR LIBERAL JEWISH LEARNING
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Director: Rabbi Elyse Goldstein
Director of Outreach: Rabbi Neal Loevinger
Director of Interactive Technology: Baruch Sienna
Tel: 416-485-7007 Fax: 416-485-8831
E-mail: learn@kolel.org
Website: www.kolel.org
An adult education centre for university-age and up; dedication to in-depth serious Jewish learning for those seeking a progressive egalitarian atmosphere. Semester classes, mini-courses, lectures, retreats, all from a pluralistic and open perspective.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

BATHURST JEWISH CENTRE
4588 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1W6
Executive Director: Sherry Kulman
Tel: 416-636-1880 Fax: 416-636-5813
bjcc@on.aibn.com
The Bathurst JCC is a multi-service centre that provides social, athletic, educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages. Athletic, aquatics, music, drama, visual arts, dance, adult education, 55+, special needs, health & wellness, camps, Early Childhood educatin, Family Resource Centre, My Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum, Koffler Gallery, Leah Posluns Theatre, after school programs, kids birthday parties and more. You belong here!

BLOOR JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Executive Director: Bill Emery
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
Website: www.bloorjcc.on.ca
E-mail: bloorjcc@aol.ca
Join us at the BloorJCC; a vibrant, active downtown community based centre with over 3,000 members and 10,000 people who participate in over 450 programs, athletically and culturally. One of over 20 members of a strong and vocal Downtown Jewish Community Council, we also boast a Judaic store.

CAPE BRETON JEWISH CLUB
Contact: Dr. Philip Simon
Tel: 905-731-3072
Special Event: Thursday, September 7, 8 p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. A Musical Evening with Shirley Bernstein and Friends in honour of Dr. Philip Simon, founder of The Cape Breton Jewish Club.

JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS OF CANADA
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Acting Executive Director: Marilyn Somers
Tel: 416-787-4345 Fax: 416-785-4536
Our main goals: To represent Jewish Holocaust survivors with a unified voice, to work on behalf of survivors and help disseminate information and to seek representation at the Jewish Claims Conference on behalf of Jewish Canadian Holocaust survivors. To obtain registration forms please contact us at 416-787-4345.

JEWISH PARENTS FOR EQUALITY IN EDUCATION FUNDING
3995 Bathurst St., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5V3
Director of Operations:
Georganne Burke
Tel: 416-398-2143 Fax: 905-764-6751
JPEEF is a grass-roots parents' advocacy group whose goal is to achieve public funding for all Jewish day schools and yeshivas in Ontario equal to the amount of per-student public funding provided to the separate school system. To get involved, call (416) 398-2143.

JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL OF CANADA
638A Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 210,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 2S1
Executive Director: Penny Krowitz
Tel: 416-630-9313 Fax: 416-630-9319
E-mail: jwic@colosseum.com
JWI/C strengthens the lives of women, children and families through education, advocacy and action focusing on woman abuse and the emotional well-being of children. There are traditional and non-traditional models of membership available throughout the GTA. Call now for YOU. 416-630-9313.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF CANADA, Toronto Section
4700 Bathurst St.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2R 1W8
Executive Director: Terry S. Winston
Tel: 416-633-5100 Fax: 416-633-1956
Established in 1897, National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, is a volunteer service organization, dedicated to identifying community needs and providing leadership changes in our community. We are proud of a century of service, education and social action.

NEW ISRAEL FUND OF CANADA
801 Eglinton Ave.W., Ste. 401.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1E3
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E-mail: nifc@yesic.com
Website: http://www.nif.org
In the forefront of progressive social change the New Israel Fund is a partnership of North Americans, Israelis, and Europeans dedicated to strengthening democracy in Israel by promoting civil rights, Jewish-Arab coexistence, women's equality, religious pluralism, environmental justice, and bridging social and economic gaps.

REENA
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927 Clark Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6
Executive Director: Sandy Keshen
Tel: 905-889-6484 Fax: 905-889-3827
Website: www.reena.org
Reena is a non-profit social service agency supporting individuals with a developmental disability, and their families through residential and social work programs. Community day, evening and Sunday programs focus on recreation, education, life skill/vocational training, support and leisure. Charitable donations can be made through the Reena Foundation at 905-763-8254, ext. 3033.

TORONTO HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
Contact: Stan Federman
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www.jewishtoronto.net
No matter where Jews live in the Greater Toronto area, UJA Federation, in cooperation with community volunteers and other organizations, is responsible for fundraising, planning and co-ordinating services on their behalf. Through the Annual Campaign, endowments and capital initiatives — all key components in our community's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative — UJA Federation, backed by nearly 25,000 donors, raises millions of dollars to support an extensive network of essential services and facilities. UJA Federation also provides a strong Jewish voice on issues of urgent concern through financial support of Canadian Jewish Congress. UJA Federation departments include the Board of Jewish Education, Committee for Yiddish, Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre, Jewish Information Service and Ontario Jewish Archives. Among UJA Federation beneficiary agencies are the Bathurst Jewish Centre, BBYO, Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, Bloor Jewish Community Centre, Canadian Jewish Congress, Circle of Care (formerly Senior Care), the Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish Camp Council, Jewish Campus Services, Jewish Family & Child Service, Jewish Immigrant Aid Service, Jewish Vocational Services, Jews For Judaism, Reena, the Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa and Zareinu. UJA Federation fundraising expenses are among the lowest in North America.

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Willowdale, Ont. M2H 3J1
Tel: 416-494-7666 Fax: 416-494-2925

Danilack Centre: Middle School (Gr. 6-8)
6100 Leslie St.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2H 3J1
Middle School Principals: Rabbi P. Brumer, Jerry H. Rosenfield
Tel: 416-494-7280 Fax: 416-494-3477

Hurwich Centre
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Kamin Centre: Pre-School—Gr. 5
300 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A2
Bet Hayeled (Pre-School) Supervisors: Surie Nagel, Susan Herberman
Elementary Principals: Sandy Rabinowitz, Rabbi P. Tessler
Tel: 905-889-3998 Fax: 905-889-5183

Posluns Education Centre: Pre-School—Gr. 5
18 Neptune Dr.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 1X1
Elementary Principals:
Rosalie Sniderman, Betty Katzman
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The mission of Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto is to continue our long history of providing our students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education based on Torah values in a safe and supportive learning environment. Now in its 9th decade, Associated offers outstanding educational programs for a Pre-School-Gr. 8 student population exceeding 2,300.

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1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
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Contact: Ester Altman
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
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Education Cont'd

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Director of Education and Youth:
Dr. Daniel F. Goldberg
Tel: 416-781-3514, ext. 30
Fax: 416-781-0150
Beth Tzedec Congregational School is a supplementary school offering an exciting educational experience that encourages family involvement and inspires joy and pride in being Jewish. Classes focus on Hebrew reading, prayer, bible, holidays and customs, history, and Israel, enabling students to become active, contributing members of the Jewish community.

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12 Viewmount Ave.,
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Administrator: Sonia Shron
Tel: 416-783-3346 Fax: 416-785-8287
E-mail: bialikschool@bialik.on.ca
Serves children from JK-Grade 8, striving to provide an integrated Jewish and general education. Through our integrated program, students learn to value their Jewishness and love for Israel while developing a sense of membership in the Canadian community.

CHABAD OF DOWNTOWN TORONTO
25 Bedford Rd., Ste. 303,
Toronto, Ont. M5R 2K1
Contact: Rabbi Deitsch
Tel: 416-924-1467 Fax: 416-924-9821
The new Chabad of Downtown Toronto will make Judaism vibrant and active in the downtown area. Adults will be able to learn and appreciate their heritage. Children will be proud to be Jewish, and families living downtown will see it as an area where Judaism is as strong as in areas in and around the GTA.

CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto)
Downsview: 200 Wilmington Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 5J8
Tel: 416-636-5984 Fax: 416-636-7717
Richmond Hill: 51 Wright St.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 4A2
Tel: 905-787-8772 Fax: 905-787-8773
Headmaster: Paul J. Shaviv, MA, M.Phil
Toronto's community high school (Gr. 9-12) providing courses leading to university entrance. A comprehensive Jewish studies program is an integral part of our school, including a community service requirement. Our reputation is based on individual care for every student We offer an extensive program of sports and extra-curricular activities.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL (c/o BloorJCC)
750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Joan Schoenfeld
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail: djds@total.net
Independent school. 350 students, ages 4-18. Jr. K-12. High school Wed. 7-8:30 p.m. Special programs/features: community holiday celebration program and Oneg Shabbat dinners, adult education programs, family Israel fair. Provides students with strong sense of Jewish identity in pluralistic community.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
750 Spadina Ave., (Bloor JCC)
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
School Administrator: Doris Weisz
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail: djds@total.net
The Downtown Jewish Day School, located at the BloorJCC has use of pool, gym and after school program. We offer: excellence in education, 2 teachers/class, arts-based instruction, meaningful religious education, nurturing and child-centred environment. Free BloorJCC family membership. Spaces available in SK-Gr. 4. Enroll now, call 924-6211

GAN SHALOM PRESCHOOL
10720 Yonge St., Ste. 222,
Richmnd Hill, Ont. L4C 3C9
Director: Toby Bernstein
Tel: 905-770-4400
Gan Shalom Preschool services the Jewish community of Richmond Hill. Our warm, licensed staff teaches all about Jewish holidays and traditions, the Hebrew alphabet, and much more, through art, drama, music, puppets, and hands-on activities. 2, 3, and 5 day programs available for 2-4 year olds. For a free information package, call Mrs. Toby Bernstein at 905-770-4400.

KADIMA SCHOOL
(Beth Emeth Synagogue) 100 Elder St.,
North York, Ont. M3H 5G7
Supervisor: Galya Ouanounou
Tel: 416-638-6235 Fax: 416-631-6572
Kadima Sunday School, founded by Rabbi Joseph Kelman, offers an exciting Jewish learning experience for youth with developmental disabilities. Classes held at Beth Emeth include Hebrew study, holidays, customs and prayers. Students enjoy participating in crafts, music and community programs. A low yearly fee applies. Subsidies and transportation available.

KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL
215 Cline Avenue North,
Hamilton, Ont. L8S 4A1
Principal: Hamutal Deckel
Tel: 905-529-7725 Fax: 905-529-9694
E-mail: kehila_school@yahoo.com
Kehila is a new community day school in Hamilton committed to providing a superior education in an intensive pluralistic Jewish environment. Hebrew is a living language. Ifilla is meaningful and learning is fun. Integrated curriculum, modern methods of instruction, Multiple Intelligence, small class sizes. Grades: SK-3.

KEREN HATARBUT INSTITUTE
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Director: Joseph Klinger
Tel: 416-787-0197
Offers courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. All classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 14 sessions.

THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL
Atkinson Campus,
36 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C9

Holy Blossom Campus
1950 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K9
Director: Zita J. Gardner, M.Ed., RJE
Tel: 905-709-3636
A Reform Jewish day school where families, teachers and the community create a supportive atmosphere in which individual learning styles are addressed. Each student is prepared as a knowledgeable, practising Liberal Jew, able to participate effectively in Canadian society. Music, art, drama and computers enrich our curriculum, integrating Judaic and general studies.

MONTESSORI JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
585 Cranbrooke Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2X9
Contact: Max Dublin
Tel: 416-784-5071 Fax: 416-784-5078
E-mail:
montessori.jewish.school@sympatico.ca
Montessori means: an early start in learning; each child learns at his or her own pace; the richest learning environment in the world of education; specially trained teachers to bring out the best in your child; a non-denominational, egalitarian and inclusive Jewish school.

MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL
585 Cranbrooke Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2X9
Executive Director: Maxine Hermolin
Tel: 416-789-5502 Fax: 416-789-5981
E-mail: mws@cpol.com
More than 70 years of Progressive Humanistic Secular Jewish Education! Sunday morning classes, ages 4-13. Jewish identity & heritage explored through Yiddish culture, Jewish history, literature, music, folk dance, drama & art with a social justice perspective. Family/community-oriented holiday celebrations. Graduation marked by Secular Bar-Bat Mitzvah. Youth Leadership Training Program plus youth activities and projects.

OR HAEMET SEPHARDIC SCHOOL
7026 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8K3
Principal: Mrs. Sarah Wasserman
Tel: 905-669-7653 Fax: 905-669-5138
Provides a Torah education in accordance with Sephadic Jewish practice, and a quality Hebrew, French and General Studies curriculum. Full day preschool (age 3) includes a special enriched Jr. Grade 1 program (age 5) to Jr. High. Our impressive new campus, featuring a Bet Medrash, pool, gym, high-tech computer and modern science labs contribute to enhancing the students' overall school experience.

PLAYLEARN PRESCHOOL INC.
9741 Bayview Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9X7
Director: Mrs. Necha Jakubowicz
Tel: 905-737-3336 Fax: 905-886-0059
Maintaining a low teacher/student ratio, the individual needs and progress of each child is ensured. The warm nurturing atmosphere and carefully thought-out programming fosters socialization skills, builds self-esteem and allows each child to reach his/her fullest potential. The joys of being Jewish are carefully transmitted through hands-on activities, forming an awareness and love for people and Eretz Israel.

PRIDE OF ISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL
59 Lissom Cres.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2R 2P2
School Bd. Chairperson: Paul Caplin
Tel: 905-738-4511 Fax: 905-761-0733
The Pride of Israel Hebrew School (affiliated with Pride of Israel Synagogue) is a fully functioning Conservative educational program in the Bathurst & Steeles area. The school welcomes students from the ages of 5 yrs. old, has a full Bar and Bat Mitzvah component, and an excellent weekly Junior Congregation service.

SHAAR SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Principal: Karen L. Goodis, RJE
Location: Thornhill Secondary School. **Tel: 905-889-0987 Fax: 905-889-1575**
Kindergarten, Sunday; Gr. 1-2, twice weekly; Gr. 3-7, three times weekly; Gr. 8 Judaica program. Highlights: family education, winter arts program, music, emphasis on synagogue skills and remediation available. We are committed to providing children with the tools to become committed adult Jews. Affiliated with BJE and United Synagogue of Conservaive Judaism.

SWEET BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL
949 CLARK AVE. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6
Principal: Joyce Tradburks
Tel: 905-764-7671 Fax: 905-764-1606
A licensed pre-school which boasts excellent teachers, small classes and well-equipped classrooms. Our program fosters positive Jewish identity while catering to the individual developmental needs of each child. Our enriched curriculum includes: music, drama, creative movement, science, crafts, fine/gross motor activities, lots of fun, hands-on experiences!

TORONTO JEWISH ACADEMY
OHR MENACHEM
8808 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Principal: Henya Schechter
Tel: 905-881-1800 Fax: 416-630-8110
Web: www.tjaom.org
Day school for SK-Gr. 8, TJA is passionate about education. We pride ourselves on our highly qualified educators, individualized attention and exceptional academic program which stimulates students and drives them to excel. Children enjoy Judaic studies in English, our innovative math and science program and exciting extra-curricular program (art, music, chess and sports). We welcome your inquiries.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL
Administation House:
3072 Bayview Ave.
Head of School: Lucy Cohen

Bathurst Campus
1700 Bathurst St.

Bayview Campus,
3080 Bayview Ave.

Richmond Hill Campus,
9711 Bayview Ave.

Tel: 416-224-8737, ext. 137
Fax: 416-225-9108

JK - Grade 8. Offers a warm, stimulating, Jewish environment where students can develop socially, cognitively, physically and emotionally. Quality general and Jewish studies programs integrating computers, creative arts, music, physical education and family education. Teaching strategies enable students to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Association: Conservative movement.

ZAREINU EDUCATIONAL CENTRE
7026 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8K3
Principal: Carol Goldman
Tel: 905-738-5542 Fax: 905-738-8047
Zareinu meets the needs of children birth to 13 years. Specially trained staff provides educational, therapy and home support to children with a wide spectrum of challenges, such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, language disorders and learning disabilities. Zareinu strives to help ech child be the best they can be.

Funeral Chapels

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
2401 Steeles Ave. W.,
North York, Ont. M3J 2P1
Contact: Michael Chas Benjamin
Tel: 416-663-9060 Fax: 416-663-9417
E-mail: info@bpmc.on.ca
We are part of the fabric that binds together the Toronto Jewish community, even in times of sorrow and stress. Four generations of the Benjamin family have provided support to bereaved Jewish families. We devote ourselves to upholding Jewish law and traditions, a responsibility we regard as a sacred trust.

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Lawrence Scheinman
Tel: 416-780-0596 Fax: 416-780-0638
When economy is a major consideration, you should know that Hebrew Basic Burial offers the lowest interment costs available from any Jewish establishment. Guaranteed. Families who have used Hebrew Basic Burial's services have all found that dignity and observance of Jewish law were exactly as they should be. Hebrew Basic Burial - a non-profit organization.

STEELES MEMORIAL CHAPEL
350 Steeles Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 1A1
Managing Funeral Director:
Carol P. Saucier
Tel: 905-881-6003 Fax: 905-881-8539
The Toronto Jewish community has, for over 70 years, entrusted us with its most sacred and important task. We accept your trust with a measure of humility and a great sense of responsibility. As a community run organization we have established a tradition of tzedaka towards organizations in the city and in Israel.

Israel Based Organizations

AID TO DISABLED VETERANS OF ISRAEL BEIT HALOCHEM CANADA
3101 Bathurst St., 4th floor,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Tel: 416-787-8950 1-800-355-1648
Fax: 416-787-1097
E-mail: bhcan@interlog.com
Web site: www.interlog.com/~bhcan
Beit Halochem Canada assists disabled Israeli veterans and their families rehabilitate themselves physically and emotionally. Four state of the art facilities in Israel offer a comprehensive range of services to disabled members including medicine, hydrotherapy, physical therapy, creative and athletic activities. Please help ensure that these programs continue for our Israeli heroes.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 201,
North York, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496
Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
The Association is: the only civilian group whose programs make the life of every soldier on active duty in Israel's Defence Forces a little easier; co-ordinating its projects with the IDF to meet each soldier's recreational, educational and emotional needs; making army service more pleasant for every soldier; showing we care.

CANADA-ISRAEL CULTURAL FOUNDATION
2221 Yonge St., Ste. 502,
Toronto, Ont. M4S 2B4
Administraive Assistant: Cheryl Coplevitch
Tel: 416-932-2260 Fax: 416-482-8281
Founded in 1963, the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation fosters the growth of artistic activities in Israel and encourages cultural interchange between Canada and Israel to promote mutual respect for the universal values shared by both countries. A quotation by Aura Herzog epitomizes the activities of the CICF and is used as its motto: "...culture is Israel's bridge to the world never permitting us to be isolated." For futher information or to make a tax-deductible donation contact CICF at: 416-932-2260

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF EZRATH NASHIM - HERZOG HOSPITAL
3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 606,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Tel: 416-256-4222 Fax: 416-256-1446
E-mail: herzoghosp@better.net
Israel's foremost centre for geriatric and psychiatric health care, Herzog Hospital combines exceptional medical care with outstanding research and achievements. With over 100 years of experience in the effects of advancing age and mental instability, the best medical technologies combined with professional expertise, compassion and care. Donations are tax deductible.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF GIVAT HAVIVA
1111 Finch Ave. W., Ste. 456,
Downsview, Ont. M3J 2E5
Tel: 416-736-9655 Fax: 416-736-1405
Supports Givat Haviva, one of Israel's leading centres promoting democracy, tolerance and mutual respect between

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS cont'd

ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS cont'd

Israel's diverse communities; integrating new immigrants; presenting Holocaust workshops; developing community access to art and the media. Canadians can play a direct and personal role by supporting Givat Haviva's internationally acclaimed programs.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF LANIADO HOSPITAL
3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 600,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Executive Director: Noreen Azoulay
Tel: 416-785-8946 Fax: 416-785-9236
E-mail: laniado@better.net
Laniado Hospital serves over 250,000 people in Netanya and is the only Israeli hospital with a no-strike policy. Laniado's highest standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness. Due to the urgent need for expansion, the Israeli Government is providing matching funding. Supporting Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, will achieve this goal.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY
3080 Yonge St., Ste. 5024,
Toronto, Ont. M4N 3N1
Tel: 416-485-8000 Fax: 416-485-8565
E-mail: inquiry@cfhu.org
We are proud to present *"The Best of Hebrew U"*, highlighting the faculty and achievements of The Hebrew University. Join us Sat., Sept. 23 for a festive evening featuring *Michael Burgess* of *"Les Mis"* and Sun., Sept. 24 for a full day conference featuring HU faculty and academics.

THE CANADIAN SHAARE ZEDEK HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
3089 Bathurst St., Ste. 205,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A4
National Executive Director:
Sheila Dropkin
Tel: 416-781-3584 1-800-387-3595
Fax: 416-781-6439
E-mail: csz@idirect.com
The foundation represents Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem's "Hospital With A Heart." Our groups and committees offer rewarding and self-fulfilling activities for people of all ages. Our all-occasion cards and certificates, Jewish New Year cards and place cards for simchot provide supporters with an opportunity to honor friends and family.

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
45 Sheppard Ave. E., Ste. 218,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 5W9
Proram Co-ordinator: Sheri Federman
Tel: 416-733-9220 Fax: 416-733-9430
The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science has played a leading role in supporting the Weizmann Institute since 1964. The Weizmann Institute's 2,500 scientists, graduate students and technicians, pursue 1,000 basic research projects to fight disease and hunger, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life for mankind.

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Executive Director: Marilyn Somers
Tel: 416-785-1333 Fax: 416-785-4536
E-mail: ydvashem@istar.ca
We are a non-profit, volunteer organization, which seeks to link all those who wish to identify with Holocaust education and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. A Young Leadership group ages 25-45 has been formed. A memorial wall is being built at the Monument in Earl Bales Park.

CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Ntl. Exec. Director: Cheryl Koperwas
Dir. of Development: Rosie Sosnowicz
Tel: 416-789-4545 Fax: 416-789-0255
E-mail: info@cdntech.org
National fundraising and education arm for Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's oldest university. Supports faculty recruitment and promotes academic exchange between Technion and Canadian universities, provides information for undergraduate and graduate studies, raises funds for scholarships and research projects.

CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-781-6089 Fax: 416-785-7687
Montreal tel: 514-735-0272
Sar-el is a voluntary, non-political organization providing Diaspora Jews with the opportunity to directly help Israel. Most volunteers are between 18 and 65. They work and live for 18 days on IDF maintenance bases. Room and board supplied. Many extras.

THE CANADIAN ZIONIST CULTURAL ASSOC.
788 Marlee Ave. , Ste. 201
North York, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496
Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
The Association offers its facilities without charge for social and education programs for young people and new immigrants in Israel; sponsors holiday camps for widows and orphans of soldiers providing psychological and group support; grants university scholarships and sponsors refresher courses for required university entrance tests to applicants having fulfilled national service.

CANADIAN ZIONIST FEDERATION, CENTRAL REGION
3995 Bathurst St., Ste. 300,
North York, Ont. M3H 5V3
Tel: 416-633-3988 Fax: 416-633-4382
The official Canadian representative of the World Zionist Organization, the CZF umbrella brings together 19 national constituent organizations whose vision is a strong and vibrant Jewish life in Canada. Its mission is the promotion of Jewish culture, education, aliyah and strengthening the ties between Israel and Canada.

EMUNAH WOMEN OF TORONTO
3768 Bathurst St., Ste. 308,
North York, Ont. M3H 3M7
Tel: 416-636-0036 Fax: 416-636-0039
E-mail: lteperman@yahoo.com
A Torah Zionist organization, standing proud of its accomplishments. Under Emunah's auspices, over 170 educational and social facilities meet the ever-increasing physical and spiritual needs of diverse communities in Israel. Emunah offers a variety of programs and events throughout the year for the community, which both entertain and educate.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
4600 Bathurst St., Ste. 238,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3
President: Sandy Posluns
Shaliach: Col. Yaen Vered
Executive Director: Ben Prossin
Tel: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345
Best recognized as the organization which has planted forests, parks and trees in Israel. It really does much more - builds roads, constructs dams and reservoirs, develops land infrastructure for new immigrant housing, prepares recreation and tourist sites, and conducts research with regard to various ecological concerns. Donors to JNF receive receipts for income tax purposes.

NA'AMAT CANADA
272 Codsell Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3X2
Tel: 416-636-5425 Fax: 416-636-5248
E-mail: naamatca@aol.com
web: www.naamat.com
A dynamic fighter for women's rights in Israel and Canada. Na'amat Israel, with 450,000 members, has dramatically affected lives of women by providing child care, high schools, shelters and counselling centres for family abuse and legal advisory clinics. In Canada, Na'amat sponsors Bialik Hebrew Day School, Camp Gesher, Habonim-Dror Zionist Youth Movement, a Free Legal Aid Advisory Clinic and provides school supplies for childen living in shelters.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SYNAGOGUE YOUTH (NCSY)
7000 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7L1
Regional Director: Rabbi Glenn Black
Tel: 905-761-6279 (NCSY)
Fax: 905-761-9115
E-mail: ncsy@ncsy.ca
Website: www.ncsy.ca
NCSY is the most active Jewish youth movement in the world. We emphasize the beauty of Jewish traditions and values through an informal but structured approach. We offer trips, social events, shabbatonim and much more. We welcome all students regardless of background, Jewish knowledge or affiliation to our 2 divisions (jr. high & high school).

TORONTO HADASSAH-WIZO
638A Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 209,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2S1
Co-ordinator: Louise Rosenbloom
President: Carol Lou Spiegel
Tel: 416-630-8373 Fax:416-630-2370
Toronto Hadassah-WIZO is dedicated to enhancing lives in Israel's communities and promoting women's issues in Canada. It supports projects in Israel — healthcare services, day care centres, education and career training, women and youth services. Locally it supports shelters for women, families in need, healthcare and promotes women's issues and education.

MONUMENT COMPANIES

BENJAMIN'S LANDMARK MONUMENTS
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Michael Levitt
Tel: 416-780-0635 Fax: 416-780-0638
Benjamin's Landmark Monuments is Toronto's foremost Jewish monument dealer, continuing the proud tradition of service associated with the Benjamin family name. As the only Jewish monument dealer in Ontario authorized by Rock of Ages to distribute the "Sealmark" granite with the perpetual warranty, our monument counselors can assist you in preparing an honoured memorial of unsurpassed quality.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG MONUMENTS
3173 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2B1
Tel: 416-789-0319 Fax: 416-787-0310
For over 80 years Izenberg Goldberg Monuments has provided the Jewish community of Toronto with excellent quality memorials at the most reasonable possible price. Our granite is carefully selected from quarries the world over, and all lettering and design work is now done in our own North York factory under our direct supervision.

STONECRAFT MONUMENTS
121 Brisbane Rd., Unit 1,
Downsview, Ont. M3J 2K3
Contact: David Friedman, Shai Lobart
Tel: 416-667-1474 Fax: 416-667-1470
Serving the Jewish community for many years, Stonecraft Monuments provides factory direct prices and sensitive, considerate service to their customers. Monuments using the finest granite can be made available within one week.

YAD VASHEM AT LANDMARK
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Akiva Balter
Tel: 416-782-8995 Fax: 416-780-0638
A monument should reflect the characteristics and values of the deceased. It is a tribute from a family who appreciated and recognized the uniqueness of the individual. Yad Vashem Monuments has been personalizing memorials by combining traditional inscriptions and innovative designs for over 20 years.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION
37 Southbourne Ave.,
North York, Ont. M3H 1A4
Administrator: Sheila Starkman
Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629
A dynamic family-oriented synagogue in North York. Daily minyanim, shabbat and festival services. Hebrew School, with special program for Gr. 8 & 9. Religious, social and educational programs for youth, families and seniors. Active Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Beautiful social halls, COR catering by ZB Catering Ltd. New members welcome.

ADATH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE
864 Sheppard Ave. W.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 2T5
Contact: Marilyn Starkman
Tel: 416-635-0131 Fax: 416-635-0953
A warm, friendly and family-oriented Conservative Synagogue, encompassing over 350 families, and offering a range of activities which include "haimishe" daily minyans, Friday night, Shabbat and festival services led by Cantor Marshall Loomer, sisterhood and brotherhood, and exclusive newly renovated catering services by Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers. New members are most welcome.

ANSHEI MINSK SYNAGOGUE
10 St. Andrew St. (Kensington Market),
Toronto, Ont., M5T 1K6
Contact: Rabbi Shmuel Spero
Tel: 416-595-5723
Morning and evening services daily and on Shabbat. The beautifully restored sanctuary glows with warmth and tradition. Please join our weekly Friday night dinners, Shabbat lunches, and a variety of educational and family programming. Our spirited shul community fosters a Judaism that is grounded yet spiritual, traditional and creative.

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE AND HEBREW SCHOOL
9711 Bayview Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9X7
Principal: Haia Hason
Tel: 905-770-7639 Fax: 905-770-5635
Website: www.beitrayim.org
Beit Rayim is a warm, family oriented Conservative Egalitarian Shul. Great adult education and youth programs. Discounts for new members. Our Hebrew school K-Gr. 8, innovative programs enrich the Jewish life of each student. Curriculum includes Hebrew language, holidays, Bible, Israel, prayer, music, history. Certified by BJE and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Grads qualify for Bar/Bat in any Conservative Synagogue. 2 days program (Thurs. & Sun.).

BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION
55 Yeomans Rd.,
North York, Ont. M3H 3J7
Executive Director: Miriam Telem
Tel: 416-633-5500 Fax: 416-633-1740
E-mail: mtelem@netcom.ca
Join us in welcoming in Rosh Hashanah (5761) and discover why our members keep coming back week-in and week-out. Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am is a vibrant, traditional Conservative Synagogue where community is embraced. Contact Miriam Telem for further information - she will be pleased to answer your questions.

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE
100 Elder St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5G7
Contact: Dr. Irving Pisarek or
Mrs. Andrea Levine
Tel: 416-633-3838 Fax: 416-633-3153
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue fosters a full and joyous way of intergenerational life proudly rooted in a heritage of traditional conservative Judaism. We are committed to Jewish values, education, spiritual well-being and community as we build for the future on the foundations of our past.

BETH RADOM CONGREGATION
18 Reiner Rd.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 2K9
Administrator: Anne Wolle
Tel: 416-636-3451 Fax: 416-636-1042
A Conservative Congregation under the religious leadership of Rabbi David Bagley. Daily Minyanim, Shabbat and High Holiday services. Kosher kitchen under auspices of Kashruth Council able to cater up to 350 people. A family-oriented Shul with warmth and camaraderie.

BETH TORAH CONGREGATION
47 Glenbrook Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 2L7
Contact: Debbie Gladstone
Tel: 416-782-4495 Fax 416-782-4496
E-mail: www.beth-torah.on.ca
A traditional shul in existence for over 36 years. "The best kept secret in town." We are family, child and guest friendly. We offer a full range of events for adults and children. "The way shul can be — up close and personal." Catering under COR by Abe Levy. Handicapped friendly.

B'NAI SHALOM NORTH CONGREGATION
275 Arnold Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 1C3
Tel: 905-731-2797
Rabbi - Chazzan Solomon Domb's "Davening" inspires congregational singing and participation during High Holy Day services at the Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 501 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. Enjoy family seating with youths 6-17 yrs. in the main hall, or in a separate youth service. Nursery for 2-5 yr. olds provided. Also, catering facilities at the synagogue all year under the COR.

BOROCHOV CULTURAL CENTRE & KOL YISROEL CONGREGATION
272 Codsell Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2
President: Dave Newman
Tel: 416-630-9444 Fax: 416-630-9451
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CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFORM JUDAISM
36 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C9
Director: Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel
Tel: 905-709-2275 Fax: 905-709-1895
Canadian national office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing over 850 synagogues throughout North America, promotes liberal Judaism through synagogue support, outreach, youth programs, Jewish camping, adult and child education, social action.

CONGREGATION BINA
PO/CP 92127, 2900 Warden Ave.,
Scarborough, Ont. M1W 3Y8
Tel: 416-491-9109
Contact: Fleur Samson
Tel: 416-491-6363
The main objective of Congregation BINA, a non-profit organization for Jews from India, is to assist, maintain, and promote traditional religious, social, cultural, and educational activities among its members. Each year, High Holy Day Services and social gatherings are held, and a quarterly news bulletin, *Contact*, is published.

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15 Hove St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y8
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Fax: 416-789-9697
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Membership Committee: Francine or Susan (Secretary)
Tel: 905-709-2620 Fax: 905-709-4535
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Tel: 416-789-7670 Fax: 416-789-3372
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E-mail: hfuterman@ujafed.org
Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa has assisted thousands of families by providing interest-free loans for personal, educational and business purposes. We are proud of the role we play in making these positive changes for our community members. Please contact the offices of Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa for more information.

Universities

CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES, YORK UNIVERSITY
241 Vanier College, 4700 Keele St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3J 1P3
Director: Prof. Michael Brown
Tel: 416-736-5823 Fax: 416-736-5344
E-mail: michaelb@uyorku.ca
York U. offers Jewish Studies courses ranging from ancient Israel and Hebrew language to Holocaust, contemporary Canadian Jewry and Jewish Teacher Education. Programs include BA, BEd, graduate degrees and the Advanced Certificate in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. York's Centre for Jewish Studies co-ordinates academic programs, research projects and community outreach.

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
15 King's College Circle,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 3H7
Administrator: Estelle Morganstein
Tel: 416-978-8118 Fax: 416-971-2027
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Mail Stop 037, Brandeis University,
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Program Co-ordinator:
Julie Shumofsky Chivo
Tel: 781-736-2999 Fax: 781-736-2070
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3200 S. University Dr.,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328
Program Director: Leah Nof, PhD
Tel: 954-262-1276 or 800-356-0026, ext. 1276
E-mail: nofl@nova.edu
Nova Southeastern University, Florida's largest independent university, is offering a Master of Physical Therapy program in Israel beginning January, 2001. Graduates of the program can take either the US or Israeli board examination. For more information, contact Program Director, Leah Nof.

What will we be when we grow up?

EDITORIAL

I am going to be a grandmother this winter. When I heard the news, a whirligig of emotions started swirling around in my head.

First, needless to say, I am entirely too young to be a grandmother. My daughter is certainly too young to be a mother – wasn't it just a week or so ago that she was making mudpies? Time is going just too fast.

When I had worked through these feelings, the worries started. Oh, not about my daughter. She will be a great mother, and the baby will grow up in a home full of love, laughter, learning and the joy of religious observance. But what kind of a grandmother will I be? Is there a book that can teach me what to do?

Then more serious considerations start to surface. What kind of world will this baby be born into? We constantly worry about the environment, overpopulation, global warming, world peace and especially peace in Israel. But what about closer to home?

Sometimes, when we look around us, the world can seem very bleak. Violence, especially among the young, seems to be increasing. There are homeless people on downtown streets. We think twice and three times about whether to let our youngsters travel on public transportation.

This is very different from when those of my generation were growing up. Toronto then was a safe place. We took pride in the clean streets, strong moral values, dignity and good manners that were everywhere.

And the Jewish community? Well, of course, that was the same. Jewish men never beat their wives. Child abuse was something "they" did, never us. Poverty didn't exist, and if it did, it was quickly, discreetly and respectfully dealt with. And everyone knew that Jewish kids were never involved in criminal activity, just as Jewish schools, organizations and communal workers were free of any unhealthy influences.

Kosher, in relation to the food industry, meant that the business, besides adhering strictly to the letter of the Jewish law, had the highest level of cleanliness.

We know now that many of these ideas, in both the secular and the Jewish worlds, were myths. Much was going on in the underbelly of the city that only surfaced much much later. Jews are subject to the same stresses as anybody else and are quite capable of behaving, well, the same as everybody else.

As the Jewish community grows bigger and stronger and more affluent, not to mention more accepted into general society (one of us is even running for vice-president of the most powerful nation on earth), we can't help but become more like everyone else.

In the past year, the Toronto Jewish community has been rocked out of its complacency by the murder of a Jewish teenager in a North York park, a stabbing in the parking lot of a Jewish school, and news of a charismatic youth leader in another city who for many years physically, sexually and emotionally abused youngsters he came into contact with, while the powers that be did nothing.

Several highly respected kosher establishments were closed or cautioned for health code violations.

And what about religion? Everyone knows that Jews, whatever their squabbles over non-essentials, come together in times of crisis, especially when that crisis is in Israel. But is that still true?

The media, the synagogue and the kosher supermarkets echo with heated discussions about the peace process in Israel, the future of Jerusalem, debates between the different branches of Judaism, and tension between different parts of the same branches.

Youngsters from one school system often not only do not associate to any great degree with those of another system, but are actively scornful of them. Religious leaders who visit from other places schedule separate meetings with separate parts of the community.

We don't like to admit that this is the way things are. But they are. The Community Focus supplement, the first of the new century, discusses many of these issues. It also shines a spotlight on what some people are doing to make the city a better place in which to live.

And there are wonderful people around who are doing exciting and innovative things. There are thoughtful people who are voices of reason and common sense.

So maybe I don't have to worry so much about my grandchild. Maybe I just have to figure out how to spoil him or her without his or her parents finding out. Maybe by the time that grandchild grows up, the community will also have grown up and become a place where there is genuine caring, compassion and tolerance. Perhaps he or she will be one of those who bring to fruition these positive ideals. That would truly be a blessing.

—L.S.

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

New approach to tuition subsidies

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

A mandate task force committee of the Board of Jewish Education (BJE) has developed a new approach to determining tuition subsidies for Toronto day schools.

The committee dropped the current method of using a formula to establish the amount of money each day school would receive from the UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto, in favour of a simpler approach.

Marshall Kesten

The goal is to eliminate discrepancies in student subsidies from school to school.

The task force, which met for more than two years, analysed the decade-old system of determining tuition subsidies and examined the changing needs in the community. The committee produced a report titled *Formula School Funding*, which presents a number of recommendations based on a voucher funding model and a loan program.

The recommendations were recently approved by UJA FEDERATION's board of directors and will be introduced in the upcoming school term.

The new system will be calculated using an across-the-board average cost per student. This will require fewer resources to administer than the present system and eliminate funding according to a complex formula based on individual school per capita costs.

"With the changes, every student who requires subsidization will be subsidized at the same level," says Marshall Kesten, chair of the BJE's mandate task force committee.

"From the parents' standpoint, nothing should really change. What this will do, however, is simplify the system at a school level."

Since 1990, Kesten says, average day school tuitions have increased 35 percent. "This has caused some parents to withdraw their children from the Jewish school system."

He notes that the task force committee recommended that UJA FEDERATION give priority to raising the cap on the amount of tuition subsidies. The BJE will form a committee to review the guidelines, with particular focus on middle class families who are feeling the financial strain of school tuitions.

The tuition committee process, which assesses a family's eligibility for subsidies, will continue to be done at the school level. The BJE will redirect resources that were used to administer the previous funding formula to ensure that the tuition committee process is consistent from school to school.

The task force also recommended that a $250,000 to $500,000 pilot project loan program for parents be established. Loans could be offered to supplement subsidies for middle income families as an incentive to keep their children in the system. This funding would come from outside the federation.

Kesten emphasizes the need to make it clear to families in receipt of subsidies that UJA FEDERATION is funding them.

Some of the principles of funding established by the mandate committee are:

- No child should be deprived of a day school education because of a family's inability to pay.
- The primary responsibility for paying for the cost of the child's education rests with the family.
- The determination of financial need for families should be established in a consistent and fair manner irrespective of the school to which they wish to send their children.
- Funding by UJA FEDERATION should promote access to the system to the greatest extent possible and should encourage families to have their children stay in the system as long as possible.

Ve'ahavta

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YOM KIPPUR	Sunday	Oct. 8, Kol Nidrei - 6:30 p.m.
	Monday	Oct. 9 - 9 a.m. Yizkor - 12 Noon
SUKKOTH	Fri. & Sat.	Oct. 13, 14 - 6:30 p.m.
	Sat. & Sun.	Oct. 14, 15 - 9 a.m.
HOSHANA RABBAH	Friday	Oct. 20 - 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
SHEMINI ATZERETH	Saturday	Oct. 21 - 9:00 a.m. Yizkor 10:45 a.m.
SIMCHAT TORAH	Saturday	Oct. 21 - 6:15 p.m.
	Sunday	Oct. 22 - 9 a.m.

FOR TICKETS CALL
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The Toronto Council for Reform Judaism wishes you a Shana Tova. May it be God's will to renew for us a good and sweet year.

Those who pray with the community will have their prayers granted - Talmud, Beracholt 8a

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Temple Sinai	Wilson Ave., E. of Bathurst St.	416-487-4161
Temple Emanu-El	Old Colony Rd., Bayview/401	416-449-3880
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Young Jews in search of community

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

An assemblage of Toronto's young Jews has coalesced for a Thursday night rendezvous, otherwise known as a "Jew-Do."

Sauntering around a gaudy dance club is a motley crew of young men and women, immaculately dressed in the latest trends: colourful tight shirts, capri pants for the women and khakis for the men.

If you manage to get past the fashion show, fake hellos and the abundance of superficial pop culture, the setting seems to be a pantheon for young adult Jews to seek out a Jewish mate and get connected with the community.

I'm going to go out on a limb here and suggest that this Jewish *scene*, which I confess I am a part of, is not exactly what our grandparents have in mind when they speak about finding a bashert.

Somehow I can't imagine anyone's bubbie recommending donning tight shirts and dancing to reggae music as the best way to find that special someone.

Nor is simply spending an evening with a large number of Jews the most profound way to connect with the Jewish community.

But for many young Jews, the most immediate and perhaps the primary expression of one's Jewishness comes in the form of socializing with other Jews. Nothing more, nothing less.

There are also other young Jews who do not frequent dance clubs, but do have an affinity for music and a thirst for spirituality.

Just look at the droves of Jews who flock to Phish concerts, seeking some sort of borderline religious experience while listening to the band jam for hours.

Or take note of the number of young Jews who zealously read Buddhist philosophy and embrace the various Eastern religions. I have heard estimates that suggest that fully one-quarter of Buddhists in America today are Jews.

The Jews in the night clubs and the Jews at Buddhist temples and Phish shows may be seeking different sources of pleasure, but ultimately, each group is demonstrating a hunger for music and a desire to be part of a community.

Music and community seem to be quintessential aspects of Judaism and the Jewish people.

So what does all of this mean? Young Jews probably do not realize this, but they are searching for common things – catchy music, a sense of belonging to a community, and spirituality.

If more Jewish outreach programs started to take note of what young Jews really yearn for and catered to those desires, then perhaps young Jews would recognize they are indeed connected to a community.

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Our cover gives a taste of what's happening in our Community Focus supplement.

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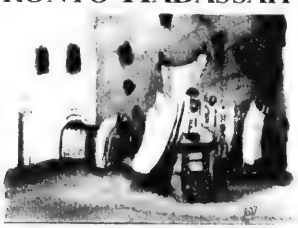

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Perception of violence worse than reality, officials say

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

In the aftermath of reports of subway swarmings, the murder of Matti Baranovski and the stabbing of a teenager at a school dance, one might be excused for thinking that life in Toronto is fraught with danger.

Even more concern was generated by seemingly random attacks on people in the Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue area of the city. The sight of wanted posters tacked up in apartment buildings only reinforced that concern.

The question is whether this perception is accurate.

Norm Gardner

Toronto councillor Norm Gardner, chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, doesn't think so.

By and large, he told *The CJN* in an interview at his office at Metro Police Headquarters, although there certainly is crime here, as there is in any big city, Toronto is basically "a safe city."

Some of the fear comes from the fact that Toronto has a large percentage of aging people. "As people become older, they become more vulnerable," Gardner said. "This vulnerability heightens their anxiety, which makes them perceive either that the danger is greater than it is, or that they are more at risk of becoming a victim."

Most physical injury, he said, "happens among people who know each other, and in gang-related incidents. If you are not involved, there is not much likelihood of anything happening to you."

But you should still use common sense, he said. "Don't walk alone, especially at night. Don't take shortcuts. Use wide, well-lit sidewalks to get to where you are going."

What is a major problem, Gardner said, especially in middle class and affluent areas, is car theft.

"Fifteen thousand vehicles are stolen every year," he said, and "certain areas where there is a large Jewish population will have cars stolen – just like in other middle and upper-middle-class areas."

The murder of Matti Baranovski last fall "by a group of mean-spirited youngsters who viciously kicked him to death," brought the issue of youth violence to the forefront of the attention of the Jewish community.

As he frequently does, Gardner lambasted the Young Offenders' Act, which, he charged, "protects youth to a significant degree."

Very little danger to Jews comes from anti-Semites, he said.

Anti-Semites are "very careful about making physical attacks on people, including on Jews. Most are involved in charges already and are waiting for a court date, so they are trying to keep away from physical situations."

While some seem to blame Russian immigrants for crime, there is little evidence to show that this is true, Gardner said, although "there is some east European crime, and probably some Jews are involved in that," he said.

People come to Canada from all over the world, he said. Often their records have been expunged, and no one knows of their less-than-pristine background.

Continued on page B33

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Protecting our children:

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

The teenage girl sits impassively, staring straight ahead, sometimes toying with a pen. She waits outside the office of her high school's principal, who is conferring with a social worker from Jewish Family & Child Service. The two want to get to the bottom of the girl's recent unruly behaviour. Earlier, the girl, 14 and Jewish, had been suspended for three days for drinking. Now, she's alleged that her father had shoved her.

That was enough for JF&CS to be called in. Weighing the allegation against meticulously coded standards on which all social workers rely, and which were amended earlier this year, the agency determined this could be a case of physical abuse.

The emergency call is being handled by Cara Malen, an 11-year veteran of child protection and a contract worker for JF&CS. "You either love this work or hate it," Malen says en route to the girl's school. "I love the newness of every situation. I like the adrenaline rush."

Some, like Malen, may thrive on the buzz, but front-line social workers who specialize in child protection – even in the Jewish community – face enormous stress, not the least of which are situations that range from the merely unpleasant to the gruesome.

"We see a lot of cases of inappropriate discipline from parents," says Malen. "Sometimes, we hear from kids who are afraid to go home. My first instinct is always to believe the child.

"I've seen some pretty horrible things," says the mother of three. "It's stressful work, but we keep doing it. I mean, these kids could be your neighbours."

***

Of the 45 social workers at JF&CS, nine are engaged in child protection.

"It's extremely stressful and demanding and people tend to burn out," concedes the agency's executive director, Gordon Wolfe. But ironically – and tragically – it's the area of social work in which agencies are doing the most hiring.

"The social work jobs today are in child protection," says Wolfe. "All agencies are looking for staff, partly because there's more business, but also because of changing standards."

Often, Wolfe says, qualified people are hard to hold onto and burnout in this area has not spared JF&CS. In the span of three months earlier this year, three of its social workers quit – all of them in the child protection area. Wolfe calls that "significant."

Because of government funding cutbacks to social service agencies, especially over the last five years, child protection workers find they must stay in the field longer because other opportunities have dried up, Wolfe notes.

"But we try to provide other opportunities," he adds, "to balance the stress with other assignments. However, I don't believe it's as stressful here as at other agencies."

Continued on page B11

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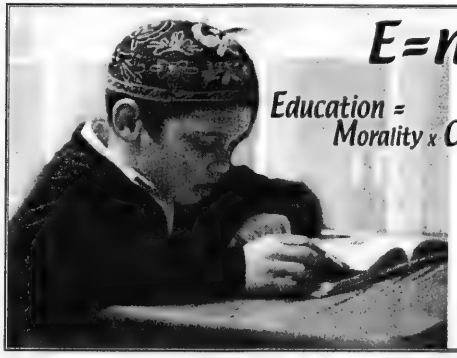

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Frontline social workers face stress, burnout

Continued from page B10

JF&CS was accorded Children's Aid Society status in 1980, putting it on par with the large agencies, notably, the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and the Catholic Children's Aid Society. All those are empowered to move proactively, with or without parents' permission, to counsel, intervene, and in extreme cases, actually seize children in danger.

Last year, JF&CS investigated just over 400 allegations of child abuse in the Jewish community – better than one a day. Of those, about a quarter wound up in the courts. Wolfe believes that proportionally, there are fewer allegations of child abuse in the Jewish community than in the general population, but the numbers are still alarmingly high, and social workers' nerves are frayed from the workload and the horrors of witnessing child abuse.

Professionals often must work around 'shame factor'

Mainly, the work of child protection specialists falls into two general areas: investigating allegations, and ongoing monitoring, followups and going to court. Burnout starts, Wolfe says, when a social worker begins to feel that his or her personal life is spiralling out of control.

Abuse too falls into several categories: physical, emotional, sexual. The agency fields calls from kids all the time. "Calls from children are taken very seriously," Wolfe says.

At last count, there were 86 children who are Crown wards in the protection of JF&CS. In turn, they break down into various definitions of temporary care, those in foster care, as well as troubled teens and special needs children in continued care.

Sometimes it's the parents who can't control their kids; sometimes it's the parents who are out of control. Sometimes, it's both.

***

Malen is through talking with the principal and the girl. As with almost all cases of this nature, there's more here than meets the eye.

The girl is one of three children of an immigrant Russian couple. She had already been kicked out of a Jewish day school for smoking, and her behaviour of late has been difficult, even for a teenager. "She may just be trying to fit in," explains Malen, "but the kid needs help. She's been acting out a lot."

As for the parents in this incident, "they lost it. The father is quick to anger."

Malen's followup will consist of discussing with the parents which school the girl should attend next academic year, as well as a strong caution: violence isn't the answer.

Malen terms this call "routine." She feels it isn't necessary to take further action, and is confident the girl's behaviour can be nipped in the bud.

Her next assignment: looking into allegations that a father beat his 4½ year-old son in a nasty custody battle.

All in a day's work.

***

There was nothing routine about Chana's six-month stint as a child protection worker at JF&CS. Armed with a master's degree in social work, Chana (not her real name) had her life threatened by her client's boyfriend after she apprehended the client's two children, who were in the boyfriend's care at the time.

"He had various restraining orders against him, and I heard he had access to a gun."

What did police do?

"Not much," she sighs. "They advised me to get out of town. So I went into hiding. I didn't go home for two weeks. I didn't drive my car for a month. I changed my licence plate."

Chana quit her job but returned to it after the heat died down. However, in February, she quit again after two weeks. "No job is worth my life," she says. "I call this my nightmare."

Chana still lives in fear. The boyfriend knows where she lives and what she looks like.

Between increasing workloads, less staff and incidents like this, Chana says being a child protection worker "is very, very stressful." For her, that's an understatement.

***

Watching Jason Sorokin work the phones is like watching a veteran juggler. He's deft without knowing it.

Just 30, he already has three years of child protection work under his belt with the Durham Children's Aid Society. While Malen is out on the road, Sorokin is on call at JF&CS, manning the phones, working on old cases while doing intake.

Sorokin has dealt with some ugly matters, including an eight-year-old who was being sexually abused by an adult, various incidents of physical abuse, and parents addicted to drugs and booze.

"I try to keep an open mind," he says. "Each case is judged on its own merits."

He takes a followup call from a local high school guidance counsellor reporting on a male student who had a physical altercation with his parents, resulting in bruises. JF&CS investigated and found it to be an isolated incident.

Sorokin and other social workers have noticed that community leaders sometimes play down these kinds of problems, believing that Jewish families aren't affected by them.

"Often," says Sorokin, "we have to work around the shame factor."

The phone rings throughout the day, with calls like these:

A man accuses his ex-wife of neglecting their children. Sorokin's antennae rise on this one, as often, people try to use the system to get back at ex-spouses. "You have to factor in emotions and ill will," he says casually.

There's a followup call involving a developmentally disabled adult female who engaged in a sexual act with an underage boy.

Sorokin also handles a call involving allegations of drug abuse against a stripper who has a 10-year-old daughter. Another call he makes is to a doctor to discuss the care of an anorexic girl whose mother is suspected of sabotaging her treatment.

Continued on page B12

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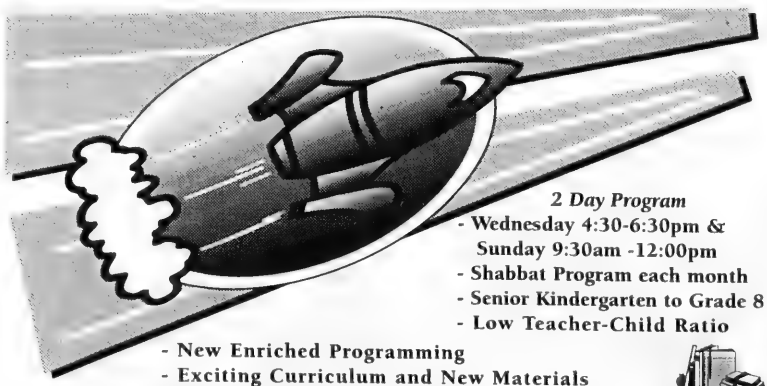

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Red tape, case loads, modest pay, can overwhelm social workers

Continued from page B11

In between, he makes plans to speak to summer camp counsellors on how to recognize and report signs of child abuse, writes assessments, keeps up with his ongoing workload, and attends a lunch-hour seminar on children who mutilate their own bodies.

It's a hectic pace, and while Sorokin handles it with the ease of a seasoned pro, he's frustrated, as are many social workers, with the amount of paperwork before him.

He estimates that one-third of his time is consumed with paperwork, a routine he calls "tiresome and burdensome. The red tape is stressful. It keeps us bogged down. If we're spending more time on paperwork, we're spending less time working with families."

Sorokin and others observe they have even more forms and papers to fill out since the provincial government revamped the Child and Family Services Act this past spring.

Calm can be deceptive

For years, front-line social workers have relied on the Eligibility Spectrum, a 70-page guide that sets out detailed definitions of thresholds of harm, abuse and risk, all coded in a ratings system.

In March, Queen's Park announced an additional $106 million in funding to Children's Aid Societies, but also broadened those definitions.

The new law expands the reasons for finding a child in need of protection. It includes the word "neglect," and lowers the threshold for risk of harm and emotional harm. Officials say it's all designed to tip the scales in favour of the child.

But it will also translate into more work for child protection workers. However, like Sorokin, many committed social workers seem willing to make the sacrifice and work longer hours.

Sorokin sums up his day as relatively calm. "But calm can be deceptive," he says. "Tomorrow, everything can blow up."

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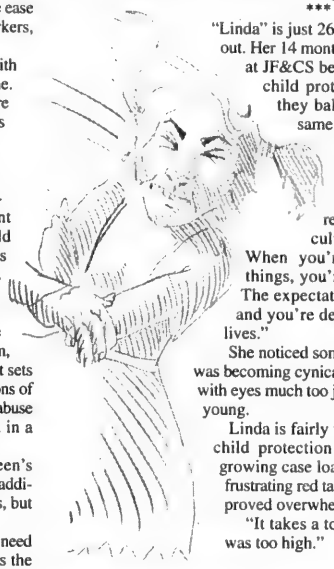

"Linda" is just 26 but already stressed out. Her 14 months as a social worker at JF&CS began with only a few child protection cases; soon, they ballooned to 35 at the same time.

It was too much. She quit in March.

"It was very demanding," she recalls. "And it's difficult to do successfully. When you're doing so many things, you're spread very thin. The expectations were too high, and you're dealing with people's lives."

She noticed something else too: She was becoming cynical, viewing the world with eyes much too jaded for someone so young.

Linda is fairly typical of the young child protection worker for whom growing case loads, modest salaries, frustrating red tape and small rewards proved overwhelming.

"It takes a toll. For me, the cost was too high."

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

JNF quenching Israel's thirst

By ADAM SEGAL
CJN Intern

Israel is no stranger to vast expanses of agricultural settlements, swimming pools and glasses of water filled to the brim.

But a combination of drought, pollution and overuse of scarce water resources is threatening the Jewish state with a veritable water crisis.

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) has embarked upon a plan to quench Israel's imminent thirst by building 100 reservoirs which will cost $100 million (US).

"Israel desperately needs water," says Ben Prossin executive director of JNF's Ontario region.

"To make people aware of the severe [water] problems Israel is facing," Prossin says, "we are going to embark on selling ...water."

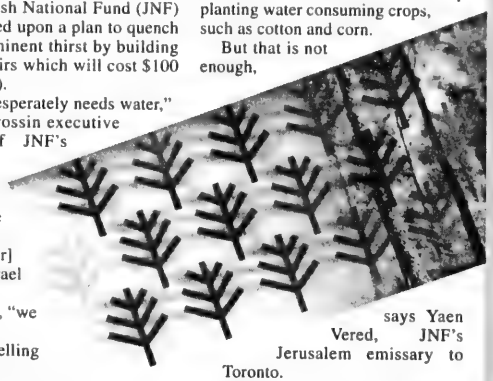
The JNF's tzedakah-style blue boxes which have been primarily used to fund tree planting in Israel, will now also be used to fund the reservoir project. The JNF also hopes to raise money at a gala dinner on Nov. 26 as well as through private donations.

The annual water consumption rate per person in Israel is 100 cubic metres, about 75 cubic metres less than the per capita Canadian consumption.

However, last year, Israelis used 350 million more cubic metres of water than the amount available.

Conserving water is part of the solution and the government has requested that farmers limit or stop planting water consuming crops, such as cotton and corn.

But that is not enough,



says Yaen Vered, JNF's Jerusalem emissary to Toronto.

"The figures we have [indicate that] in the year 2050, Israel will need 3.2 billion cubic metres of water" which is nearly double the amount of water resources the country currently has.

Continued on page B14

Along with building 100 reservoirs, the JNF is on a mission to clean Israel's water so more people can fish like this man.

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

JNF quenching Israel's thirst

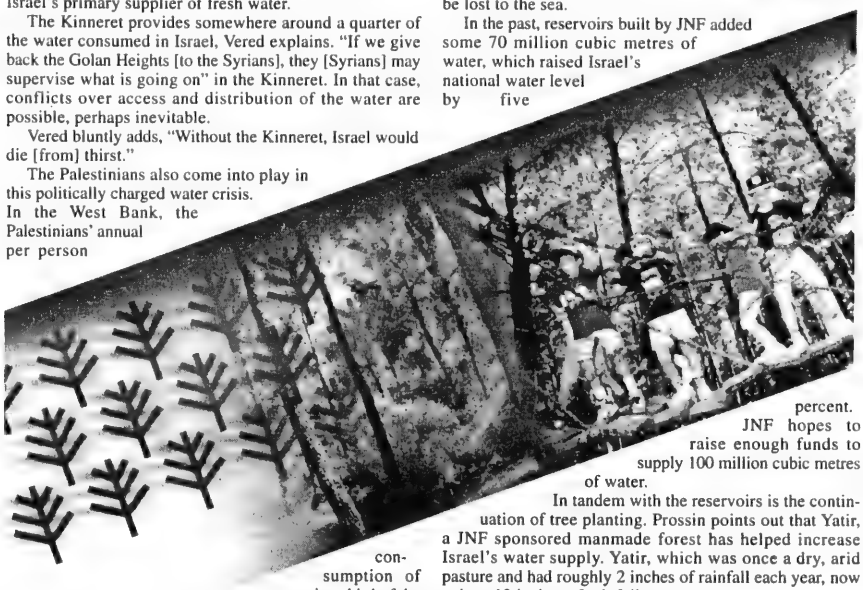
Continued from page B13

Complicating the water crisis further is the perpetual volatile political climate of the Middle East. Syria, Israel's longtime enemy is seeking a return of the Golan Heights which rests near the banks of the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), Israel's primary supplier of fresh water.

The Kinneret provides somewhere around a quarter of the water consumed in Israel, Vered explains. "If we give back the Golan Heights [to the Syrians], they [Syrians] may supervise what is going on" in the Kinneret. In that case, conflicts over access and distribution of the water are possible, perhaps inevitable.

Vered bluntly adds, "Without the Kinneret, Israel would die [from] thirst."

The Palestinians also come into play in this politically charged water crisis. In the West Bank, the Palestinians' annual per person consumption of water is a third of the Israelis'.



Vered says Israel will have to give up some of its water resources to the Palestinians in order to sign a peace deal.

That is important to understand because that means that whatever we give up for [water provision] in Arab villages, means a shortening of the water [supply] in Israel, Vered says.

Also, one of Israel's two underground aquifers rests in the West Bank. "If we're going to give this area [of the West Bank] to the Palestinians, we are going to have a severe problem," Vered contends.

The JNF views the reservoirs as a vital venture in temporarily solving the water conundrum.

"The reservoirs are the best," Vered says. "It's the cleanest water ... and we can use it on a permanent basis."

The reservoirs have the potential to capture large quantities of run-off and recycled water that would otherwise be lost to the sea.

In the past, reservoirs built by JNF added some 70 million cubic metres of water, which raised Israel's national water level by five percent. JNF hopes to raise enough funds to supply 100 million cubic metres of water.

In tandem with the reservoirs is the continuation of tree planting. Prossin points out that Yatir, a JNF sponsored manmade forest has helped increase Israel's water supply. Yatir, which was once a dry, arid pasture and had roughly 2 inches of rainfall each year, now enjoys 12 inches of rainfall.

The JNF is also working on projects to make forests in Israel accessible for disabled people by paving wheelchair paths and providing braille signs for the blind.

Prossin says educating young people in Toronto's Jewish day and evening schools about Israel's water crisis, will ensure future generations continue to support JNF's projects.

"The idea is if we start out in the classrooms with the blue boxes, then hopefully [that will establish] a tradition of giving to the land of Israel."

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Perry Romberg: Working to build bridges

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Perry Romberg

TORONTO – Perry Romberg, an experienced social worker keen on building bridges in the Jewish community, will be taking over the reigns of director of Planning & Community Development at United Israel Appeal Federations Canada (UIAFC) in October.

Romberg, who has been active in community work for years, told *The CJN* that his new position is multifaceted. He will be working with Jewish communities across Canada on community building and developing projects, and will work with nationally funded agencies on service issues and budget allocations.

Expressing his excitement with the new position, Romberg said, "One of my skills is consensus building. My hope is that…I will be able to facilitate co-operation on matters and issues of importance to Jews across Canada."

Romberg, a past chairman of the Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation of Toronto, added that the job will give him an opportunity to work with agencies and federations which "look at our community's interest from a very collective and collaborative viewpoint."

A graduate of Associated Hebrew Day School and Sir Sandford Flemming High School, Romberg spent a year in Israel working on a Bnei Akiva kibbutz and studied at Bar-Ilan University.

He received an honours bachelor of science degree and later went on to complete a masters of social work degree

After working for several years, he returned to school, receiving a second master's degree in psychology and a diploma in voluntary sector management from York University.

For 13 years, Romberg worked at the Jewish Family and Child Service of Metropolitan Toronto in such roles as a supervisor of the foster care program, as a child welfare consultant, and clinical manager of the Jerome D. Diamond Adolescent Centre.

Moving to the Toronto office of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada, he served as executive director for 10 years.

Two years ago, he joined the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto as the assistant director of Community Planning & Allocations.

Romberg, who is fluent in English, Hebrew and Yiddish, has four children and one grandson.

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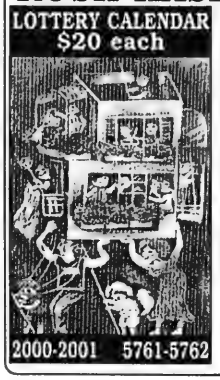

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

COR moves to ensure health standards maintained

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Since last spring, the health department, as part of a highly publicized blitz on food establishments in the city of Toronto, has closed down and published the names of numerous food facilities that did not meet the department's standards for cleanliness and food safety.

Two kosher bakeries were closed; both were re-opened very quickly.

At the time of the closures, Rabbi Mordechai Levin, executive director of the Kashruth Council of Toronto (COR), spoke about the role of COR in maintaining the cleanliness of facilities under its supervision.

Rabbi Levin told *The CJN* that until that time, the organization operated under the assumption that food establishments had to fulfil all public health requirements and were inspected on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the requirements.

Kashrut inspection visits are conducted with varying frequency, depending on what foods are involved.

Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner, chair of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth recently spoke to *The CJN* about an expanded policy at the Kashruth Council.

He said the mashgichim who inspect the premises are mainly rabbis and are not trained as health inspectors. Rather, they are trained to check for proper ingredients and procedures for kashrut.

"Because of health concerns, the Kashruth Council decided it must take a proactive stand in this serious matter," he said.

Following the closing of the two bakeries, a directive was sent to all COR bakeries, restaurants, caterers and other food services expressing the seriousness of disregard for health standards.

The directive stated that kashrut supervision would be revoked to all COR units that received health condemnations and the unit's file would be sent to the Kashruth Council board to review the matter and to decide whether kashrut supervision should be reinstated or other steps deemed appropriate should be taken.

Rabbi Kerzner said that "our expertise is in the field of halachic standards of kashruth; nevertheless, we feel strongly that any violation of the health department's standards would be halachically wrong and will bring into disrepute our supervision."

He noted that all establishments under COR supervision were directed to review their health-related policies, and zero tolerance would be applied to all supervised units.

Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner

Mashgichim have been directed to report all situations that could be a health problem, he added.

He emphasized that establishments reopened after closure for non-compliance with health standards would be seriously considered by the Kashruth Council as to whether supervision should be reinstated.

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Narayever shul revitalizes

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Traditionally, as Jewish communities change and move, so do their institutions and organizations. Shuls, especially, have a long history of being abandoned when their members leave the area.

Then there is Toronto's Narayever shul, officially The First Narayever Congregation, a small shul on Brunswick Avenue, just north of Harbord Street.

(The term "First" came, shul legend says, because a group of Galicianers immigrating to North America split, one group going to New York and the other coming here. When the New York group decided to found a congregation, according to shul member and York sociology professor Stuart Schoenfeld, the Toronto ones quickly did it first. Hence – The First Narayever.)

When the congregation dwindled in the 1970s, a group of trend-reversing newcomers to downtown life took over the congregation, revitalized it, and changed it from Orthodox to traditional egalitarian.

While the building is quite small, the simple furnishings, carved Aron Kodesh and light walls give it an understated elegance.

Shul membership is some 500 adults (men and women are counted separately), many of whom are academics and professional people.

Members are often attracted by the traditional egalitarian philosophy of the shul, which recently-hired spiritual leader Rabbi Edward Elkin defines as worship from an Orthodox siddur, using the most traditional synagogue practice, and strict adherence to kashrut.

Traditional, egalitarian philosophy attracts new members

The only difference from an Orthodox synagogue, Rabbi Elkin said, is that there is "full participation by women in the liturgy, mixed seating and some modified prayers, such as referring to the matriarchs along with the patriarchs."

Shul spokesperson Frances Enchin and Rabbi Elkin spoke to *The CJN* in what in the old days was the kiddush room of the synagogue.

"We are on the verge of renovations," Enchin said enthusiastically. "We want to improve the downstairs, make the building wheelchair accessible, extend the sanctuary about 16 feet, and generally make it more up to date, while maintaining the family feeling and warmth."

These changes are needed because of the growth of the congregation, including the number of children, children's programs, youth groups, adult education and social action programs, and the increasing numbers of people coming to Shabbat services.

Rabbi Elkin himself is an interesting blend of the traditional and non-traditional. Although he grew up in a traditional shul, he chose to attend Hebrew Union College, the rabbinical seminary of the Reform movement, "for ideological reasons, many of which are still valid."

He has come to believe, however, that "either labels have become less important to me, or I personally don't like to be labelled."

His principal objection to the more traditional streams of Judaism revolves around the position of women, Rabbi Elkin said.

The fact that we were all created in God's image, he said, "implies the need for there to be certain changes in traditional practice. This is of primary importance in the early 21st century."

Continued on page B18

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Narayever shul revitalizes

Continued on page B18

He believes very strongly, he said, in the "inclusion of those people often excluded from the centre of Jewish institutional life." This not only refers to women, he stressed, but includes those of different sexual orientation, or the mentally or physically challenged.

"That's just right," he said.

The goal, he said, is for "every Jew to grow as a Jew. I want every member to feel that they are included, that they can grow from where they are and move on in their individual Jewish path."

Someone with a yeshiva background, for instance, may need insight into the importance of social action, while others are taking their first steps into a synagogue.

"They are not sure if they belong. They think that everyone else knows what's what."

The rabbi's goal, he said with a grin, is "to make the uncomfortable feel comfortable, and the comfortable uncomfortable."

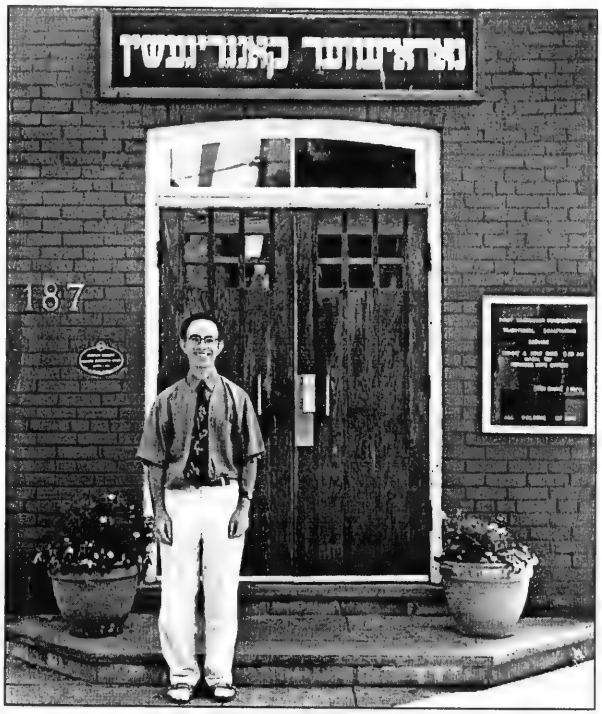
The shul sees the High Holy Days as a way of opening doors to the community, Enchin said. "We get over 1,000 people – some whose only connection [to Judaism] is the High Holy Day services – to our programs at the Bloor Jewish Community Centre."

The services there are warm and open, she said. "We try to give a sense of who we are."

For the second year, the services will be led by Rabbi David Weiss, who is well known in Toronto for his work at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, the National Havurah Committee, the New Israel Fund and Peace Now.

There will also be High Holy Day services at the Narayever itself.

For more information about the shul, call 416-927-0546.



Rabbi Edward Elkin stands in front of the First Narayever Congregation.

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Museum offers children a taste of Jewish history and culture

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

There are numerous fun-filled activities and workshops for children three to 11 years old at My Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum, at the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

The 2,500-square-foot museum offers children a fun way to learn about Jewish history and holidays, customs and traditions, music and dance, heroes and folklore, Israel, Hebrew, and much more.

One entertaining hands-on activity is the Windows on Our World, a miniature city that – with the press of a button – accesses videotaped messages from a host of celebrities including Mayor Mel Lastman, Ed Mirvish, Luba Goy, Judy and David and Sharon, Lois & Bram.

The key word at the museum is participate. You are encouraged to roll up your sleeves and be a participant in a variety of centres.

In the Art of Words area, learn about the Hebrew language and Jewish history by building Hebrew sentences on a magnetic board, writing letters and creating tracings.

At the Routes and Roots exhibit, explore the stories of Jewish people in Canada. The centre gives a glimpse of how immigrants came to Canada. Users can pretend they are packing for the move and can create their own family tree.

Good deeds is the theme of the People Helping People exhibit. There is a mini-hospital where children can put on a hospital uniform and assist patients with an array of medical equipment. Or perform a mitzvah by making a refuah shlemah (get well card) for a patient who is ill.

Climb into a plane, ride a tractor on a kibbutz, plant trees, drive a camel in the desert or visit the Kotel and write down a message – all in the exhibit titled This is Your Land.

The museum's programs, available to individuals and groups from schools and camps, are hosted by dynamic and experienced guides.

Continued on page B20

An immigrant at the Routes and Roots exhibit.

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Museum offers children a taste of Jewish history and culture

Continued from page B19

Katya Rudzik, director of the museum, has more than 10 years of experience in the field and says, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to direct the new museum."

There are special holiday events on Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, Passover and other holidays. Some of the other exhibits include, You and Me Around the World, Noah's Ark, Torah Time, You Me and Dignity, and a Shabbat Table.

In October, a new exhibit will be opened that offers a trip around the world to many Jewish communities, including Ethiopia, India, Argentina, Russia and more.

Admission of $2 allows you to stay all day and children under the age of one are free. A membership fee is also available.

The museum is open Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rudzik notes the museum often works in partnership with community organizations such as Mount Sinai Hospital, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Jewish National Fund and others.

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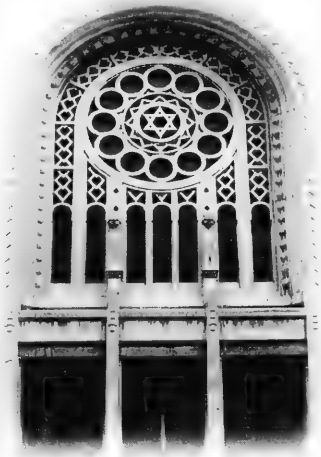

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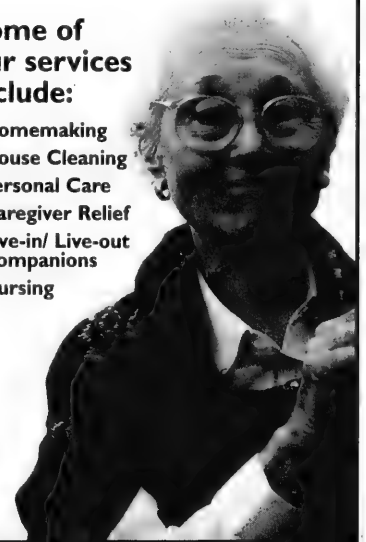

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Posluns loves to entertain

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

When Dora Posluns says she is slowing down, she is only speaking relatively.

Posluns, who refuses to divulge her age ("I'm a senior. That's enough"), spends her time "making seniors happy." And she is very good at it.

A resident of the B'nai Brith apartment buildings on Bathurst Street near Sheppard Avenue, Posluns organizes entertainment there, as well as at the Baycrest Centre, Lincoln Place, and wherever else she is asked.

She arranges concerts, holiday parties, and Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut programs. She herself sings, writes poems, and tells jokes.

Dora Posluns

It all started when, a Holocaust survivor who came to Canada with her husband Wolf, in the early 1950s, she went to a mothers' and babies camp in Barrie.

"Everyone just sort of sat around," she said. "I asked why there wasn't any kind of entertainment, and they said if I wanted something, I should do it. So I did."

Posluns, who as a child had sung and recited poems on the stage of her school, needed no prodding. "I took down the curtains and made costumes out of them. I made a pretend Jewish wedding."

She encouraged everyone to join in the singing and dancing, and "we had a lovely evening."

So successful was it that she was invited back every year to arrange more entertainment, even when the camp moved to Parry Sound.

The family, which eventually included daughter Elaine and sons Carl and Jeff, moved to Rockford Road in North York, where they lived until shortly after Posluns' husband died.

When that happened, she says with simple dignity, "I didn't laugh or sing."

Unable to bear living in the family home, she moved to the B'nai Brith apartment some 17 years ago. And she hasn't looked back.

For a time, she put on a program every week for residents of the building. While she no longer does such a regular schedule there, she arranges entertainments from time to time, as well as holiday programs.

But that is not all. She has sung as a soloist in the choir of the Creative Living Centre as it moved from Council House to Hove Street and then to the Bernard Betel Centre.

She has organized programs at the Wagman Centre, and plays, musical shows and fashion shows at Good Fellowship Lodge in Barrie.

"When I sing," she says, "the people sing with me. Even people who have forgotten how to speak Yiddish, sing along with *Rozinkes mit mandlen*."

Posluns knows and can perform in five languages – English, Yiddish, Russian, Polish and Hebrew. "I know German too," she says abruptly, "but I am not so proud of it."

She is not always the only performer, but persuades professional entertainers to appear with her. The trick is that she is unable to offer a fee. "It's hard to get people to appear for free," she says.

Posluns herself receives no payment and she does not charge the audiences. While this may mean that there are no refreshments (unless someone donates them), and she spends a lot of time preparing material herself, she feels she is doing something very important.

Regrets? The only one, she says, is that when Hitler took power, she had to leave school. "I would have liked to go on," she muses. But, she acknowledges, "HaShem let me live, and I have lots of nachas from my children."

Although she uses a walker, she is not quitting. "I live to do mitzvahs for elderly people sitting looking at the four walls. As long as someone stands me up, I have material to perform."

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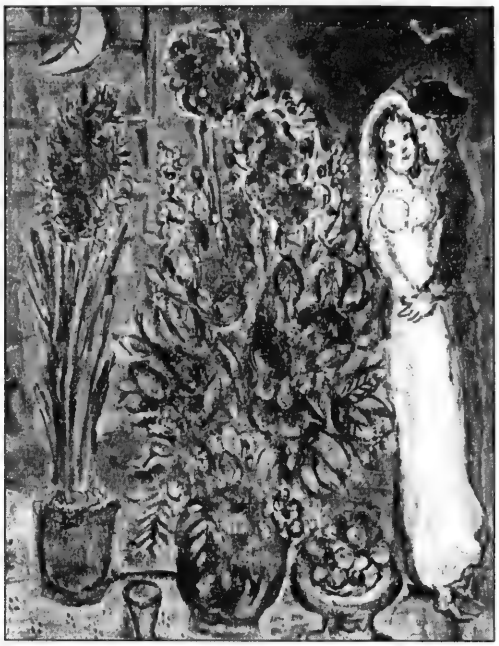
Community Focus



***Les Mariés*: by Marc Chagall. Chagall was fascinated by the subject of marriage and often used it as a theme. See related story on page B28.**

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

A mother admires her new-born baby at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital. [Photo courtesy Mount Sinai Hospital]

One-stop Shopping at Mount Sinai Obstetrics

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

With the recent consolidation of the women's and infant's health services at Mount Sinai Hospital and the Toronto General Hospital division of the University Health Network, Mount Sinai has one of the largest centres of its kind in North America, says the associate chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Mount Sinai.

This move brings together scientists and clinicians in a meaningful working relationship, said Dr. Ronald Livingstone, former chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Toronto General.

The number of births is expected to double in the coming year to more than 7,000, and the number of outpatient visits will double to almost 114,000, said Theodore Freedman, hospital president and CEO.

"Our capacity for helping women with simple or complex issues in health care has not only increased in size, it has also expanded in depth with the addition of the talented staff from the University Health Network," he said.

To accommodate the increase in patient volumes, two new floors will be built on top of the west wing of the hospital. During the three years it takes for the floors to be completed, all outpatient services will be relocated to a newly designed centre at the Ontario Power Generation building on University Avenue.

All aspects of related health care such as fertility, family planning, prenatal and-menopause will be located in this new 50,000 square foot custom-built, ambulatory care centre, said Livingstone. "Women who would have had to walk corridors and take elevators to see doctors and take various tests, now have one-stop shopping," he said.

Included at the new site is low risk obstetrics and gynecology clinics; maternal infant programs; obstetrical and gynecological ultrasounds; a prenatal diagnosis unit and medical genetics; reproductive biology and a Toronto Cord Blood program; and urogynaecology.

"The consolidation is an interesting combination of cultures and traditions – Mount Sinai and Toronto General – which have existed for so long," said Livingstone.

Dr. Knox Ritchie, obstetrician and gynacologist-in-chief, said "our links with the University of Toronto and the hospital's Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute will also enhance the research and educational opportunities in this program.

"Women can expect exciting new developments from this program in the very new future," he said.

Sandler urges communication and understanding

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The city is blessed with a strong, vibrant Jewish community says Alan Sandler, president of UJA FEDERATION.

"With all our diversities, we have been able to build and develop strong institutions, and we have never reached a point where we have lost a discussion with anyone," he says.

Our challenge, says Sandler, who is in the second year of a two-year term, is to continue to work together and not necessarily accept, but see and appreciate one another's point of view.

"So far, we have been successful in keeping our lines of communication open, but we must continue to listen to one another. No one group should turn around and say, 'We're the only one.'"

The city's strong youth contingent is due largely to the fact that young adults feel they have a future here, he says. "Native Torontonians feel they can stay, and others are drawn because of economic opportunities and the city's vibrant Jewish life.

"The day schools and supplemental Hebrew schools offer something for everyone and allow for a lot of diversity. That is a big drawing card for young couples."

The federation's biggest issue at the moment is dealing with the community's enormous increase in population, says Sandler. "Currently, we are the fourth or fifth largest Jewish community in North America, and about 45,000 or 50,000 Jews live north of Steeles. We foresee that within five years, more Jewish people – mainly between the ages of 40 and 45 – will live in that area than in Montreal."

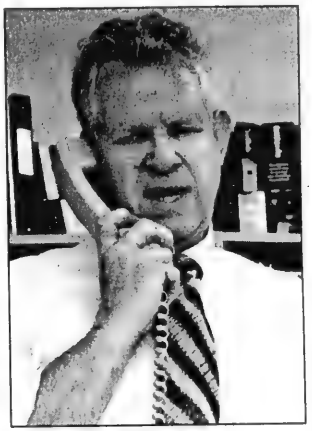
To that end, the federation recently launched Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT), a plan to address the needs of both the Toronto community and the community in York Region.

A 50-acre lot has been purchased in Richmond Hill designating York Region as the northernmost of the three "campuses" in the Toronto area; the other two are downtown, around the Bloor JCC, and at the Bathurst Jewish Centre and the Lipa Green Building on Bathurst Street north of Sheppard Avenue.

The plan includes renovating the Bloor JCC in order to better serve the downtown Jewish population, and building the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the corner of Harbord and Huron streets, for University of Toronto Jewish students.

"The southern campus south of St. Clair Avenue is blossoming. Almost 10,000 people attend programs at the JCC, and some of the downtown congregations have had to hold services in bigger halls," says Sandler.

Within the northern campus, he says, the



Alan Sandler

community needs schools, a community centre, facilities for various agencies, and subsidized housing. "This all needs to be done within the next five to seven years. We cannot service [all the people expected in the region] within the current infrastructure."

The central campus revolving around the BJC and Lipa Green Building is also vibrant, says Sandler, "but we cannot rest; we must remain committed. We need more and more volunteers to keep the current programs running, and to ensure that the BJC will remain a place where everyone can mix."

Priorities, he says, after providing for food and shelter, include assisting the immigrant population, battered families, the elderly and Holocaust survivors.

"The community also needs to concentrate on education and Jewish culture, and family programming," he says. "Then we have to look towards helping Israel and the Jews in the former Soviet Union."

Core services are being met by the central UJA FEDERATION campaign, says Sandler, "and most people accept our allocations.

"One of the goals of JTT is to partner major donor families with institutions. That is done by starting a dialogue between our board of governors and the donor families. We establish where are needs are, and where these families want their money to go. A match is then made."

Looking back on his first year in office, Sandler says that "it's been great. Everything has been positive. Every crisis we've encountered has been because of the community's growth. It is a challenge that I am thoroughly enjoying. It is a generous, committed community, and families have always come forward to help out."

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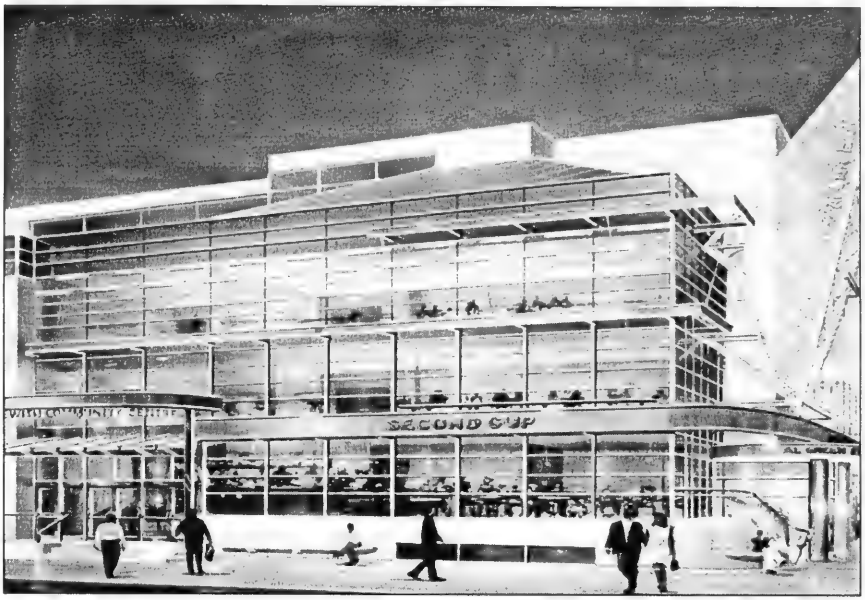

Bloor JCC Downtown

Downtown a scene of vital Jewish life

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — As the Jewish population in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) continues to expand north, a quieter, more modest level of growth is being registered in the city's southern reaches as well.

Home to the Jewish community of Toronto in its early years, the downtown area is seeing a remarkable revitalization of Jewish life as newcomers and young couples move south to be near the city's vibrant business and cultural life.

Toronto is one of the few downtowns in North America with a steadily increasing Jewish population. Anywhere from 15,000 to 25,000 Jews now live "downtown," depending on where demographers and sociologists draw the community's northern boundary.

Continued on page B27

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Downtown a scene of vital Jewish life

Continued from page B26

And, as night follows day, where there are Jews there are Jewish organizations, with at least 23 at last count popping up to bring together like-minded Jews in religious, social, educational, cultural and recreational settings.

Currently, the 23 organizations are affiliated with the Downtown Jewish Community Council (DJCC), an umbrella organization established in 1993 when the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) was in danger of going bankrupt. Its initial members included the JCC's Bloor branch, the First Narayever Congregation, the Downtown Jewish Community School and the Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS).

In 1993, its goal was to exchange information and provide mutual support, said Bill Emery, the Bloor Jewish Community Centre's long-serving executive-director. Since then, the DJCC has expanded its mandate to include nurturing and supporting grass roots groups and linking them to the larger community in the north.

The DJCC has set five goals for itself:

- to promote Jewish institutions and organizations in the downtown area;
- to encourage Jewish education;
- to unify the downtown community;
- to promote outreach to the unaffiliated;
- to promote community activities and holiday celebrations.

Meeting six to eight times a year in the Bloor JCC's boardroom, the DJCC is also developing a long-range planning function, Emery said. On the agenda is a "downtown Jewish community planning day in which we'll set out the objectives for what we'd like to see downtown," he said. "It will help formulate a plan to meet the needs of this community, from facilities to programs."

The DJCC also participates in the Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, the UJA Federation project that plans for the broader community's future needs.

At the centre of the downtown community and its plans for the future is the Bloor Jewish Community Centre, the facility that hosts the DJCC and provides facilities for programming and meetings for many of the DJCC's constituent groups.

For many years in the 1980s and early '90s, the Bloor JCC was the subject of speculation that it would be sold to pay off the JCC's debts. However, the facility survived the JCC's bankruptcy scare in the mid-1990s and has gone on to become the focal point of downtown community life. It houses the Downtown Jewish Community School, the Downtown Jewish Day School and JF&CS. It provides space for High Holiday services for the First Narayever Congregation, it's home to the Toronto Jewish Film Society, and it is the scene of numerous cultural and arts events and seniors programs.

Council wants to do long-term planning

Under the auspices of the Jewish Toronto Tomorrow project, the Bloor JCC has been slated for a major renovation and expansion, beginning this fall. A joint program of the Centre and the UJA Federation, the renovation will see the Bloor JCC become the Nadal Jewish Community Centre, named for philanthropist Miles Nadal. The revamped facility will include the 300-seat Green Family Cultural Centre, a project of Al Green, David Y. Green and their families.

As part of the first phase of renovation, four retailers will open for business on the Bloor side of the building, while other changes include two new aerobics studios, the addition of new administrative offices and an overall upgrading of the facility. A second phase of construction will include a new conference centre/computer room, a new chapel/Jewish resource room and several program rooms.

The Downtown Jewish Community Council's member organizations include:

Ashkenaz; Beach Hebrew Institute; Bloor JCC; BBYO – Downtown Chapter Koach; Congregation Anshei Kiev; Congregation Anshei Minsk; Congregation Shaarei Tzedec; Congregation Keshet Shalom; Congregation Shir Libeynu; Davisville Village Chaverim; Downtown Reform Minyan; Downtown Jewish Community School; Downtown Jewish Day School; Danforth Jewish Circle; The First Narayever Congregation; Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residences; Hillel Children's Workshop; Jewish Students Union; JF&CS; the Riverdale Jewish Community Centre/Beit Yosef Congregation; Shalom Group; UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; West End Jewish Community Association.

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Shadchan service for Orthodox singles

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

One of the greatest mitzvot, according to Jewish tradition, is to arrange marriages.

As Rebbetzen Jenni Ochs describes it, "to make a shidduch is to create a world."

This is not just an empty sentiment for Ochs. She and the other Orthodox rebbetzens in the GTA, together with a coterie of concerned Orthodox women, have established Sasson V'Simcha, an introduction service for observant (shomer Shabbat) singles.

"To make a shidduch is to create a world"

It all started with a phone call to Ochs from a recently married woman. "She was new in town, and she was worried that there were so many single friends," Ochs remembered.

It struck a chord in Ochs, whose husband, Rabbi Mordechai Ochs, is spiritual leader of Torath Emeth congregation. She frequently got requests for help in finding a suitable mate, as did other rebbetzens.

Sasson V'Simcha (the name, translated as mirth and joy, is part of the Sheva Brachot, the seven blessings recited at weddings and for seven days afterwards) began somewhat informally between the rabbitzens of the city's Orthodox synagogues.

So well-received was the effort, that it quickly expanded to include volunteers from every Orthodox shul, Ochs said, from modern Orthodox to the most haredi.

The volunteers get no remuneration and are very dedicated said Ochs and member Leah Aryeh. Participants meet every week, as well as take part in a public meeting once every six weeks or so.

When people contact the organization, they are asked to fill out a profile form, which is entered into a computer database. Besides questions related to age, education, and marital history, much of the form is specifically aimed at their clientele.

This includes questions about religious background ranging from "frum from birth," baal tshuva, modern orthodox or yeshiva with or without secular education. Questions about shul attendance and religious study are also included.

Applicants' religious standards

Applicants are also asked how they feel about such matters as women covering their hair or wearing pants, men wearing hats, religious learning, and even smoking.

Four times a week, the volunteers meet at the group's Bathurst Street office to discuss the men and women who have applied, and to try to match them up. As well, there is an open meeting at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue, where the volunteers, or the people themselves, come to compare notes, and discuss potential matches.

Sasson v'Simcha also networks with resources in some cities in the United States, including Baltimore, Chicago, Lakewood and New York. They also have informal contacts in other places, so if, for instance, one of their candidates is going to a different city, someone in the organization may know someone who is a possible match.

When the volunteers have decided on a potential match, and both parties agree to meet, the man is given the girl's name and phone number, and the rest is up to them.

The volunteers, however, are ready to give advice if it is wanted. "We encourage people to be realistic, and to decide what is really important to them," said Ochs.

Absolute confidentiality is assured, Ochs stressed.

Aryeh said that, contrary to what many think, the Orthodox don't necessarily have an easy time finding a mate. This is especially true, she said, for those in their early thirties and beyond, and in some places for the very young, recent graduates of seminaries and yeshivot.

For more information, to register at Sasson V'Simcha, or to help with their work, call 416-256-4497, or write 3101 Bathurst St., Suite 404, Toronto, M6A 2A6.

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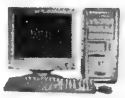

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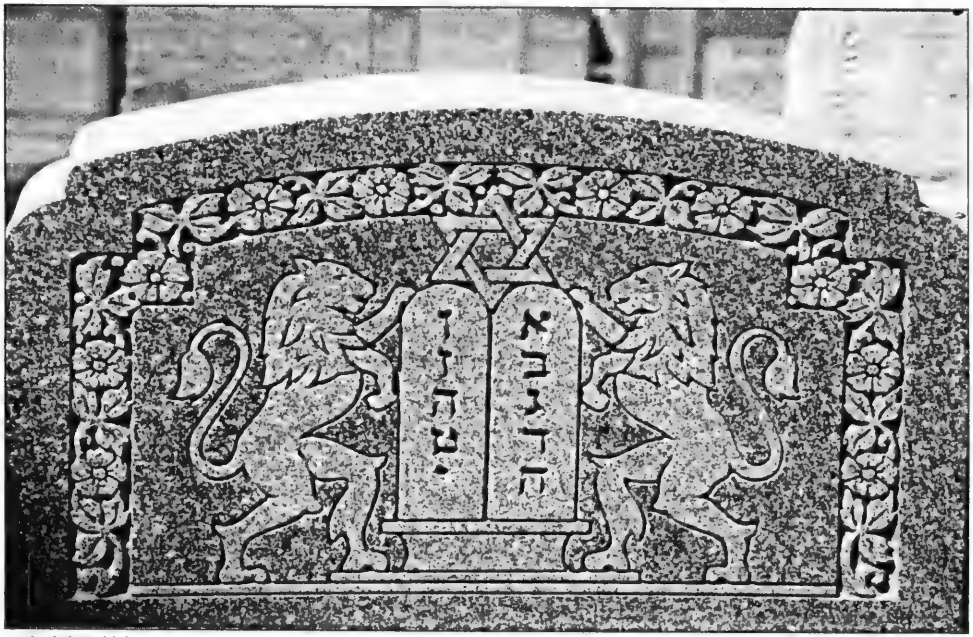
Poor treated with dignity at Pardes Shalom Cemetery

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN



Pardes Shalom, an 89-acre Jewish cemetery on the northern fringe of the Greater Toronto Area, is the largest Jewish cemetery in Ontario, and receives about one-third of the city's Jewish dead – about 550 burials annually.

Situated on the east side of Dufferin Street north of Major Mackenzie Drive, the cemetery, whose name means orchard of peace, still has about 18,000 unallocated burial plots.

The cemetery is owned by Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park (THMP), an independent corporation that acts in trust for the community though the UJA FEDERATION of Greater Toronto.

Cemetery land assured at THMP

"Our purpose is to ensure that we have enough cemetery land for... Toronto's Jewish community, regardless of whether they belong to an organization or not, and that the land is available at a reasonable cost," says Stephen Speisman, executive director of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park.

"We are certainly not short of cemetery land in the THMP jurisdiction," says Speisman, who is also director of the Ontario Jewish Archives and author of *The Jews of Toronto: A History to 1937*.

In addition to the present facility, THMP has acquired 200 acres some two kilometres north of the current site, but this should not be needed for about 10 years.

Speisman says there are generally two methods by which a person may acquire an interment right in most of the 11 Jewish cemeteries in the Toronto area. One must either belong to one of the various organizations that maintain sections in the cemeteries, or find an organization that will sell interment rights to a non-member.

While more than 50 Jewish organizations have established a patchwork of sections on Pardes Shalom's neatly landscaped grounds, the cemetery is unique in Toronto because it also maintains large "community section" areas in which Jews may be buried without the necessity of belonging to, or making arrangements with, a third-party organization.

"People who are not affiliated with any organization can buy interment rights for the same price as an organization," Speisman says. "The current price is $1,284, and that includes GST. That's for a single plot."

Continued on page B30

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Individuals may give up their interment rights

Continued from page B29

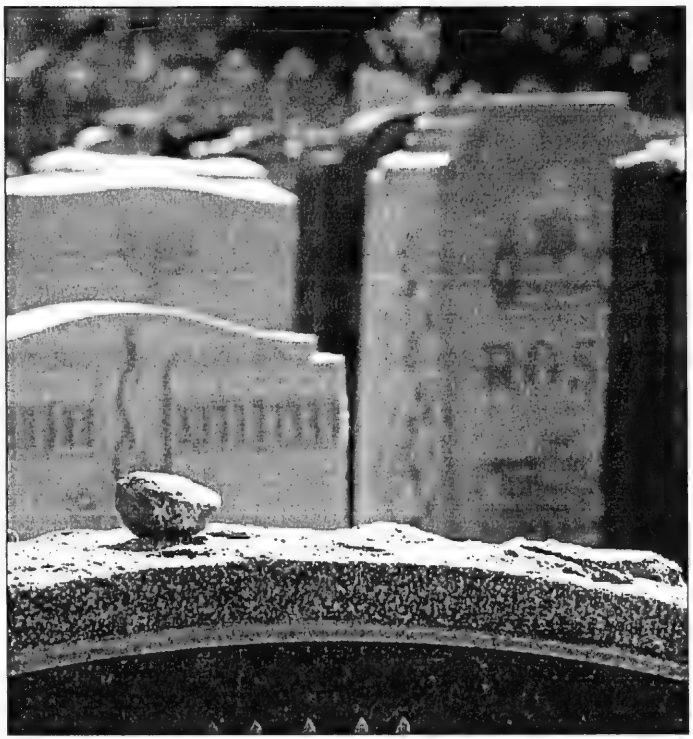
The various mutual benefit societies, synagogues, landsmanschaft and benevolent organizations with sections at Pardes Shalom are bound by stringent THMP by-laws that prohibit the burial of non-Jews, the transfer of interment rights beyond an original purchaser, and the making of profit on the sale of a burial right.

"If an individual wishes to give up their interment rights, they give back their plot to us, and we give them a refund," Speisman says. The land, he explains, remains at all times the property of the corporation; only the interment right is available for purchase.

When the THMP sells a large number of interment rights to an organization, the purchaser pays 30 percent down and the rest in 10 equal instalments over five years. Jewish law stipulates that no interest be charged on the transaction.

Speisman says the prevailing practice in Jewish cemeteries at present, that Jews and non-Jews are not buried together in the same cemetery, is also the policy at THMP.

For someone born as a non-Jew to be buried at Pardes Shalom, "there must be a conversion," Speisman says. "If there is a conversion by any Jewish denomination, we will recognize it. We don't make a judgment."



Conversely, Jews who convert to Christianity will not be permitted to make Pardes Shalom their final resting place, a policy that "has the support of the Vaad Harabanim and the Toronto Board of Rabbis."

Continued on page B31

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No one denied a burial due to poverty

Continued from page B30

Last year, in a high-profile case, the funeral procession of a Jewish-born Christian minister who had been active in Jews for Jesus, was barred at the cemetery gates. The burial eventually took place in a non-denominational cemetery.

No one, however, is denied burial at Pardes Shalom because of poverty. "If a family cannot afford to pay for a burial, we take care of it – it's our responsibility to do that," Speisman says.

Several years after such a burial, if no monument has been placed on the grave, THMP approaches the family to determine their intentions. If the family cannot afford a monument, THMP will place a flat granite marker on the grave. "That's our policy – every grave is marked," Speisman says.

Each major Jewish denomination maintains sections in the cemetery, as do secular organizations such as the Chaverim Society.

"The whole gamut of ideologies are represented," Speisman says.

The community's cemeteries

Pardes Sholom is the newest of Toronto's 11 Jewish cemeteries. The others are:

- Bathurst Lawn: Bathurst just south of Steeles;
- Beth Tzedec: Bathurst just north of Finch;
- Brimley Road (Holy Blossom Temple): Brimley south of Eglinton;
- Dawes Road: St. Clair and Victoria Park;
- Jones Avenue: Jones south of Dundas;
- Lambton: Royal York and Eglinton;
- McCowan Road: McCowan north of Danforth;
- Mount Sinai: Wilson east of Keele;
- Pape: Pape and Gerrard – this is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Toronto. While it belongs to Holy Blossom, there are no longer burials here.
- Roselawn: Roselawn east of Bathurst.

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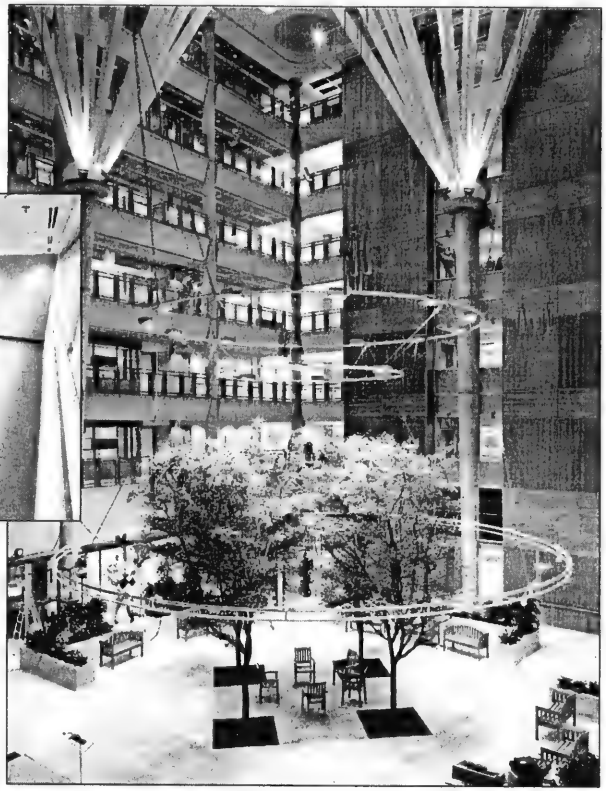

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Young people desensitized to violence, says Gardner

Continued from page B9

Gardner noted that the emergence of visible minorities and religious groups has led to racial attacks and harassment. "That took away some attention that might have gone to Jews," he pointed out.

Young people, he said, are increasingly "desensitized" to violence. In the media, he said, "they see war all the time, and it appears that people don't suffer." There are videos that teach kids how to kill, he said.

Plenty of Jewish youngsters, he said, are involved in drugs. "Many of them have died because of that indulgence." Not as many, proportionately, are involved in criminal activity, however.

What about the schools? Few who attended the parents' meeting after the stabbing in the parking lot of CHAT during a school dance will forget the fear and resentment of the parents, who felt that the event signalled that it was no longer even safe to send a child to a Jewish school.

Much of the rhetoric centred around the swiss army knives that many youngsters receive as bar mitzvah gifts. There were demands for these knives to be banned from the school, for zero tolerance policies, for increased security, for the accused to be banned from the school.

Seymour Epstein, executive director of the Board of Jewish Education, empathizes with those concerns. Nevertheless, like Gardner, Epstein says Toronto is a safe place to go to school.

Violence in Jewish schools rare

"One of the main reasons that there was so much attention paid to the incident is that it is indeed so rare. The police admitted that they never have to come to the Jewish schools."

Nevertheless, he said, the board supports schools that have instituted programs to deal with such problems as bullying, violence and drug abuse. Occasionally the board itself runs seminars or workshops on issues. It also encourages schools to contact other institutions that have dealt with similar problems.

Seymour Epstein

Zero tolerance is not the answer, he said, because it takes away the option of choice from the institution.

As for security systems, "you can't turn schools into prisons," he asserted.

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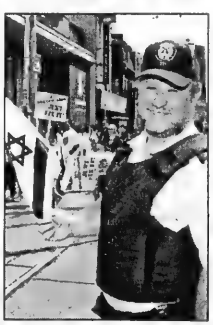

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Continued from page 20

p.m. Welcome Back Dance Open House and registration Sunday, Sept. 17, 2-4 p.m. **Suzanne Agasee** 635-6800.

The centre is looking for 2 dedicated, caring individuals to volunteer for Sunday programs.

BOWLING LEAGUE NEWS

For information regarding bowling leagues, please check this week's *CJN* sports page.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. 638-7800.

Parenting the ADHD Child series for parents of children who have been diagnosed with ADHD, begins Sept. 27. Register. **Pat**, ext. 215.

Beyond the Chupah: Becoming a Couple, a 6-week Marriage Preparation program, begins on Mondays or Wednesdays in September. **Pat**.

Bereavement Group for Young Persons, 6-week group for individuals who have recently lost a spouse, begins Sept. 19; Parenting Can Be 1,2,3 Magic, 3-part series based on **Dr. Thomas Phelan's** book, begins Sept. 25, morning and evenings at Promenade; Today's Woman: Making It Happen – begins Sept. 12. **Teena**, ext. 212.

TALMUD-GEMARAH CLASS

The weekly Talmud Gemarah class continues meeting Wednesdays at 9:10 a.m. at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, starting Sept. 6. Group will study Tractate Rosh Hashanah. Newcomers welcome. Class is conducted in English. Leading the class is **Aaron Nussbaum**. 633-8097.

BIBLE-TANACH CLASS

The weekly Bible-Tanach class, meeting Thursdays at 9:10 a.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, resumes Sept. 7. Group will begin the study of book of II Kings, with a traditional as well as critical approach. Newcomers welcome. Class is conducted in English. Leading the class is **Aaron Nussbaum** 633-8097.

LUXURY CRUISE

Lodzer Holocaust Congregation is sponsoring a luxury cruise, Vistas of the Seas, Jan. 29 to Feb. 9, 2001. $1,435 (US) per person, inside cabin, $1,500 (US) per person, outside cabin. **David Rybowski** 663-5939 or synagogue 636-6665.

THE CHORALAIRS

The Choralairs of North York, a volunteer choir singing for seniors and disabled persons, welcomes singers of all ages, voices in all ranges. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite. There are no auditions. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 8:15-10:30 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre, Room 2, beginning Sept. 5. Membership fees are $45/person, $70/couple with full tax receipt. **Fay Cohen** 633-7233 or **Judy Gordon** 221-3161.

To book a concert for your facility (nursing home, home for the aged, seniors' apartment), **Rose Terrance** 633-0433.

RESOURCE CENTRE

The Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. 905-882-8509.

Drop-in Centre Programs:

Jen's Circle/Storytime; Knitting Club; Shabbat Party; Jewish Pleasure Principle with **Rabbi Mandel.**

Fall workshops. Pre-registration required. **Bernice Friedman**:

Jewish Art Workshop for Kids; Stepping Stones interactive parent/child program; Ima and Me explores our Jewish heritage; Parenting by Example; Kids Chess Club for beginners ages 6-9; Sketch and Draw with Oved for ages 9 and up; Parent Discussion Group.

JWI QUEEN CITY REUNION

Queen City chapter, Jewish Women International, formerly B'nai Brith Women, is celebrating its 50th anniversary on Sept. 20. All charter and past members are invited to join in the festivities. For information, call **Mary** 633-6668.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors, and a little bit of Yiddishkeit, a yom tov dinner Monday, Sept. 25, 5:30-8 p.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue. Tickets available at Circle of Care, 530 Wilson Ave., 4th floor. **Goldie Leibman** 635-2860 or **Penny Edwards** 905-881-0376.

LZA Senior's Club Miami Trip 2001 is being organized, call **Libby** 782-2059 or **Stanley** 669-1347. Dance classes Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Senior's Cultural Club Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the boardroom. 630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Trip to Peterborough lift lock Thursday, Sept. 21; dances Sept. 3, 17, at 7:30 p.m.; Casino Rama Sept. 13, 18. 395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Aug. 31, sing-along. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 630-5771.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Oil painting classes every Wednesday 1-3 p.m. Plans being made for the fall season. **Lena** 785-5773.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W., 225-2112.

Personal Eyecare consultant, optician **Nadine Walman** comes the first Tuesday of each month to check and adjust glasses, starting Sept. 5.

Low Vision Support Group features low vision specialist **David Kolker** discussing Latest Knowledge in Vision Loss, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Book Club for Short Stories with **Edward Kogut,** Tuesdays 1-3 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking individuals meets Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Sept. 5, a movie; Sept. 12, lecture, Sept. 19, sing-along; Sept. 26, lunch out. **Anna**, ext. 110.

Movie, *The King of Masks*, Sunday, Sept. 3, 2 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

The 2000-2001 program is now available. Registration for members is now underway. Non-members' registration begins Sunday, Sept. 3. Classes start the week of Sunday, Sept. 24.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880

Registration now being taken for fall programs. Registration hotline at ext. 235 Sundays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, noon to 8 p.m. till Sept. 1. New program book available at Information Desk.

For athletic programs for the fall call ext. 492.

Limited spaces for Tuesday-Thursday Tic Tac Two, 9:15-11:15 a.m. for pre-nursery children, Judaic programming, music, snack, circles, free play, ext. 248.

Limited nursery school spaces for September-June program. Hebrew, Judaic, fun centre, music specialties. ext. 248.

Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum has 10 interactive exhibits for parents and children to enjoy together and something special each day. ext. 456.

ABOUT PEOPLE

AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. Gary Landsberg, a graduate of Forest Hill Collegiate Institute and doctor of Veterinary Medicine, with a practice in Thornhill, was honoured recently at the 67th annual meeting of the American Animal Hospital Association in Toronto. The award was presented for excellence in the field of companion animal behaviour. Landsberg has co-authored two veterinary behaviour texts, appears frequently on radio and television and is an international speaker to veterinarians on a variety of behaviour topics.

Dr. Gary Landsberg

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Pictured at the Beit Halochem Canada 3rd annual Dominion Hosiery Golf Tournament held recently at Glen Eagle Golf Club are, from left, Henry Fischler, tournament chair; Lisa Levy, Beit Halochem Canada executive director; and Shuki Birenzweig, sponsor of the event.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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Coast to Coast

COMINGS AND GOINGS: The Downtown Jewish Community Council recently welcomed Dr. Stuart Schoenfeld as council chair. At a gathering of council members, held at the Bloor JCC, it was also an opportunity to say goodbye to Karen Chisvin, who has chaired the council for the last four years. The Downtown Jewish Community Council is an association of organizations serving the growing Jewish population in downtown Toronto. Seen here are Bloor JCC director Bill Emery with Chisvin, Schoenfeld.

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Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.

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Executive Class Events:
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Exclusively late 20's & up. Sun., Sept. 3, 8:30pm, **Courthouse Chamber Lounge**, 10 Court St. (rear entrance to 57 Adelaide St). Bongo players, magician, go go dancers, astrologist & more! Dress Elegantly: No jeans, running shoes or hats! Tickets: $12 (incl. access to Surreal Circus after Midnight at Capitol Events Theatre) **Hotline: 760-3772**

Beth Sholom Singles & Intersynagogue Singles invite you to *Enter the year spiritually through Jewish Meditation* **Jewish Meditation Course for Singles** with Instructor Chashi Skobac. Six Week Course. **Starts Wed. Sept. 27.** Total Cost $50. Beth Sholom Synagogue, 1445 Eglinton Ave. W. at Allen Rd. Book Early-Limited Registration MC/Visa accepted: **416-783-6103.**

BRUNCH, Mon., Sept. 4. Ages 35 up. FREE 24 hr. info. 416-635-6489.

New Image 50 + DANCE for Single Seniors. Sat. Sept. 2. 7-10:30 pm. Earle Bales Com. Ctr. Tonight only! Single unattached men are FREE! Non-members $4. Refresh. Music by Murray Jacobs. Info. Helen. 633-0397.

Single? Over 55? Club 24, a cultural singles group has a few openings. If you're intrested in lively discussions, interesting outings and friendship, please call Isaac at 925-6572 or Helen at 783-6545.

***GAMES JEWISH SINGLES PLAY! Sun. Sept. 10, 7:30pm,** Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook. Ages 21-39, 40-69. ***We have "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?" game, etc. Bingo** 7:30-8pm. Prizes, refresh, $5 **107 couples have already met!** Free introductions, Mollie, 733-3634.

The Yonge Shul High Holiday Services at Yonge & Eglinton. The Yonge Shul, now in it's 4th year brings young Jewish people together for an unforgettable holiday experience. Rosh Hashana, Sept. 30, Oct.1 & Yom Kippur, Oct. 8/9. Tickets are $85 before Sept.15 & $110 after. Call 785-1107, ext. 303 to register.

W.O.W.
(Widows & Widowers, 50-65) Join us for our get together on Sat. eve, Sept. 9. Membership is now open for 2000/01. For more info call Bev at 905-737-8393 or Jack at 636-6101.

www.jmatch.com 1525+ Tor. Jewish Singles. **Free to join!**

Party loyalty and conscience

Scene in Ottawa
By G.K. SIMCOE

Last week, the Canada Family Action Coalition defended its efforts to promote Christian-centric Canadian Alliance (CA) candidates by arguing that Jewish and Sikh communities also orchestrate efforts to elect members of their religions.

Even Stockwell Day singled out former Montreal MP Sheila Finestone as an example of the Jewish community joining forces to get a member of their religion into Parliament.

Day's assertion was grossly inaccurate in at least two ways. First, many people will recall that when Finestone first ran, and successfully at that, she was mightily challenged by another prominent Jew, Sharon Wolfe, who subsequently, went on to become a key advisor to Brian Mulroney.

Second, it is completely false to suggest there was or is a "Jewish agenda" on governmental issues in the same manner that there is, at least on the part of the evangelical Christian right, a "Christian agenda" on issues such as abortion, sexual orientation and the like.

Who does an MP answer to: his party constituents or his co-religionists?

The suggestion that there is an inherent representational link between a faith community and a member of Parliament who happens to share that community's faith is an important issue worthy of exploration.

When he served as solicitor general back in the early 1980s, Robert Kaplan was taken to task in certain quarters of "his" Jewish community because of his perceived weak response regarding the prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals. Some felt Kaplan had pressed for action on that file as much as he could.

But most believed he was a "vendu" – a colloquial Quebec expression for someone who has "sold-out."

The harshness (and legitimacy) of the criticism aside, no one ever suggested that Kaplan advanced a Jewish agenda at the expense of the policies of the government of which he was a member.

The real question, therefore, may be: To what extent should party loyalty impinge on a politician's personal beliefs or religious convictions?

Is it ever reasonable – even appropriate – for a politician to say, "I must oppose my party."

Stay tuned faithful readers. Next week we'll seek to answer this question by looking at a more recent case study.

Peterborough's shul to be rededicated on Sept. 24

The Florence family in 1908 (from left) Miriam Florence holding Arthur, Harry, Rose (Green) Florence and David Florence, one of the first settlers, and (back row) Louis and Annie (mother of Isidore Black).

The junior Hebrew class at Beth Israel. From left Leah Chalmers, assistant teacher; Jeremy Henessey, Eli, Danielle and Jordie Goldberg (under bench), Paula Baruch-Houpt, teacher and co-ordinator; Rebekkah Houpt, Stephanie Adams.

Continued from page 3

and we try to keep everybody comfortable," said Murray Grafstein, 66, a synagogue executive and former president. (He is related to Senator Gerry Grafstein.)

Murray's parents started a textile business in Peterborough, the Uptown Silk Company, which he is now winding up.

Beth Israel is not affiliated officially with any stream of Judaism, although it was once with the United Synagogues, Gafstein said.

The kitchen of Beth Israel is strictly kosher, he added.

"Some of the Jews here are not as conversant with davening in the traditional style but they are keenly interested in Judaism. Things have changed a lot. My children went to Hebrew school several times a week. Now the students just go once a week. There are so many other things for kids to do."

The city lies in Kawartha cottage country, dotted with lakes, only 75 miles from Toronto. "We can go anywhere we want in five minutes, that's one of the attractions of living here," said Gillman, whose husband, Larry, works for Quaker Oats.

The late Rabbi A.B. Baab, who died three years ago, was the spiritual leader of the community for many years.

'Things have changed a lot'

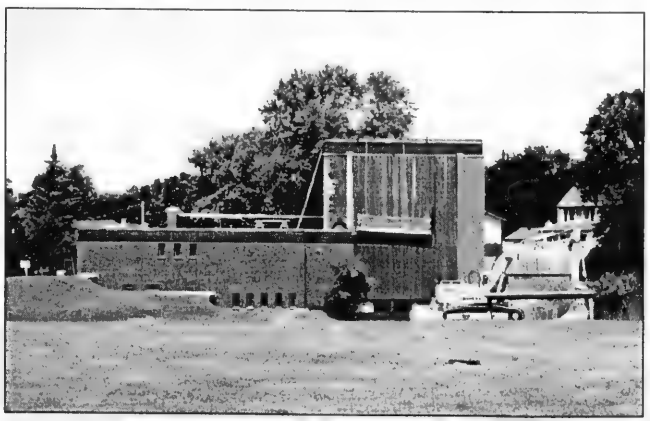
In 1964, at the time the new Beth Israel was opened, the rabbi said Peterborough's first Jew was L. Kert, a shoemaker, who arrived in 1881, followed by a Mr. Lister and J. Ripstein.

Among the pioneering Jewish families were the Lows, the Florences, the Swartzes, the Cohens, the Elkins, the Finebergs, the Blacks, the Sukloffs, the Zacks, and the Cherneys, among others.

By 1951, according to the census, there were 232 Jews in a total population of 28,272.

From 1939 to 1964, the Beth Israel Synagogue was located on Reid Avenue in a former Methodist Sunday School. Before that it was on Aylmer Street in a house owned by the late Abraham Swartz and remodelled into a synagogue.

At that time, a committee, convened by Mrs. B. Chesler, raised the money to buy it.



Renovation work continues at Beth Israel Synagogue.

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MENU #2
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Lockshen Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Kasha & Bows
Carrots Tzimmes
New Dills, Cole Slaw
Honey Cake, Chala
Mohn Cookies
Apple Pie
Honey &Apples
$260.00 for 10 people

MENU #3 LOW FAT MENU
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Cabbage Borsht
Whole Roast Turkey (precarved) or Baked Chicken Breast
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See Page 33

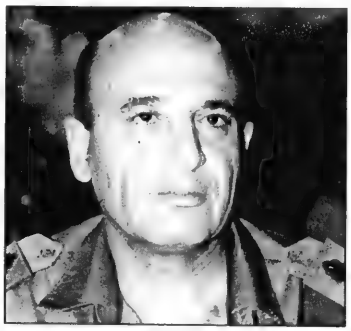
Three IDF soldiers killed by blunders of elite unit

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Friendly fire by members of IDF's Duvdevan unit is being blamed for the deaths of three Israeli soldiers killed after a clash with the "most wanted" Hamas terrorist in the West Bank, Mahmoud Abu Hanud.

Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz, who appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the incident, described it as a "serious operational hitch" deriving from "inaccurate placement [of the soldiers], or inaccurate identification or inaccurate fire." He promised that the events would be thoroughly investigated.

The soldiers killed were Staff Sgt. Niv Ya'akobi, 20, from Tel Aviv, Staff Sgt. Liron Sharvit, 20, from Beit Hashmonai and Staff Sgt. Roey Even-Filsteiner, 21, from Hod Hasharon. Sgt. Avi Asaf is recovering from his wounds in Tel Hashomer Hospital.



Shaul Mofaz

Abu Hanud, the object of the operation, was wounded lightly and escaped to Nablus, where he gave himself up to the Palestinian security forces and was hospitalized. Hanud is believed responsible for two suicide bombings in Jerusalem in 1997 that claimed 21 lives. A second terrorist on the scene surrendered to the IDF.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who is also defence minister, said that "if it turns out that the fighters were hit by their comrades, that is the gravest and most painful operational hitch imaginable." He added that Abu Hanud's arrest by the Palestinian Authority will scuttle wide-scale terrorist attacks he had planned.

A major question to be addressed by the investigation is whether the reason for the errors lay in flawed advance planning or in substandard execution by the soldiers. If the latter, measures may be taken against officers in the unit.

The general staff does not usually remove field-level commanders for operational mishaps, but the gravity of the failure in this case may require a departure from that policy.

Israel digs for solutions to water crisis

By AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Analysis

It has been a long, hot summer in Israel, and the country's scarce water supplies are being squeezed past their limits.

After three years of drought, Israeli water authorities have watched this summer in trepidation as the country's three main water sources – the Sea of Galilee, the coastal aquifer and mountain aquifer – have been rapidly sucked below danger levels.

With no alternative solutions in place, there was little they could do except to launch a big public campaign, showing Israelis how every extra toilet flush drains the Sea of Galilee, which has now dropped 13 centimetres below the red line of 213 metres below sea level.

Yet they know that the impact of publicity on water consumption habits is only a partial remedy, and solid solutions are needed to provide a long-term answer to an ongoing problem. So last month, the government pushed through a long-awaited comprehensive plan for a series of solutions, ranging from desalinization to importing water from nearby countries such as Turkey to recycling more sewage for agriculture and industry.

But it will still take time for these projects to come to life, and even if the plan is pushed through quickly, the first desalinization plant will probably not come on line for more than two years. In the interim, rain is of the essence.

"If in the coming winter we will have an average rainfall or a dry year, we will be forced to cut the quotas of water for agriculture," said Shimon Tal, Israel's water commissioner.

"A rainy winter will allow us to get through the next year or two," he added. "However, over the next two years we are dependent on the mercy of heaven."

Those heavens have been far from merciful over the past decade. Even though rainfall was average in Israel last winter, the last three years have been very dry overall.

Over the past decade, there has only been one extremely rainy winter, in 1992. At the same time, 1 million immigrants came to Israel from former Soviet Union countries, adding additional strain on meagre resources.

As part of a peace deal with Jordan, Israel agreed to transfer 55 million cubic metres of water a year to its eastern neighbour, and water is on the agenda of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks as well. Meanwhile, as Israel's standard of living has steadily climbed, water use has been steadily rising.

But although the signs of an imminent crisis were clear, the government only decided to implement solutions last month.

Part of the problem is that the agricultural industry is the biggest consumer of water in the country, and the agricultural lobby is one of the most powerful pressure groups in Israel.

Water for agricultural use is heavily subsidized – costing 55 percent less than water for consumers – and farmers have successfully thwarted any attempt to raise the prices. They warn that more expensive water would make their products more expensive on world markets, and could be the kiss of death to an industry that is already struggling.

"For years, the biggest mistake is that the water system in Israel has been run by the agricultural lobby, which has its own interests," said Yossi Inbar, deputy director general of Israel's Ministry of the Environment.

Inbar also blames the Finance Ministry for blocking approval of water programs over the years. The treasury, he said, did not worry about an imminent crisis since it calculates water projections and needs based on a multiyear rainfall average.

The Finance Ministry has argued that before building desalinization plants, which will end up raising the cost of water to all consumers, subsidies for farmers should be reduced.

"When you have a vital and scarce resource, and not only don't you sell it at a realistic price but subsidize it heavily to the biggest consumer, you intensify the shortage greatly," said Zohar Yinon, director of the water and sewage unit at the finance ministry's budget division.

Critics say the Finance Ministry was unrealistic in insisting on breaking the agricultural lobby. "It is a politically unlikely scenario," said one businessman involved in the water issue. "The Finance Ministry's argument is only correct if you ignore the social implications of abandoning hundreds of thousands of acres of land."

With the rapidly deteriorating situation, the future of Israeli agriculture may no longer rest in the hands of water subsidies, but rather with the rain clouds that Israelis hope will come their way this autumn.

"If we have another dry year," says Inbar of the Environment Ministry, "Israeli agriculture may not survive."

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Ehud Barak aims to please secular voters

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has announced a number of initiatives aimed at Israel's secular voters.

The initiatives, which are being viewed as an indication that Barak is pessimistic about the possibility of bringing any religious parties back into his weakened governing coalition, include allowing for the drafting of a constitution, creating civil marriages and abolishing the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Barak announced the initiatives in a meeting with Labour party ministers last week.

"The national agenda has now changed: After the withdrawal from Lebanon and putting the economy on its feet, it is time to raise the flag of social issues," Barak told Israel Radio.

Barak said he had delegated three Cabinet ministers – Yossi Beilin, Shlomo Ben-Ami and Rabbi Michael Melchior – to draw up a position paper on a constitution.

He said he would continue simultaneously with efforts to make peace with Israel's neighbours.

Ehud Barak

Sources within Barak's One Israel bloc said Barak's move was tantamount to a "divorce" from the Shas party – which vehemently opposes the steps.

Barak publicly prodded the Likud party to support his measures. But Ariel Sharon, the leader of the main opposition party, said Barak's announcement reflected his government's panic – and predicted the measures would not pass.

The announcement is the latest in a series that appears to be aimed at winning favour with the Israeli public.

For example, Finance Minister Avraham Shochat recently announced a number of dramatic cuts in sales taxes on such items as household appliances and electronics.

Barak lost his parliamentary majority when three parties walked out of his governing coalition in protest against the Camp David summit, leaving his coalition with 42 members out of the 120-member Knesset.

The embattled prime minister has been trying to rebuild his coalition during the Knesset summer recess while simultaneously working to advance peace efforts with the Palestinians.

At the same time, however, speculation has intensified that Barak may have to face early elections if he is unable to cobble together a government or head off efforts to vote his coalition out of office.

Suicide bombings planned by local ring linked to Bin Laden

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Shin Bet security service has uncovered a terrorist ring established in the territories by the extremist Islamic organization headed by Osama Bin Laden, the elusive Afghanistan-based multimillionaire who is wanted by the United States for perpetrating a series of terrorist attacks against American nationals.

The members of the ring planned to carry out a series of attacks against Israeli targets, including suicide-bomb attacks inside Israel and the launching of anti-tank missiles at settlements in the territories.

Sources said that warnings about the terrorist groups' plan to perpetrate large-scale attacks in Israel, particularly in Jerusalem, remain valid, though there is no concrete information about any specific squad that is about to carry out such an attack.

The terrorist ring was discovered following the capture of its leader, Nabil Oukal, from the Jebalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He had undergone training at camps sponsored by Bin Laden in Pakistan and Afghanistan, where he was instructed to set up a network that would perpetrate attacks against Israel.

Oukal recruited dozens of activists and was in contact with Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of the militant Hamas organization. Yassin apparently did not know that Oukal was also working for Bin Laden, and there is no reports of operational co-ordination between Bin Laden and Hamas.

Oukal also tried to recruit two members of the Islamic Movement in Israel, but they declined to join him.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) have arrested 11 members of the ring. The Shin Bet and the PA's preventive security units are still looking for caches of explosives, which the network had in its possession.

A senior security official said that two others in the ring had also been trained in Bin Laden camps abroad, acquiring extensive knowledge in the use of sophisticated sabotage methods.

The official said that Israeli authorities identified Bin Laden's intentions very late — his organization first made contact with activists in the territories three years ago.

The Shin Bet is concerned about the phenomenon of dozens of Palestinians going to Pakistan for religious studies. They fear studies there may be fertile ground for recruiting students to join Islamic international terrorist organizations.

Last April, the Shin Bet arrested three Israeli Arabs from the Islamic Movement who were suspected of engaging in terrorist activity for Hamas. The head of that group, Maazen Mahzouma, received instructions from his brother Nabil, a Hamas man who lives in Damascus.

The group acquired a Kalashnikov rifle and hid it near Jenin, in the northern West Bank, to be picked up by another Hamas squad. They were arrested when they went to pick up weapons from a cache on the Egyptian border.

The senior security official said the three probably operated on their own and that the leaders of the Islamic Movement were unaware of their activity.

Shin Bet is particularly concerned over the Syrian connection to the terrorist groups. The senior official said that "Syria is still a centre of terrorism. Headquarters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad are located there, and their personnel continue to initiate terrorist attacks, including very recently. This is not underground activity. It is done openly and Damascus turns a blind eye."

Hamas activists who were recently detained told their interrogators about instructions they had received directly from the organization's headquarters in Damascus, the senior official said.

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Argentine Jews angry at missionaries

By NICOLAS PENCHASZADEH
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUENOS AIRES — The three-day celebration in one of Buenos Aires' most popular parks two weeks ago was touted as an international festival of Jewish music and dance.

But, as Argentine Jewish leaders made perfectly clear, the event, attended by 30,000 people, was actually sponsored by "messianic Jews" who want to persuade Jews to accept Jesus.

Argentine Jewish leaders protested the event, which marked a rare appearance by messianic Jews in Argentina, where they are less visible than elsewhere in the world, such as in the United States and eastern Europe.

"These so-called messianic Jews who use Jewish symbols are actually a group of Christian missionaries who are very active in the United States, whose aim is to attract misinformed Jews to convert them," stated a news release issued by the AMIA Jewish Community Centre.

"We respect religious freedom, but we want to state that these self-proclaimed messianic Jews are not part of the Jewish community and their event does not receive the backing of any Jewish institution in the country."

The Argentine Jewish community protested the event, asking a judge to block the festival, but he refused to do so. The judge did, however, order event organizers to take down neon menorahs and a Star of David, but left the sign advertising the event.

Jewish leaders sent out e-mails and took out newspaper advertisements. Outside the stadium, flyers were posted and a truck with speakers informed possible attendees about the true nature of the event.

"Beware!!! Don't let yourself be fooled by these people who are financed by powerful groups in order to, convert you to Christianity. In 2,000 years, they haven't been able to do it by force, and now they try like this," read one of the flyers.

Jewish heritage sites promoted in Europe

By RUTH E. GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

An ancient mikvah in Sicily. The Jewish cemetery in Sarajevo. The oldest synagogue in Great Britain.

These are just a few of the hundreds of Jewish heritage sites in 16 European countries that will be open to the public Sept. 3 in a "European Day of Jewish Culture."

The scope of this year's initiative is a demonstration of a growing interest in European Jewish heritage and Jewish heritage sites that has developed markedly in the past decade.

Comment

From Spain to Switzerland, from Belgium to the Balkans, the aim of the event is to recognize Jewish heritage as an integral part of European cultural heritage and to promote tourism to sites of Jewish interest.

According to organizers, as many as 300 or more synagogues, cemeteries, ritual baths, medieval ghettos and Jewish museums will be on show.

Guided tours, exhibitions, concerts and other events are also planned – ranging from a Jewish book fair in Bologna to food-tastings of typical Jewish cuisine in a number of towns and cities. Special brochures, leaflets and other informational material will be distributed in a number of places.

"The Jewish community wants to promote awareness and stimulate interest in all aspects of its culture," said a representative of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities.

"They know that tolerance begins with curiosity in others, and that acquaintance and encounter help eliminate preconceptions, enabling dialogue among peoples."

For decades after World War II, Jews and non-Jews alike paid little attention to preserving or documenting Jewish sites that had survived both the destruction of the Holocaust and demographic shifts of Jewish populations.

The "Street of the Jews" in St. Malo, France

Many Jews wanted nothing to do with places that they believed were vestiges of a closed chapter of history. But since the late 1980s – and particularly since the fall of communism opened up Eastern and Central Europe to tourists and scholars – Jewish heritage has become increasingly recognized as a rich legacy for Europe as a whole and embraced as an important component of multicultural society.

"Jewish heritage in France is also the heritage of all the French people, just as the cathedrals of France also belong to France's Jews," France's culture minister told a conference on European Jewish heritage held in Paris last year.

Sites in nearly 40 towns and cities will be open in Italy, home to about 35,000 Jews. In Florence, Italy's culture minister will attend a ceremony kicking off restoration of the city's magnificent synagogue and Jewish museum.

In Britain, sites in London and eight other cities are on the list, putting a number of selected historic synagogues on public view for the first time.

Among the synagogues open to the public will be London's Bevis Marks Synagogue, the oldest in Britain, built in 1701.

Most sites on display are generally closed to public access, and many were abandoned for decades – or centuries.

Like Spanish ghettos that will be open for viewing, the medieval mikvah in Sicily, considered one of the finest in Europe, predates the expulsion of Jews from Spanish-ruled lands in 1492.

The Jewish cemetery in Sarajevo, founded in 1630, is undergoing restoration after being seriously damaged during the siege of Bosnia in the 1990s, when it was on the front line of fighting and used as an important artillery position by Bosnia Serbs.

The synagogue in Florence

In several countries, the government is serving as a sponsor, and the Council of Europe has included Jewish Culture Day as part of its campaign promoting "Europe, a Common Heritage."

France's Agency for the Development of Tourism of the Bas-Rhin, B'nai B'rith Europe, the European Council of Jewish Communities and the Red de Juderias de Espana, in Girona, Spain are co-ordinating the initiative, which will take place in Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The European Open Day is an expansion of an "Open Doors to Jewish Heritage" program initiated in the French region of Alsace in 1996.

Each year, the number of participating sites has grown. Last year, sites in five countries were included as an experimental step toward expanding the event to a Europewide event this year.

For more information on the European Day of Jewish Culture, see the Web site of the European Council of Jewish Communities: www.ecjc.org.

Jews tell Vatican: Pius IX doesn't merit sainthood

By RUTH E. GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

VATICAN CITY — An umbrella Jewish group dealing with Jewish-Catholic relations has bluntly told the Vatican that Pius IX doesn't deserve to be a saint.

Pius IX, a 19th-century pope who became infamous for ordering the 1858 kidnap of Edgardo Mortara, a Jewish boy who had been forcibly baptized as a baby, will be beatified by Pope John Paul II on Sept. 3 – the last step before sainthood.

The protest came in a letter last Wednesday from Seymour Reich, chair of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations to Archbishop Jose Saraiva Martins.

Martins is chair of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

"If saintliness is seen as the goodness, wisdom and courage to behave righteously and right wrongs regardless of when they occur, then Pius IX's conduct falls far short of saintliness," Reich wrote.

Perpetuated contempt

Acknowledging that "only the Church itself" had the right to determine who are its saints, Reich nonetheless wrote: "But when the issue of sainthood embodies matters of major Jewish concern, we believe the Jewish community has an obligation to voice its reaction."

He called Pius IX "the pope who perpetuated centuries-old church contempt and hatred for Jews" and branded the kidnap of Mortara an "assault on Judaism and parenthood."

The Reich letter was the latest in a series of protests from Jews in Italy, Israel and elsewhere over the beatification of Pius IX, who reigned from 1846 to 1878 and was the last pope to confine Jews to the ghetto.

There is virtually no chance that beatification plans will be shelved. But Reich's letter is notable in that IJCIC is the Vatican's official Jewish partner in interreligious dialogue.

The IJCIC consists of the American Jewish Committee, the ADL, B'nai B'rith, the World Jewish Congress and the Israel Jewish Council on Interreligious Relations, as well as representatives of Orthodox, Reform and Conservative Jewry.

Pius IX will be beatified in a joint ceremony in which Pope John XXIII will also be set on the road to sainthood.

John XXIII, who died in 1963, was a genuinely beloved figure who modernized the Catholic church, helped save Jews during World War II and opened the way to Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

Catholics and non-Catholics alike are greeting his beatification with joy.

The week in Israel

August 21

• Violence broke out between worshippers and Israeli police near the Temple Mount following prayers marking the 31st anniversary of an arson attempt at the Al Aksa Mosque.

• Prime Minister Ehud Barak's chief of staff, Haim Mendel-Shaked, resigned after a newspaper quoted him as saying the prime minister refuses to trust his advisers.

August 22

• In a visit with Barak in Tel Aviv, Jordan's King Abdullah said Israelis "have the right to know that they have solid partners they can live and interact with." President Moshe Katsav refused to meet with the king because the monarch did not come to Jerusalem.

August 23

• There's not yet enough common ground between Israel and the Palestinians to hold another summit, said Israel's chief negotiator at the recent Camp David meetings, Shlomo Ben-Ami.

August 24

• An American military officer found in Israel after going absent without leave for two weeks from his Texas base is voluntarily returning to the United States. Lt.-Col. Jeremiah Mattysse said he did not pass any military information to the Jewish state.

August 25

• Barak yesterday took his first concrete step toward establishing a national unity government by calling on the Likud to join his government within a few weeks if the peace process with the Palestinians fails.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Help your child cope with back-to-school stress

By ELLEN FELDMAN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Hectic schedules can cause children stress that leads to emotional and mental difficulties. With back-to-school time approaching, students' stress levels are rising and parents should know the warning symptoms.

Symptoms of Stress

Symptoms of stress appear in three different ways: emotionally, socially or physically. Symptoms differ in different age groups.

Elementary school children may show physical signs such as sleeping problems, changes in eating habits, head and stomach aches, teeth grinding, bed wetting and twirling and pulling their own hair, and they may become accident prone. Emotional signs could include difficulty concentrating, anxiety and nervousness, increased irritability, lowered tolerance for frustration, and increased moodiness and tearfulness. Withdrawing from previous interests and avoiding social activities are true reflections of stress. Grade school children also may drastically change the way they play and talk with others.

Middle-school students demonstrate stress with frequent illnesses, accidents and headaches. They experience mood swings, persistent depression and anger, and are unwilling to discuss feelings. Social changes showing stress may include fighting with peers, shoplifting, smoking, changing friends, lack of interest in participating in extra-curricular activities and, potentially, drifting into drug and alcohol use.

Symptoms appear in three different ways

High-schoolers could lose or gain a significant amount of weight and establish a pattern of increased numbers of "sick days." Socially, they may drift into smoking, and drug and alcohol use. High-schoolers typically show the most stress in their emotional state. Ongoing irritability, difficulty in concentrating, breaking into crying fits over deadlines, perceived mistakes and failures, and loss of sense of humour are strong signals of high stress.

How Parents Can Help

The following tips are for parents to help their children cope with stress:

• Talk to your child about your expectations. It is important for both the child and the parent to make a solid commitment to working towards a good school year. Clearly define the expectations for the upcoming school year at the beginning so everyone is on board with what is expected.

• All children need help organizing their homework and study schedules. When you are out purchasing school supplies, pick up a notebook that can be used as a daily homework and assignment calendar. Every evening, review the assignment book and discuss what needs to be done. By helping your child schedule his or her homework and school projects, you are teaching a life skill that your child will rely on in the future. Organizing one's time is a critical step toward academic success.

• Emphasize personal relationships, not performance. Learn to succeed and enjoy yourself in the process. Having fun is important to mental and emotional stability.

• Spend quality time with your child. Let your child pick an activity you can do together. Keep the cellular phone at home or at the office.

• Compliment your child without comparing him or her to others. Show your child that his or her performance is what interests you.

• Listen but don't advise. There is a time to give advice and there is a time to just lend an ear.

• Keep your sense of humour. Show kids your ability to laugh at yourself and your situation. Children learn from their parents' example and a sense of humour can make a lot of problems disappear.

Ellen Feldman is with the Sylvan Learning Centre in North York.

Neurosurgeon maintains his busy schedule at 63

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Dr. Charles Tator, one of only 160 neurosurgeons in Canada, still finds time in his 110-hour work week to canvass a few cards for the United Jewish Appeal.

Tator, 63, the only living neurosurgeon to hold the Order of Canada, performs 150 to 200 brain and spinal cord operations a year, (brain tumors and spinal defects are his two specialties).

Tator was former chair of neurosurgery at the University of Toronto for 10 years, where he is now a professor. He is one of the 11 surgeons at Toronto Western Hospital to which neurological patients from Mount Sinai Hospital are referred.

He works out of a small office at the Toronto Western Hospital, and often visits elementary and high schools in the area to preach the message of safety. Tator discusses issues such as the prevention of playground accidents – scarves getting caught in swings – and the prevention of sports-related head and neck injuries.

A slight decrease in this type of injury across Canada has been reported. But in hockey, the number of players of all ages suffering from broken necks is increasing, as a result of hard hits from behind, he said. "This situation is coming to a boil."

His interest in safety, and his research into the billions of nerve cells in the spinal system, are at the centre of his professional life.

The outlook for patients with neurosurgical problems (Parkinson's disease among them) has improved greatly in the last 15 years or so because of medical advances, said Tator.

It is a myth that Jewish people are more subject to strokes and other neurosurgical problems, he said.

An estimated two to three percent of the total population are affected, but this may not include the number of elderly people who have strokes but are not amenable to surgery.

"With the average life expectancy of women now at 78 and men at 74, it is not surprising that more strokes are occurring."

The shortage of neurosurgeons in Canada is a "significant problem," he said, caused to a great extent by the fact that they can cross the border to jobs where they work half as hard and earn four times as much.

Ways of tackling the problem, he said, include attracting more students to the specialty, and extending the careers of neurosurgeons who reach the retirement age of 65, though they could do fewer operations. Tator does not expect to retire at 65.

Rick McGinnis photo

Dr. Charles Tator

He is optimistic about the future of treating Parkinson's disease patients. "Hormones are being injected right into the brain, and the results of surgery are very good."

He is also excited about what is being accomplished by neurosurgeons in the University Health Network, which includes the Princess Margaret Hospital, the Toronto General Hospital and the Toronto Western Hospital.

In fact, he said, Toronto's neuroscience centre has the most, and the best, neurosurgeons in Canada.

Tator describes himself as "a total, Toronto product." Both sets of his grandparents lived near the Toronto Western Hospital, and his parents lived on Rusholme Road, when he was born at the Toronto General hospital. Later, they moved to Wembley Road in Forest Hill, and the York Mills area in North York.

His wife Carol, formerly of Detroit, is a race relations consultant who teaches in the anthropology department at York University. She is a former president of Temple Emanu-El, where both she and her husband are active members.

Married for 40 years, they have two sons and a daughter – Ira, a writer, Michael, in business, and Julie, a school teacher.

When he graduated from U of T medical school in 1961, Tator first thought of becoming a psychiatrist, but the physical mysteries of the brain appealed to him more than the theories of Sigmund Freud, he said.

"Psychiatry has changed so much, with the emphasis on biological and physical treatments. The two professions are becoming closer. I don't know if I would make the same decision today."

DVI set to honour Alpha Omega int'l president

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The Dental Volunteers for Israel will honour Dr. Barry Chapnick, Alpha Omega's 93rd international president, at its 16th annual Musical Soiree.

Chapnick is the fifth Canadian to serve as president of Alpha Omega – one of the world's largest dental organizations.

A 1970 graduate of the University of Toronto, Chapnick maintains a private endodontic practice and is a lecturer and associate in dentistry at the University of Toronto's faculty of dentistry. He is also an endodontic consultant at the Mount Sinai Hospital and Humber Memorial Hospital.

Chapnick served in all of the executive positions in the Toronto alumni chapter and served as president in 1986-87. He was president of the Canadian Academy of Endodontics in in 1990-91 and dental consultant to the World Basketball Championships in 1994.

Dr. Barry Chapnick

In 1989, he was cited for his contributions to the profession by the Ontario Dental Association with its Award of Merit. He also received fellowships in the International College of Dentists and honours at other international associations.

Chapnick has also served as a volunteer dentist for the Jewish Family and Child Service.

Dr. Stanley Jacobson, president of DVI Canada says, "Barry Chapnick has served the Toronto community as a whole and the dental community particularly with dedication and generosity."

He adds that Chapnick's interest in the DVI project in Jerusalem, "has made a difference in quality of life for many children."

DVI offers free dental and preventative care for Jerusalem's Israeli and Arab underprivileged children and for children of new immigrants.

Thousands of Jewish and non-Jewish dentists from 14 countries, work at the clinic for periods of one to four weeks.

They get free apartments for their families while they give of their time and expertise to serve as volunteer dentists at the clinic. In their spare time, the families participate in trips, lectures and receive free concert and other event tickets.

As well as his involvement with many professional organizations, Chapnick is a contributor to many other local Jewish organizations, including Jewish National Fund, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, and State of Israel Bonds.

Chapnick, his wife Jane and children, Cary and Stephen are avid fans of the Blue Jays, Maple Leafs, Raptors and Argonauts. And when time permits, he enjoys theatre, photography and travel.

The Chapnicks are members of the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

Other Canadian presidents of Alpha Omega have included John Sherman, Harry Jolley, Murray Cornish and Gordon Perlmutter.

This year's Alpha Omega soiree will take place on Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. and will feature pianist, Shaya Petroff, and violinist, Catherine Manoukian.

Guest violinist, Manoukian has appeared as a soloist with many Canadian and international orchestras. In 1994, she won first prize at the Canadian Music Competition. Manoukian was guest soloist at the ceremony honouring Seiji Ozawa's 25 years with the Boston Symphony.

For more information on Dental Volunteers for Israel or the dinner, call Dr. Stanley Jacobson, 416-225-8400 or fax 416-225-5878.

NYGH set to open Community Care Centre at Branson Division

TORONTO — North York General Hospital (NYGH) will open the new Community Care Centre to treat urgent medical problems at the Branson Division on Sept. 11.

The Community Care Centre will replace the Branson Division emergency department as part of a hospital-wide reorganization of patient services.

The centre will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The centre will look after the vast majority of patients who visit emergency departments with problems such as broken bones, sprains, cuts, asthma, coughs and bronchitis, ear aches, abdominal pains, allergic reactions and skin rashes.

"The Community Care Centre is more than a walk-in clinic because we will offer comprehensive urgent medical care to the residents of the Branson community.

"Our doctors and nurses are trained to handle any medical emergency. We will have full service medical imaging and laboratory departments at the Branson Division, so patients can have all their tests in one place at one time," chief of emergency services, Dr. Tim Rutledge says.

"If a patient has a more serious problem that requires admission to hospital, they will be transferred by ambulance to the General Division emergency department at Leslie and Sheppard.

"The expansion of the emergency department at the General Division is now finished and there is more space to look after more patients," he adds.

Rutledge believes the centre at Branson will help reduce the pressure on local emergency departments.

"I think there will be a real advantage for people to visit the Community Care Centre for their urgent medical needs. The staff will be able to assess and treat people faster because they won't be busy looking after critically ill patients."

Ambulances will not take patients to the Community Care Centre. They will be taken to the closest emergency department.

***

Last April, North York General Hospital announced plans to reorganize patient services at the Branson and General Divisions in order to improve quality and access to care for people living in north central Toronto.

"There is absolutely no reduction in service," President and CEO Murray MacKenzie says. "Only *where* some services are provided may change. I am convinced that our community will receive better and more timely care as a result of the changes we're making."

Other aspects of the reorganization include:

- Transferring medical, surgical and psychiatric inpatient services from Branson Division to the General Division;
- Creating two new units at the Branson Division: a short-term rehabilitation unit and a progressive care unit for patients waiting admission to long-term or chronic care facilities;
- Transferring some day surgery and outpatient services from the General Division to the Branson Division; and
- Increasing specialized geriatric services for seniors across the organization, particularly the Branson Division.

This reorganization of patient services is another step in achieving the Health Services Restructuring Commission (HSRC) directions to convert the Branson site into a world class ambulatory health care centre with a focus on services for seniors.

Walk/run to aid colon cancer research

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The annual Body 'N' Soul walk/run for colon cancer research has added a silent auction to its program this year.

The walk/run takes place Sept. 10, starting at Leslie Street and Sheppard Avenue. Co-chair Amy Lerman hopes it will raise $100,000.

Her goal is based on increasing participation, she said. Last year, the event raised $75,000; the first one three years ago, netted $23,000.

Lerman stressed the importance of research into the disease, noting that "if detected early enough, colon cancer can be cured."

The registration fee for the five-kilometre walk or the 10-kilometre run is $25 on site, or $50 for a family, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments will be available.

Bidding at the silent auction for clothing, sundries and special prize packages will take place around noon. There are also raffle prizes, including an all-expense paid trip to Biloxi, Miss.

Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Canada, according to Dr. Zane Cohen and Dr. Steven Gallinger of Mt. Sinai Hospital. It occurs equally among men and women, regardless of age, race or general state of health.

There are about 16,600 new cases of colorectal cancer in Canada each year, and incidence of the disease is increasing steadily, according to Canadian Cancer Statistics, 1999.

The money raised by the walk/run goes to Mt. Sinai Hospital's gastrointestinal cancer research fund.

For information about the run and parking instructions, call 416-782-6387 or visit the Web site at www.walk4cancer.com.

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Yom Kippur War film highlights festival

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An Israeli movie revolving around the Yom Kippur War is among the films of Jewish interest to be presented at the 25th Toronto International Film Festival next month.

The festival, one of the world's largest, runs from Sept. 7 to 16.

In all, 329 films, including 178 world and North American premieres, will be screened.

Israel's sole entry at this year's festival, *Kippur*, is actually a French-Israeli co-production, and was shown at the Cannes International Film Festival in May.

The director, Amos Gitai, has made more than a dozen films, including *Kadosh*, which turned on the lives of haredim in Jerusalem.

Kippur, which tells the story of the 1973 war through the eyes of seven Israeli soldiers, is autobiographical.

During the war, Gitai, a student, joined an air force rescue unit. On a mission to bring back an Israeli pilot whose plane had been downed over Syrian territory, the helicopter was hit by anti-aircraft fire, killing the co-pilot and wounding the mechanic and Gitai.

Flying out of enemy range, the helicopter limped back to Israel, where Gitai began a difficult recovery at a hospital in Safed, a rehabilitation centre and at his girlfriend's house.

Born in Haifa in 1950, Gitai studied architecture in Israel and in California.

In 1975, he started shooting short films.

Gitai went to live in Paris after making a controversial film about the 1982 war in Lebanon, but returned to Israel seven years ago.

Since then, he has directed more than 10 films, notably *A House in Jerusalem* and *Zion, Auto-Emancipation*.

Retrospectives of his work have been held in a number of countries.

The British Film Institute published a book about Gitai in 1994.

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Lundi, 13 Novembre 2000

N.B. Ce document est également disponible en français au bureau du Secrétaire, à l'Hotel de ville de Maple au 905-832-8504

How do you know if your name is on the Voter's List? ***IT'S EASY!*** To ensure your name is on the Voters' List and that the information is correct, come to the Clerk's Dept. in the City of Vaughan Civic Centre, 2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan, Ont. (Maple). ***OR*** you can call us at (905) 832-8504 and if your name is not on the Voters' List or is shown incorrectly, we will mail you an application to amend the Voters' List. We will be open weekdays for the purpose of amending the Voters' List starting Tues., Sept. 5, 2000.

Who can vote?
You may vote in the municipal election if at any time during the qualification period (Sept. 5, 2000 to Nov. 13, 2000) you are: •a resident of the City of Vaughan; or •the owner or tenant of property in the City of Vaughan or the spouse or same-sex partner of such person; and
On Voting Day (Nov. 13, 2000) you are: •a Canadian Citizen; and •at least 18 years of age; and •not prohibited from voting by law.

Remember, for further information contact the Clerk's Dept. at (905) 832-8504.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!!

First published: Aug. 30, 2000.
John D. Leach, City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

Mystery book delves into Holocaust

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO—The recently published mystery, *To Die in Spring*, is much more than a mystery.

Written by Sylvia Maultash Warsh, a teacher of creative writing and a published author of poetry and magazine articles, the book is partly set in Toronto's famed Kensington Market.

With the Holocaust as a major theme, the book is based on some of her parents' experiences during World War II. "Their stories which go back to the Nazi death camps in Poland made a big impression on me. I wanted to show what is was like," Warsh said.

Another major theme in the book is mental illness or perceived illness. She says that her husband, psychiatrist Jerry Warsh, who works in bipolar research, was her medical consultant for the book.

Warsh said she intended to make the mystery novel "both entertaining and educational."

Sylvia Maultash Warsh

In *To Die in Spring*, the major character, Dr. Rebecca Temple, is a family physician in Toronto who practices psychotherapy. The story, set in 1979, takes place six months after the death of her husband.

Alone and starting over again, she is confronted with the violent murder of a patient, Goldie Kochinsky, a gentle, elderly lady who she earlier diagnosed as paranoid.

Struggling with the guilt she feels over the possible misdiagnosis, she turns detective and becomes the killer's next victim.

Warsh was born in Stuttgart, Germany and immigrated to Canada when she was four years old. She attended Downsview Collegiate and received a master's degree in Linguistics at the University of Toronto.

She has written three unpublished novels. Parts of some short stories and her poetry collection have been published in literary magazines and anthologies.

Warsh teaches creative writing to seniors for the Toronto District School Board and teaches seniors at the Bernard Betel Centre, as well as the Wagman Centre.

Warsh says that reading historical fiction "is different from history books which are abstract with names, dates, etc. In fiction, the reader identifies with the characters and if those characters suffer, the reader experiences the events on a deeper level."

JEWISH MUSIC AT CRANBROOKE CLUB

The Cranbrooke Friendship Club opens its new season with An Afternoon of Jewish Music, featuring **Miriam Eskin**. As a tribute to the theme of 1,000 Years of Yiddish, Eskin performs a program of familiar and not-so-familiar Yiddish and Hebrew melodies and popular Broadway tunes.

The Soviet-trained singer has performed professionally in Yiddish in Russia, Israel and across Europe. A voice teacher, she is a support singer and soloist with the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir.

A light lunch, preceding the entertainment, is included in the $6 admission. The Cranbrooke Friendship Club is a seniors' group co-sponsored by the Winchevsky Centre and the United Jewish People's Order, a progressive secular Jewish organization.

Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave., five blocks north of Lawrence at Bathurst. 416-789-5502.

* * *

Staged Readings: Members of the Medina Theatre Ensemble present staged readings of scenes from *A Doll's House* by **Henrik Ibsen**, and *Come Blow Your Horn* by **Neil Simon**. Prior to the scene presentation, Medina holds its annual general meeting and election of its board.

Monday Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St., North York. Admission free, everyone welcome.

* * *

Toronto Symphony: The Toronto Symphony Orchestra recently released a schedule of its upcoming 2000-2001 season. The talent-packed season includes dozens of extraordinary programs, and a list of soloists and guest conductors that includes **Emanuel Ax**, **Yefim Bronfman**, **Marvin Hamlisch**, **Ben Heppner**, **Jacques Israelievitch**, **Itzhak Perlman** and **Pinchas Zukerman**.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

Hamlisch, who has been an unforgettable force in American music since the 1960s, makes his TSO Pops debut with some of his most famous material, including music from *The Sting*, *Sophie's Choice* and *A Chorus Line*, plus tributes to **Cole Porter**, **Richard Rodgers** and **Barbra Streisand**. He conducts the week of Oct. 2.

Perlman conducts and plays violin in an all-**Beethoven** programme on June 20 and 21, while Zukerman is soloist and conductor in an innovative programme that includes **Prokofiev**, **Schumann** and others, on Feb. 28 and Mar. 1 and 4.

For details, visit the Web site www.tso.on.ca or call 416-598-3375.

* * *

At the Galleries

• A portrait show with five painters, **Sarah Palmer**, **Fabrizio Perozzi**, **Anna Sharratt**, **Susan N. Stewart** and **Shaan Sayed**, opens Friday, Sept. 9 and runs to Oct. 28. Simcoe Gallery, 126 Simcoe St., 2nd floor, Toronto. 416-408-1616.

• Collages by **Macushla Ginivan** are on view at the Toronto Public Library, 22 Yorkville Ave., Sept. 1 to 30. 416-425-6301.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• Among eight works included in the Factory Theatre's upcoming season is the premiere of *Zadie's Shoes*, written by **Adam Pettie**. The play centres around Benjamin, who gambles away the money necessary to send his girlfriend to Mexico for critically needed health treatment, but finds unexpected hope in the neighbourhood synagogue. Jan. 2 to Feb. 4, 2001. 416-504-9971.

• Pulitzer prize-winning author **Frank McCourt** reads from *'Tis*, his sequel to *Angela's Ashes*. $15, $20, $25. Massey Hall, Monday Sept. 18, 8 p.m.

• New York playwrights **Karen Malpede** and **George Bartenieff** are developing a theatrical production based on the book *I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years*, by **Victor Klemperer**. Klemperer, a professor of French literature, kept a unique record of daily life in Nazi Germany in his diaries. The diary was published in two parts within the last few years.

Arts & Travel

Paintings explore surreal world

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Artist Beca Rind invites viewers of her paintings to interpret her surrealistic and colourful works.

Rind says her 24 acrylic on canvas paintings on exhibit at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre until Nov. 7., speaks with more than one voice.

"The images surge from the bitter core of life's experience or emerge from an essential longing for the lost serenity of an earlier age," she says. She told *The CJN* that each of her paintings has its own story and she hopes viewers will make an effort "to enter the feelings engraved in my paintings" and perhaps find new meaning in them.

Rind said her landscapes, urban scenes and other subjects "lie somewhere in a universe of mood and feelings, rather than in the real world."

The exhibition is sponsored by the Israeli Artists Group of Toronto.

Rind, born in Romania, studied at the Bucharest Academy of Fine Arts where she later was an associate professor of drawing and painting.

She was a member of the Romanian Painters' Association and participates in the association's annual exhibitions.

She has featured paintings in group and solo shows in Bucharest, Moscow, Paris, Prague, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Her paintings hang in the Bucharest State Museum of Arts and in private collections throughout the world.

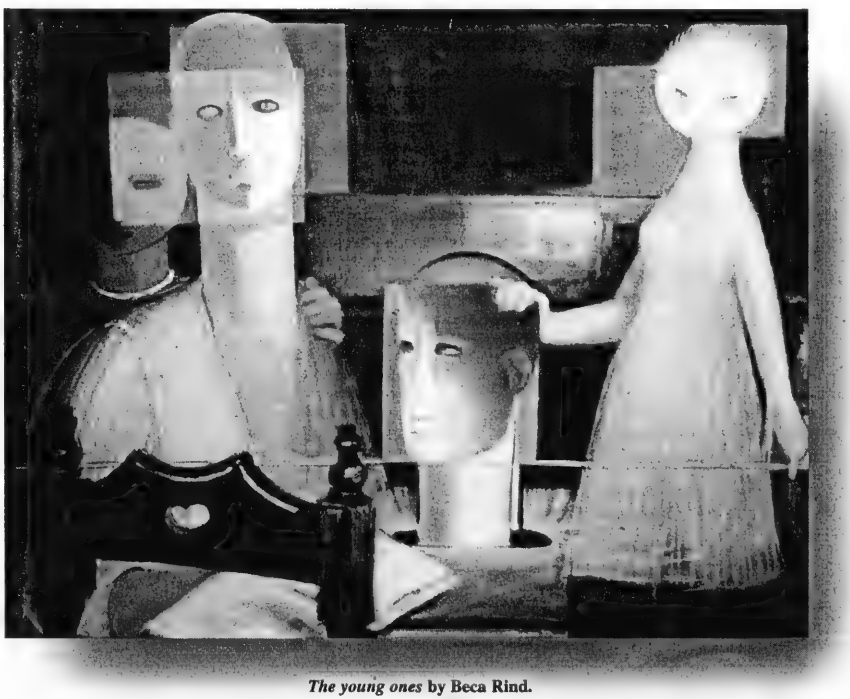
Rind settled in Israel in the 1960s where she continued to teach, paint and create book illustrations.

Her large painting entitled, Joseph and his Brothers, was mounted in Toronto in the lobby of the Elgin Theatre during the run of the musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*.

In 1994, she moved to Toronto to join her son, grandchildren and sister.

Since her arrival in Canada, Beca Rind has participated in several Society of Canadian Artists shows.

Joseph and his brother by Beca Rind.



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Winnipeg's Finjan a leading light in Klezmer music

By ERIC STEIN
Special to The CJN

Since its rescue in the late-70's from near-extinction, klezmer music has grown into one of the most popular sub-genres of world music.

Thanks to the pioneering work of early revival bands, it is no longer necessary to refer to this musical phenomenon as a revival. Klezmer is no longer in need of resuscitation – the patient is healthy and hearty, well beyond convalescence.

While most of the early revival groups may no longer be at the cutting edge of klezmer creativity, they are continually heralded as pioneers in their field and given due deference as such.

But one group for whom this recognition has been elusive, despite their longevity and ongoing creative vitality, is Canada's own Finjan.

Touring in support of their first CD release in eight years, the group was in town last weekend for two concert performances at Habourfront Centre, where they demonstrated why they are still a leading light in klezmer music and ought to be accorded recognition for their early (and continuing) contributions to the music.

Canada's first klezmer revival band, Finjan was born 18 years ago. At that time, the klezmer world was populated by only a handful of practitioners. While artists like Klezmer Conservatory Band, Kapelye, Andy Statman, and the Klezmorim plied their trade in the media hotbeds of Boston, New York, and San Francisco, Finjan tooled in relative obscurity in the frosty Canadian outpost of Winnipeg. Once the revival caught on in the late-80s and early 90s, the aforementioned American groups received most of the credit for the resurgence of the form.

In 1992, Finjan released their seminal artistic recording, *Crossing Selkirk Avenue*, which should have garnered them the recognition they deserved. But while this brilliant effort received Juno-nominations and Canadian critical acclaim, it failed to attract much attention in the American or European klezmer world despite the genre's exploding popularity. Perhaps frustrated by their continuing lack of recognition, Finjan dropped off the klezmer radar for much of the last seven years.

They have recently returned with a new CD, *Drawing on Water*, released on the prestigious Rounder Records label. The new disc demonstrates not only the group's continued brilliance, but also the creative evolution they have undergone during their recording hiatus.

Much of the CD finds them experimenting with Romanian, Ukrainian, Balkan, electronic, and other non-klezmer influences.

The opening track *Sharon's Dance* (comprising two klezmer dance melodies composed and recorded by clarinet master Dave Tarras in the 40s and 50s) sets the tone for the disc, showcasing all the hallmarks of Finjan's distinctive sound: virtuosic playing, subtle reworking of traditional melodies, tight interplay involving all the instruments, and a distinct sense of humour underlying throughout.

Finjan

Clarinetist Myron Schultz stands out throughout the disc with his impeccable tone and fierce chops, although he gives way quite a bit, perhaps too much, to Sasha Boychuk's soprano sax and sopilka (Ukrainian wood flute). Boychuk is undeniably virtuosic but at times a touch garish, obscuring the soul of the music with his brash tone and dense phrasing.

In addition to the opening track, the CD features a number of standout performances, including *Father's Nign*, *A Heimischer Sher*, and *Azoi Tanzi Men Odessa*.

The highlight of the CD is undoubtedly violinist Victor Schultz's poignant rendering of *Haneros Halelu*, based on a haunting Jewish violin solo recorded by H. Steiner in Lvov in 1910. Schultz dedicates the piece to his late wife, and invests his prayerful performance with all the melancholy beauty and sadness so central to the soul of klezmer music.

Dancing On Water is for the most part an impressive return to the recording studio for Finjan, but occasionally the group sounds uninspired and the CD seems to lack the artistic coherence of their previous effort *Crossing Selkirk Avenue*.

While Finjan's new studio sound may still be evolving, there is no doubt that the group still knows how to put on a good concert. Their two performances last weekend at Harbourfront Centre's Rhythms of the World Festival were high-spirited, intensely entertaining experiences.

From the first notes of *Odessa Bulgar*, Finjan captivated the modest but enthusiastic crowd at the outdoor Molson stage. Mixing older material with selections from the new CD, the group had the audience dancing in their seats, if not in the aisles.

Highlights included Kinzey Posen's always robust and inventive bass-playing, accordionist Shayla Fink's elegant Yiddish vocals, and the group's performance of the Turkish-inflected *Bosphouros Freylekh*, in which banjoist Daniel Koulack summoned up the sounds of Istanbul with a unique "frailing" technique combining elements of Appalcahian and Middle-Eastern music.

Though forced to compete with the sounds of planes overhead and ships in the harbour, Finjan prevailed with their animated stage style and engaging set.

Even more impressive was the group's performance in a workshop later in the afternoon at the Lakeside Terrace. Co-hosting with New York Celtic group Whirlygig, Finjan made their counterparts look pale by comparison. Whirlygig's reels and jigs simply could not compete with Finjan's freylekhs and sirbas.

The workshop culminated with what has become Finjan's trademark live routine. After playing through a joyous Ukrainian-Jewish Wedding Dance, the group settled into an insistent vamp while saxophonist Boychuk and clarinetist Schultz ventured out into the audience to duel across the aisles.

With their improvised interplay, the two reed players delighted all, eliciting laughter and awe from the audience. Succeeding where others fail, Finjan is able to introduce lighthearted humour and whimsicality to their performances without ever playing the "kitsch-card" or appearing self-parodic.

Now in their chai year of existence and seemingly poised for greater exposure with their new record deal, we should be hearing much more about Finjan than we have the past few years.

Their new CD, an entertaining and interesting album that promises greater future works, should receive wider exposure than past efforts. Hopefully, the record-keepers of the klezmer world will take note and give them the recognition they deserve as one of the top contemporary groups, and as one of the earliest and most creative klezmer revival bands.

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Message to CJN Snowbirds

1If you will be spending all or part of this winter outside of Canada, there are three options available to you regarding delivery of your Canadian Jewish News.

1/ Continue regular delivery to your home, and arrange for Canada Post to forward The CJN on with your other mail each week.

2/ Advise our Circulation Department to suspend delivery until your return to Canada with no weeks lost in your subscription period.

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To make any change in your delivery please call the Circulation Department at **416-391-1836 (ext. 224) or fax 416-391-0949**, allowing a **minimum of three weeks notice.**

Celebrate Pic-O-De-Crop in Barbados

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

BARBADOS — You wouldn't think it would be hard to get a flight to Barbados mid summer. But it is, 'cause it's party time on this tropical Caribbean Island!

Over a five-week period, culminating the first week in August, the population of 260,000 joins visitors from around the world to celebrate Crop Over. The celebration is not as well known as neighbouring Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival – but equally as fun!

This colourful festival began in the 1780s. At the end of the sugar cane season, a massive party was held to celebrate the end of the harvest – thus the name, Crop Over.

By the 1940s, the Barbados sugar industry began to decline and so the Crop Over was abandoned. However, in 1974, with tourism growing by leaps and bounds, it was decided to revive the celebration.

Evan Millner oversees the restoration of the Jewish cemetery.

Over the last 26 years, the festival has become a successful showcase of Barbadian culture chock-full of vivid costumes, spectacular exhibitions, beautiful local crafts and music, music, music!

Crop Over begins with the Ceremonial Delivery of the Last Canes and a King and Queen of the Festival are anointed.

Other festival activities and events take place in the Bridgetown Market. The market, just outside the island's capital, is currently located right on the Spring Garden Highway, but is fastly outgrowing this location. Commuters will be thrilled when the market changes locations next year.

The Bridgetown Market boasts vendors' stalls and lively entertainment – it's hot, it's crowded and it's definitely not for the faint hearted.

A number of the most popular events are held at the National Stadium. The Pic-O-De-Crop is a concert dedicated to the island's calypsonians.

The calypso singers and the evening's master of ceremonies communicate in a very broad Bajan dialect and although it is not always understandable to foreign visitors, the pulsating rhythms transcend any verbal boundaries and the gist of the message is somewhat understood.

Pic-O-De-Crop is followed by the Fore-Day Morning Jump-Up where revellers hang out until the wee hours of the night.

If you aren't too pooped to party the next night, check out Cohobblopot. This event is filled with extravagant costumes and a variety of musical guests. This year, the Barbadian-born, Toronto-based band, The Troubadours, was featured.

Crop Over ends with the Grand Kadooment. Large "bands" of people adorn elaborate costumes depicting a variety of themes. The participants parade from the National Stadium to Spring Garden to the beat of calypso music. It can be viewed on the street or for a fee at the Stadium.

When Crop Over ends, most visitors take time to relax on the beach or partake in a relaxing massage at one of the many resorts including the Almond Beach Club & Spa on the island's West Coast.

Things to do in Barbados include riding the Atlantis Submarine, exploring Harrison's Cave or walking the Andromeda Botanic Gardens.

Barbados is 23 kilometres wide and 33 kilometres long. The island, rich in history, was discovered in 1536 by Portuguese explorer Pedro a Campos. Historical attractions include the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Morgan Lewis Sugar Mill, Sunbury Plantation House and the Synagogue Nidhe Israel.

A view of the north coast of Barbados. [Kathryn Kates photos]

The first Jews on the island arrived from South America in 1628 and by 1681, the population grew to 280.

It is likely that the first synagogue in Bridgetown was in existence before 1679, however, it was destroyed by a hurricane in 1831.

A new synagogue was built and consecrated in March 1833. Although many of the original Jews assimilated, a small group of Ashkenazi Jewish refugees arrived shortly before WWII.

The cemetery at Nidhe Israel is under renovation.

The Jewish population today consists of only 25 families and no rabbi. The government of Barbados protects the synagogue as a landmark.

For the last two summers, Evan Millner of England, a Jewish studies scholar, who is a qualified architectural stonecarver specializing in historical replacement carving, has volunteered to oversee operations to restore the ancient cemetery of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews of Barbados.

If you are lucky enough to visit when Millner is on-site, he will enthusiastically show you the progress made.

To ensure flights and hotels during Crop Over it is best to book well in advance. For more information on Barbados and Crop Over go to www.barbados.org.

To learn more about the Nidhe Israel Synagogue visit Millner's Web site at www.aldgate.freeserve.co.uk.

Guide books help your holiday

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Planning a holiday in Canada? The following guidebooks, published by Raincoast Books, will help you plot out your trip.

If you're an old-fashioned traveller, you'll want to read *Trans-Canada Rail Guide*. It's a useful survey of Canada's transcontinental railroad system, all 6,358 kilometres of it. Author Melissa Graham throws in city guides to eight Canadian cities from Halifax to Vancouver.

A majestic town surrounded by mountains and ocean, Vancouver is a perennial draw. *Vancouver*, packed with data and maps, includes information on Victoria and Whistler.

If you're an adventurous type, you'll be interested in reading *The Milepost*, a comprehensive guide to the Alaska Highway and 87 other scenic roads in British Columbia, Alberta, the Yukon and Alaska.

Brimming with splendid photographs by Douglas Leighton, *The Canadian West, Alberta* focuses on a province of exceptional beauty.

Nunavut, Canada's newest territory, is far from the beaten track. But if you delve into the *Nunavut Handbook*, you'll probably be pleasantly surprised by its offerings.

Canada's enchanting landscapes are transformed into breathtaking vistas in *Canadian Panorama* and *The Canadian Landscape*, 2001 calendars-cum keepsakes published by Firefly Books.

If you're a city slicker and a cyclist, consult Elliott Katz's *The Great Toronto Bicycling Guide* (Firefly). He offers the best 13 off-the-street pathways you can explore at your leisure.

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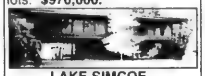

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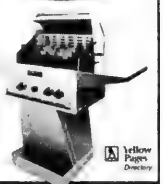

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Players hit fog-bound ice gearing up for hockey season

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It used to be that in the world of sports, the "boys of summer" referred to baseball players taking to the field on long hot summer nights. Nowadays however, it can just as easily mean hockey players heading for fog-bound ice rinks as they gear up for late summer hockey training camps.

For the Henrich brothers – Michael and Adam – and for Robert Gherson, thoughts of winter on ice begin sometime in August. The three young men have been busy getting in shape, pumping iron and working on hockey drills as they get ready for a season that begins before Labour Day.

Michael is the former Barrie Colt star who was drafted by the Edmonton Oilers two years ago in the first round of the junior entry draft. He'll be attending his third Oilers camp and believes he has a good chance of making the NHL club this time.

His brother, Adam, was also a first round pick – in his case, of the Brampton Battalion of the major junior Ontario Hockey League (OHL). Gherson, likewise, was drafted by an OHL team, the Sarnia Sting.

Gherson, who played last season with the Wellington Dukes of the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA), will be joining another Jewish junior, Eric Himelfarb, a veteran of the Sting.

For Gherson, who turns 17 in October, advancing to the OHL is a natural progression after registering a terrific season for the Dukes. Last year, Gherson honed his talents, developed his butterfly style, got into lots of games and impressed everyone who watched him.

In 30 games, the six-foot, 140-pound netminder recorded a 2.65 goals against average and shut out the opposition three times. He was selected to the Ontario Under-17 team and played one game in an international tournament in Sudbury.

Disappointed that he rode the bench for most of that tourney, Gherson dedicated himself to raising his game a notch.

"It was a good experience but I didn't like sitting on the bench," he said. "After that, I figured I had to work so much to be where I wanted to be. I worked harder during practice and I tried to focus more before games."

That meant "not screwing around, playing nintendo and getting my game face on," he said.

As the season wore on, U.S. colleges expressed an interest in recruiting him but Gherson, who'd been drafted by Sarnia as a bantam the year before, signed with the OHL squad in late June.

At season's end, his work in the Dukes' cage was recognized by the league as he was named an Eastern Division all-star.

Terry Doran, Sarnia's incoming manager, said "we expect him to evolve into our goaltender" of the future.

Although Andrew Sim, a rookie with the Sting last season, has the inside track on the being the first string goalie, "hopefully Robert can push Andrew...The job's there for taking," Doran said. "He has to learn the league and get his confidence."

"People say he was very good in the Tier II League (OHA). We expect he'll have no trouble stepping up and playing at this level," said Doran.

Adam Henrich, 16, was a highly regarded prospect prior to being drafted earlier this summer. He received a AA rating from OHL Central Scouting – its highest ranking – prior to the draft. He was chosen by Brampton in the first round, seventh overall. Last season he played with the Don Mills Midget Flyers event though he was of bantam age.

Henrich, a six-foot-three-and-a-half inch, 200-pound left winger, is built like the prototypical power forward. He likes contact but he's also a solid puck carrier, good playmaker and he has a wicked shot. His skating improved tremendously last year but he says he still has to work on developing a quicker start.

He's excited about joining the Battalion, an up-and-coming team that's coached by Stan Butler, who's slated to coach the Canadian juniors at the world championships this year.

"He told me that I'll have to work my way into the lineup and make the team. I'll have to earn my spot on the team," Henrich said.

Last season, Henrich scored 31 goals and added 52 assists in 49 games with Don Mills.

His big brother Michael is a big inspiration for Adam. "He's always saying, 'let's go, let's go' and telling me to work hard every shift," Adam said.

The two brothers have been working out together for much of the summer, along with Himelfarb, a good buddy and a family friend.

Despite their friendship and that of their families, Himelfarb can't expect any favours when he's on the ice facing Henrich. "You've got to take it seriously," Henrich said. "If he has the puck in the corner, I'm going to go after him."

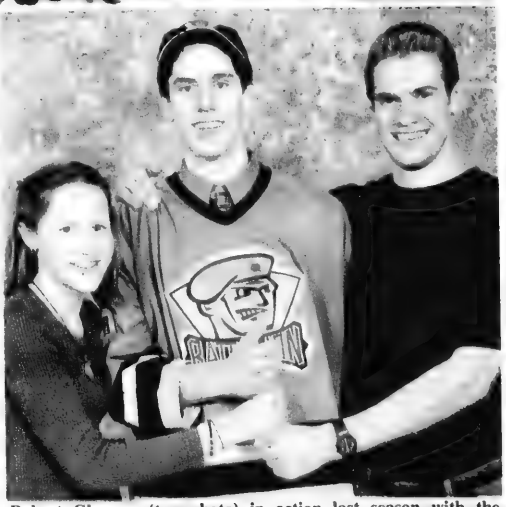
Michael, meanwhile, is looking forward to camp with the Oilers. "I want to see if I've improved since last training camp. Hopefully, I'll get a shot."

"I think my overall game has improved," said Michael, six-foot-three, 208 pounds. "I'm a more well-rounded player, stronger. I'm going to go in and finish my hits. I'm not going to back down from anything."

* * *

There's a third top athlete in the Henrich household, 13-year-old sister Laura.

A ringette and soccer player on Thornhill rep teams, she was named Athlete of the Year at Yorkhill Public School. Her other sports include volleyball, basketball, track and field, cross-country running and she helps out coaching youngsters in gymnastics.



Robert Gherson (top photo) in action last season with the Wellington Dukes. Adam Henrich (bottom photo, centre) will be joining the Brampton Battalion this season. He's seen here with his brother Michael and sister Laura.

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Booze, drugs...and denial

They're out there, much as some people deny it or wish otherwise.

In fact, they could number up to 20,000 in the Greater Toronto Area, with many more collateral victims.

And it's only now that the Jewish community is getting serious about helping them.

As far as Neville Smith is concerned, it's time Jews realized it: there is such a thing as Jewish alcoholics and drug addicts. And families are being torn apart.

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

Smith, a 57-year-old businessman, knows he's got his work cut out. As the new volunteer chair of the local chapter of JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others), he's on a mission to educate Jews about substance abuse – fighting the pernicious and prevalent denial of the problem – as well as placing as many Jewish addicts as possible on the road to recovery.

JACS was unveiled here last March, when Jewish Family & Child Service agreed to fund a local mutual-help group for substance abusers as a two-year pilot project. The group is now officially off the ground.

JACS has a mission statement (partly "to pursue recovery in a nurturing Jewish environment"), a telephone hotline (416-410-JACS) and a six-person volunteer executive – three men and three women, ranging in age from their late 30s to mid-50s – all from alcoholic or co-dependent backgrounds. It is planning meetings, retreats and an extensive public awareness program, including a Web site, to shine a light on a cunning and baffling disease.

Smith, raised by a violent alcoholic father and co-dependent mother, says he's encountering a "tremendous" amount of denial in the community, as well as a huge shame factor among addicts. "Their biggest fear," Smith says, "is that someone will find out." Smith himself used to drive miles away to attend meetings so no one would recognize him.

JACS promises complete anonymity.

Another stumbling block over the years has been the fact that meetings of groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narc-Anon have almost always taken place in church basements – uncomfortable for many Jews.

Eventually, JACS will be meeting in the Bathurst-Sheppard area, at a neutral venue to be donated by a private benefactor. The storefront location, to be dubbed JACS Place, will cater to every Jewish denomination, and will be fully kosher. It hopes one day to host seders (wine-free, of course).

JACS was started in 1979 in New York, and to date, has helped some 6,000 people to date. It runs kosher retreats, and educates the Jewish public as much as it aids Jews in recovery, using the traditional 12-step program, tailored to reflect Jewish values.

To help explode the myth that Jews don't drink or do drugs, JACS in Toronto will rely on a 1992 New York study that found the incidence of alcoholism and drug abuse was the same among Jews as in society in general – between 10 and 12 percent.

In Toronto, the extrapolation is staggering: it could mean that with a Jewish population of 175,000, there are up to 20,000 addicted Jews and three times that many people directly affected – family, loved ones, friends and business associates.

Smith now needs volunteers to go out and speak in synagogues, day schools, even yeshivot. Others are required to help with Web site design and desktop publishing.

The community is invited to an open house Oct. 25, at a location to be announced, to learn more about alcoholism and drug abuse. A retreat to New York state is planned for November.

"We must hear the message that help and hope are available," says Smith. "We're going to demonstrate to the community that we have lots to offer, and that we're here to stay."

BOW TIES WITH EGGPLANT SAUCE

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12 oz bow tie pasta
1/4 cup onion, chopped
2 med. garlic cloves, minced
1/4 cup vegetable stock
1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
2 cups eggplant, chopped
3 cups tomatoes, canned
1/2 tsp basil
1/2 tsp oregano

Cook pasta al dente. Heat garlic, onion and pepper in broth. Simmer 5 mins. Add eggplant and simmer until soft. Add tomatoes and spices. Simmer 20 mins. Toss with pasta. Serves 6.

About Seniors

By DR. MARK CLARFIELD

Don't medical students go into medicine to succour the ill, comfort the dying, calm the anxious, heal the diseased and receive thanks and sometimes money in return? Or at least we thought so until the third year of medical school, after which a kind of atherosclerosis of the emotional circulatory system can set in.

Dr. Mark says...

From the dawn of time until the first third of this century, care was given to the ill, at first in a cave and then in the home, mostly by family, and in dire circumstances, by the doctor.

With the rise of scientific medicine and the hospital, doctors and patients began to prefer to take illness out of the home and to institutionalize it. After World War II, with almost everyone having access to a car, it became easy for patients to be transported to their preferred temple of health.

As a result, unfortunately, the incidence of home visiting has decreased significantly. Yet, if one puts one's stethoscope to the ground, a faint rumble can be heard. Physicians are returning to the time-honoured practice of home visiting, especially in the care of the elderly. But why? Certainly not for the money.

First, for the proper, full assessment of an elderly person, nothing works so well as a house call. Simply by entering the patient's home, one can instantly get a sense of how well she is coping. Want to know about nutrition? Ask about the food she has eaten that day. What about drugs? Ask the patient to gather up all her medications and plunk them onto the kitchen table. Ask if medicines are kept anywhere else in the house. Keep your eyes open for obvious signs that there may be difficulties.

There are, however, some valid reasons why a physician might be discouraged from doing home visits. First, it is a time-consuming process. And since time is money, home visiting is almost always, in the strict sense of the word, a losing proposition.

Despite this problem, the profession and government must realize that the utility of home visiting should be rethought. If house calls to the elderly are to increase, resources will have to be devoted to them. With the increasing number of elderly Canadians, can we really afford not to carry out more of this time-honoured and tested manoeuvre?

Mark Clarfield is the chief of academic affairs at the Sarah Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem and a staff geriatrician of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Sir Mortimer B. Davis – Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, Montreal.

The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

"BENCH WISDOM"

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

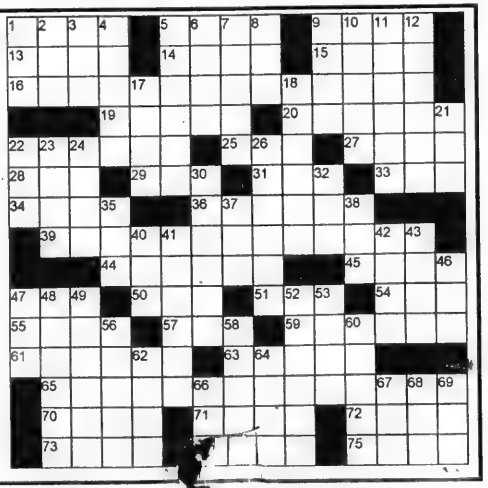
Across

1 Holiday money
5 START OF A QUOTE
9 Ending for church or synagogue
13 Conductor Stravinsky
14 The E in Q.E.D.
15 "This round's ___" (bar phrase)
16 SPEAKER OF QUOTE
19 "Family Ties" mom
20 Employments
22 Best Supporting Actor of 1994 Martin
25 Marsupial feature
27 Ambush
28 Before now
29 Meir and Netanyahu, for short
31 City of Einstein's birth
33 Actor Ron
34 Simon output
36 Make well-liked
39 MORE OF QUOTE
44 Well-mannered
45 Sarcastic laugh
47 "It was like that!," to editors
50 Garfield, say
51 More than mos.
54 Water + dirt
55 EG, e.g.
57 Type of room
59 Equipment for Modigliani
61 Third Reich basis
63 Walk casually
65 MORE OF QUOTE
70 Run ___ light (commit a traffic violation)
71 Soothing herb
72 Birobidjan's site
73 Bibi has two
74 END OF QUOTE
75 ___ up (inspires)

Down

1 Buck Rogers portrayer Gerard
2 Narcissist's feature
3 Ed Asner role
4 Treated like Dreyfus
5 Boredom
6 Planets
7 Strips
8 Greek letter
9 Mars and Pluto, to Antiochus
10 ___ a time (singly)
11 Einstein or Freud
12 Get ready to put the gefilte fish back in the fridge, maybe
17 Hit with the palm
18 Cell centers
21 Jonathan Pollard, e.g.
22 ___ Palmas
23 Wide-eyed
24 Pork, to a rabbi
26 One of the Hepburns
30 Anti- follower
32 PC choice
35 Goldwater's party
37 Tennis barrier
38 Crowd cheer
40 "What's up, ___?" (Mel Blanc phrase)
41 They wake you up
42 Einstein or Freud
43 Synagogue
46 New York Times revenue
47 Address to a general
48 Somewhat
49 Noted orator
52 Holy men
53 Businessman's tactic
56 Like the final round of "Win Ben Stein's Money"
58 Where to watch "Win Ben Stein's Money"
60 Frame job
62 Dishwasher stuff
64 Garfield statement
66 ___ Mahal
67 Follower of Mao?
68 Uri Geller's claim
69 Some Monopoly properties, for short

(Answers are on page 32.)



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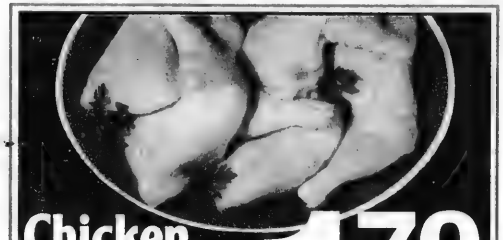

Chicken Leg Quarters
Chai Kosher, Fresh
1.79 lb
3.95/kg

Whole Rainbow Trout
Fresh
3.88 lb
.55/100 g

Kedem White Grape Juice
Concord or Muscat
650 mL btl
2.99

Cross Rib Steak or Roast
Glatt Kosher Beef, Boneless
7.49 lb
16.51/kg

100% Pure Beef Patties
Glatt Kosher
5.49 lb
12.10/kg

Salmon Kebobs
Regular or With White Wine & Herb
6.88 lb
1.51/100 g

Kedem Minestrone Soup Mix
Vegetable, Split Pea or Lima Bean
.99
142-170 g pkg

Chicken Breast Quarters
Chai Kosher Fresh
2.99 lb
6.59/kg

Smoked Sockeye Salmon
Sliced, Frozen
Master Choice
9.88
198.5 g

Goodman's Matzo Ball Mix
5 oz pkg or Matzo Ball Soup Mix 4.5 oz pkg
1.99

Streit's Bag & Bake
Regular, Honey Glaze or BBQ
77 g pkg
1.69

Golden Cheese Blintzes
Potato, Blueberry, Cherry or Apple Raisin
13 oz pkg
3.49

Aaron's Best All Beef Salami
Kosher
4.79
500 g

Smoked Whitefish Chunks
5.88 lb
1.29/100 g

Great Canadian Cheese
Assorted Varieties
227 g pkg
3.49

Pinki Onion Snacks
Falafel, Pizza or BBQ
40 g container
.33

Mother's Beet Broscht
Regular, Unsalted or Low Calorie
946 mL
1.56

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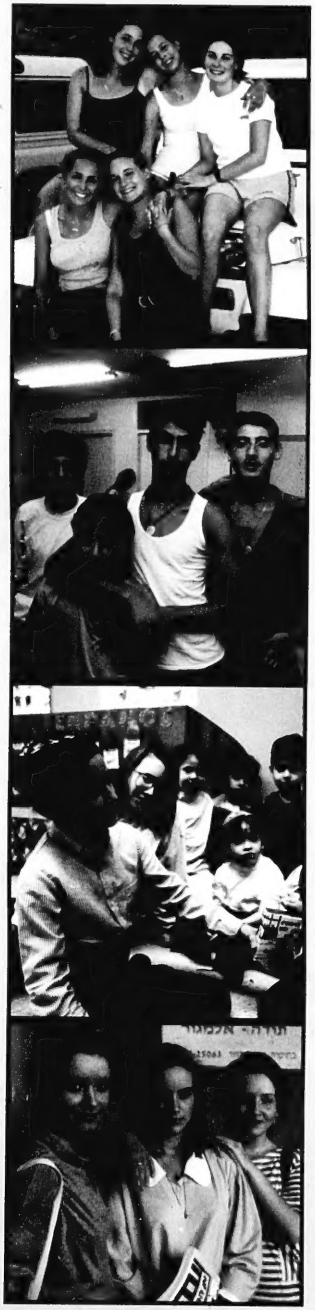

Your Reasons for Giving are Growing

- *All our children deserve to connect to their Jewish souls.*
- *All our children deserve to grow up free from poverty and violence.*
- *All our children deserve to feel welcome in our community.*
- *All our children deserve a bright future free from anti-Semitism and oppression.*

The goal of Campaign 2001 – The Campaign For Our Children – is $45 million, four million more than we raised last year. Your increased gifts will be allocated in the following ways:

- **$500,000 to rescue Jewish youth from hopelessness and anti-Semitism in the former Soviet Union**
- **$1.4 million to help lift children from poverty, domestic violence and the isolation of being newcomers to Toronto.**
- **$2.1 million to nurture Jewish souls through improved access to Jewish education and meaningful, informal Jewish experiences.**

The Campaign For Our Children will meet the needs of both body and soul. It is our investment in a flourishing, compassionate, spiritually-strong Jewish Toronto Tomorrow. The Campaign For Our Children symbolizes our most cherished Jewish values.

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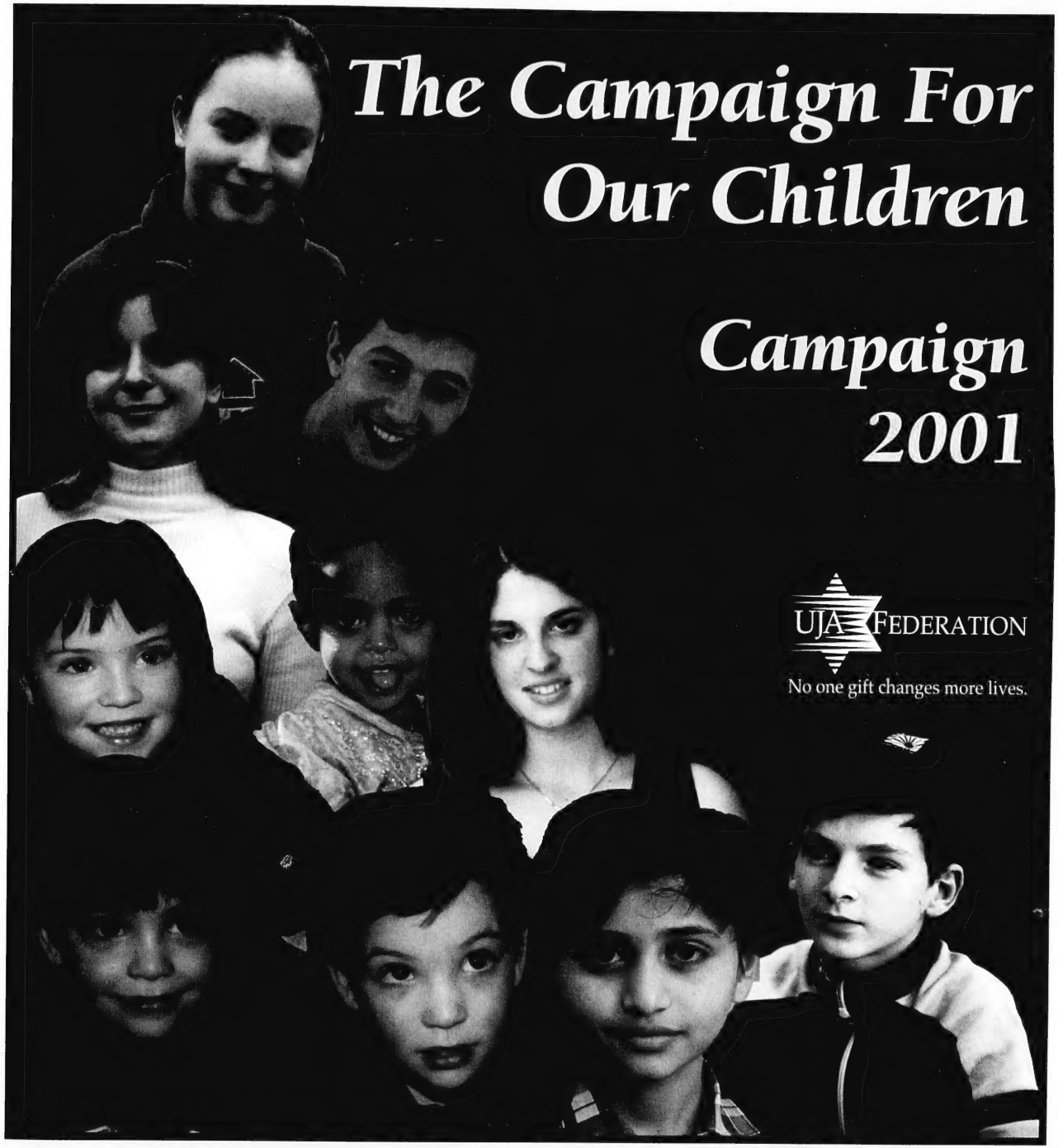

The Campaign For
Our Children
Campaign
2001
UJA FEDERATION
No one gift changes more lives.

A Strategic Initiative For Our Children

UJA FEDERATION Campaign 2001 – The Campaign For Our Children – is a dramatic community initiative to keep up with the challenges created by our spectacular growth. It is our opportunity to answer the urgent needs of young people in a city that includes two-thirds of all Canadian Jewish youth.

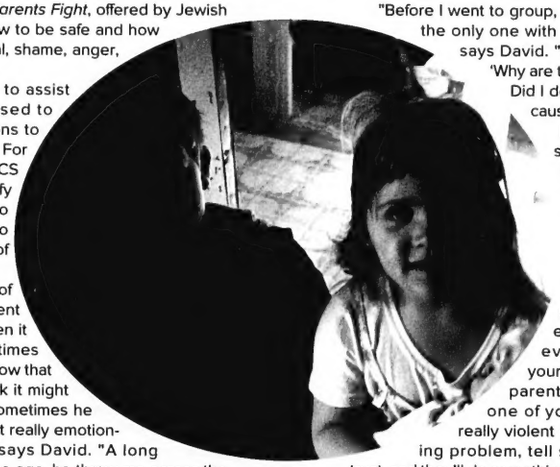
The Campaign For Our Children intends to raise $45 million – $4 million more than last year. The additional funds will be directed toward assisting local young people in distress; welcoming young newcomers to our community; nurturing young Jewish souls; and furthering the rescue of Jews from troubled regions such as the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

These stories illustrate some of the ways in which your gift answers the needs of those who cannot always ask for themselves.

The Gift of Hope: Breaking the Abuse Cycle

When David* celebrates his Bar Mitzvah later this year, he will be more of a man than many of his peers could imagine. David, you see, has had to grow up quickly – dealing with the emotions and confusion of being exposed to abuse in his own home.

But David does not have to go through his pain alone. As a participant in an 8-week counseling group, *When My Parents Fight*, offered by Jewish Family & Child Service, David learned how to be safe and how to deal with his feelings – including denial, shame, anger, guilt and isolation.



UJA FEDERATION provides funding to assist children and women exposed to abuse. Increased contributions to UJA FEDERATION's Campaign For Our Children will provide JF&CS with the resources to identify and help more children who have witnessed abuse, and to run more groups for children of different ages.

"I know there were a lot of fights – my parents usually sent us down to the basement when it happened – and Mom sometimes said that Dad hit her. I don't know that for sure, but sometimes I think it might be true. Sometimes he can get really emotional," says David. "A long time ago, he threw me across the room, but I don't remember that. I don't really believe it."

This kind of denial is common, especially among children, as they are reticent to disclose any part of their "secret" to adults, says Janice Shaw, the social worker who heads up this JF&CS counseling program. "But they do speak more freely with the other kids, which is why the group is so beneficial to them," she says.

Aside from getting children to open up and discuss their feelings, the sessions also let kids know they aren't alone in their experiences.

"Before I went to group, I thought I was the only one with this problem," says David. "And I thought, 'Why are they doing this? Did I do something to cause this?'"

Now, he understands that he's not alone, and that he's not to blame. He even offers words of wisdom to other children who share his experience: "Don't ever think it's your fault. Let your parents resolve it. If one of your parents is really violent or has a drinking problem, tell someone you trust, and they'll do something about it."

Above all, the program is critical because it maintains a level of hope for children who often get lost in the equation, says Shaw. "When it all seems impossible, we let them know that it can be different – that there is hope."

**Not his real name.*

Life After Birthright Israel

For the 600 young adults from Toronto who are back home after participating in Birthright Israel – the journey is really just beginning.

The unprecedented pioneering initiative, which brought thousands of North American young people to Israel, is a springboard for greater involvement in Jewish life, starting with comprehensive post-trip programming coordinated by UJA FEDERATION. Additional funds raised by UJA FEDERATION's Campaign 2001 – The Campaign For Our Children – will help to ensure the continuation of programs that follow Birthright Israel trips.

"The trip gave us inspiration to become involved," says participant Judith Zwaigenbaum, 26. "Many people who went are calling their leaders to stay connected with the community." Zwaigenbaum has lent her time through speaking engagements about how the trip changed her life.

Brad Byrne

Birthright Israel was also the impetus for Thornhill's Brad Byrne, 21, to give back to the community. Since joining the February trip, he has entered the speaking circuit, raised funds for UJA FEDERATION's Israel Funwalk 2000, and even returned to Israel as a counselor at the Kefiada camp at Kfar Giladi.

"Birthright Israel was one of the most rewarding, gratifying and satisfying experiences of my life," says Byrne, who now wants to learn Hebrew. "It helped me understand what it means to be Jewish and how much we've sacrificed to be where we are today."

Zwaigenbaum agrees. "When I could see the view of Jerusalem from the plane, it hit me – I had a sense of ownership suddenly – that this is my land," she says.

Kids on the Line

Life for residents in northern Israel – particularly the children – has been unsettled following the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. But thousands of Confrontation Line kids were able to forget their fears about missiles and bombings for a while and have some summer fun, thanks to UIA Federations Canada and the Jewish Agency, partners of UJA FEDERATION.

Initiatives included trips to Rishon Lezion's "Superland," an amusement park more than three hours away from the border, and summer camps for children in northern communities, with North American counselors, through the Kefiada program.

Approximately 30,000 Confrontation Line children experienced a day of fun at Canada Centre, a sports and recreation facility in Metulla, Israel's northernmost town bordering Lebanon, built with Canadian donations.

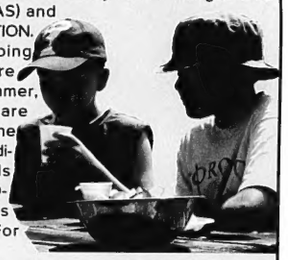
"Life at the border has changed forever and we need to do what we can to give the children a feeling of normality," says Yossi Goldberg, the Chairman of Canada Centre. "The kids who come to Canada Centre feel like they are on holiday at Miami Beach, or in Toronto," says Goldberg. "It gives them an opportunity to have fun and feel that they are not alone."

Increased contributions from The Campaign For Our Children will help Israeli kids cope with the pressures of life along the northern border.

Photo: Brad Byrne

A Place To Belong

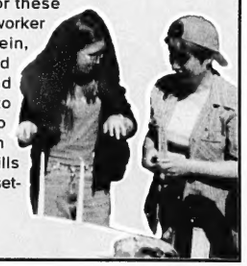
Thirteen Jewish newcomers, aged 12 and 13, spent five days camping at Albion Hills Conservation Area near Bolton, thanks to a new program coordinated by Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) and UJA FEDERATION. Three camping sessions were held this summer, and more are planned for the future with additional funds from UJA FEDERATION's Campaign For Our Children.



The children, who pitched tents, prepared meals, played games and participated in Jewish-themed discussions and activities, felt a sense of belonging in the group. They all shared a similar background of emigrating from the former Soviet Union, eventually finding their way to Toronto. "It's good to be here because where I live there aren't a lot of Jews," said one camper.

Activities included an Israel Day, improvisational and movement games lead by Shula Saltzman from UJA FEDERATION's Board of Jewish Education and a Kabalat Shabbat program.

"It isn't easy for these kids," says youth worker Jenya Zuckerstein, who herself moved from the FSU and now calls Toronto home. "We want to help the children with language skills and this is a great setting to do that."



PLEASE REWIND